



Contract background

- Mn/DOT has contracted with the Minneapolis School District for 15 years to broadcast traffic reports over KBEM, a public radio station operated by the school district.
- Mn/DOT pays the Minneapolis School District \$400,000 annually for this contract.

Traffic reports

- Drive-time radio traffic reporters are hired by the school district and work in Mn/DOT's Regional Transportation Management Center in Roseville.
- The traffic reports average five minutes in length, occur every 10 minutes and generally cover the entire metro highway system. Hours of service:
 - 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. (Monday-Friday)
 - 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)
 - 2:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. (Friday)
- In addition, a Mn/DOT employee working in the RTMC broadcasts traffic reports for KBEM during the lunch hour: at 11:30 a.m., Noon, 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m.
- When a significant incident occurs (e.g., an accident or crash that closes a road for more than 15 minutes), the station allows the traffic reports to continue until the incident is resolved.

Contract is canceled

- In the fall 2004, Mn/DOT determined that it could no longer afford the contract and canceled it.
- The contract provided for a 90-day notice of cancellation.
- The KBEM traffic broadcasts will end as of March 15, 2005.

Alternative traffic information sources available

- There has been a significant increase in traffic information sources during the 15 years Mn/DOT and KBEM have been associated.
- Commercial radio and television stations have added reliable traffic reports to their news programs. Many depend largely on information supplied by the RTMC, which monitors freeways throughout the Twin Cities Metro area with approximately 300 surveillance cameras.
- Mn/DOT also offers Metro and Greater Minnesota road and traffic information over the phone at 5-1-1 and at the Web site www.511mn.org. That site also has links to Mn/DOT's real-time traffic cameras and a Metro area congestion map.
- Mn/DOT has added travel-time information to more than 30 electronic message signs over Metro area highways.
- Motorists also can subscribe to satellite radio services to receive commercial traffic reports similar to those on KBEM.