

Funding Group brainstorming notes, February 2006

#1 More efficient / balanced use of funds		
	Project or Initiative	Policy
Short term/ Fix Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate public, policy makers and engineers • Build own roads w/public staff (cheaper) 	TIP – project selection criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce red tape ○ Use more dollars for preservation (local funds for capacity) ○ Less restriction for r/w acquisition and construction
Long term / Fix Causes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>NOT</u> worst first ○ Design-build (stretch dollars) ○ Construction warranties (long enough to be effective: 10 years?) ○ Build long-lasting roads ○ Life cycle policy: <u>NOT</u> requirement?

#2 More regional cooperation; get most out of funding	
	Project / Initiative / Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint projects – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signs and signals ▪ Mill and fill (city-twp, for example) ▪ Contracting projects and services • Joint salt purchase – [bring in by ship] • Joint materials purchase • Snow plowing coop. • Purchase of equipment, joint / shared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ milling machines [educate public] • Reward coop. projects via selection criteria • State purchasing • Specialization / trade / sell services

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#3 Region gets fair share of funding	
	Project / Initiative / Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Agenda – push (\$ needed for projects) • Reduce / eliminate earmarks – <i>Policy</i> – “0” sum; finite resources • Educate elected officials and staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Show how using dollars efficiently · <i>Initiative</i> – Research – is there a direct correlation between transportation investment & economic development?* -- and demonstrate how using funds efficiently • Importance of transportation expenditures / benefits (esp. to support increased tax initiatives)
	* Yes, when spend funds on “de-bottlenecking”

# 4 Increase dedicated funding from traditional sources	
	Project / Initiative / Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales tax (more tax on bigger / heavier / more expensive cars) • Use tax • Border-state issues • Raise gas tax – [if needed?] • Insure “pump” dollars go to transportation • Change gas tax from set / gallon to percent sales tax

#5 Innovative ways to get additional funding for new transportation system improvements	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local self-help • Property, sales and income taxes: avail all • New sources for transit • Larger regional coord / funding / compact – multi-state