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**(Neb.)-Report Concludes State Roads Projects Chosen Based On Need**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 12/26/2012 10:16 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A state panel has concluded that Nebraska road and bridge projects are almost always chosen based on need, and not political pressure.

The Legislature's Performance Audit Committee said in a report that most projects are selected by a data-driven analysis of where they're most needed.

Former roads director Monty Fredrickson, who retired in August, told lawmakers that 90 percent of the projects during his 20-year tenure were chosen based on need, according to the report. Fredrickson testified that he could not recall a situation where an elected official had pressured him to choose or prioritize a specific project.

Fredrickson said that the remaining 10 percent were based on less predictable factors, such as available funding and public support for a project. But he said the public pressure was "miniscule."