

Minneapolis Federal Agenda: Policies Accomplished as of 7/10/2014

1. Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

The Farm Bill enacted in 2014 included the healthy food amendment. The USDA has initiated the process to develop the program. A listening session conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was held in Washington, DC, in May 2014. The purpose of the session was to gather information from potential stakeholders prior to drafting rules.

An appropriation request was not included in the FY2015 federal budget. It is probable that USDA will request an appropriation for FY2016.

2. Railroad Safety Zones.

The Federal Railroad Administration adopted a final rule in 2006 that established a process for cities to retain pre-1996 Quiet Zones and to propose new zones. A grant program for highway /railroad crossing safety improvements has been authorized by Congress but an appropriation was last approved for FY2012.

3. Financing and Credit.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (Dodd-Frank Act) included several sections aimed at helping consumers with financial and credit issues. The Consumers Financial Protection Bureau was established to educate and advocate for consumers in financial and credit issues. The Bureau provides information, receives and attempts to resolve consumer complaints and bring civil action against alleged violators of the Act.

4. Community Radio Act.

The Community Radio Act was passed by Congress in December 2010. In November 2012, the Federal Communications Commissions (FCC) adopted a rule to implement the Act. As a result of the Act community groups and nonprofits may apply for a license to operate a non-commercial low-power FM radio station.

5. Invasive Carp.

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA) included authority to close the lock within one year of the passage of the Act. The approximate closing date would be June 15, 2015. The Army Corp of Engineers, however, has authority to open the locks to control flooding.

Federal funding for the redevelopment of sites such as the Upper Harbor terminal was not included in the legislation.