



Board of Commissioners

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Bethany Cox, District 3
Chair, Karla Bigham, District 4
Michelle Clasen, District 5

BOARD AGENDA January 13, 2026 - 9:00 AM

All listed times are approximate. Board Workshops will start immediately following the conclusion of the Board meeting.

1. 9:00 **Roll Call**

Pledge of Allegiance

2. 9:00 **Comments from the Public**

Visitors may share their comments or concerns on any issue that is a responsibility or function of Washington County Government, whether or not the issue is listed on this agenda. Persons who wish to address the Board must fill out a comment card before the meeting begins and give it to the County Board Clerk or the County Administrator. The County Board Chair will ask you to come to the podium, state your name and city of residence, and present your comments. Your comments must be addressed exclusively to the Board Chair and the full Board of Commissioners. Comments addressed to individual Board members will not be allowed. You are encouraged to limit your presentation to no more than five minutes. The Board Chair reserves the right to limit an individual's presentation if it exceeds the allowable time limit, becomes redundant, repetitive, overly argumentative, or if it is not relevant to an issue that is part of Washington County's responsibilities.

3. 9:10 **Approval of the Agenda**

4. 9:10 **Consent Calendar - Roll Call Vote**

Consent Calendar items are generally defined as items of routine business, not requiring discussion, and approved in one vote. Commissioners may elect to pull a Consent Calendar item(s) for discussion and/or separate action.

A. Approval to re-appoint Temmy Olasimbo to a second full term on the Washington County Community Development Agency as a District 5 Representative starting January 14, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2028.

B. Adopt a resolution to approve a contract with Thomson Reuters for Westlaw subscription in the amount of \$150,310.00, for the period of February 1, 2026, through April 30, 2029.

C. Approval of 1.0 FTE Special Project Senior Social Worker for Opioid Response.

D. Approve licenses for the use of real property in the cities of Mahtomedi and Stillwater for the collection of household hazardous waste, and authorize execution by the Board Chair and County Administrator.

E. Approve comment letter regarding Valley Branch Watershed District 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan.

5. 9:10 **General Administration - Kevin Corbid, County Administrator A) Jan Lucke, Deputy County Administrator**

A. Adoption of Washington County's 2026 Legislative Platform.

6. 9:30 **Commissioner Reports - Comments - Questions**

This period of time shall be used by the Commissioners to report to the full Board on committee activities, make comments on matters of interest and information, or raise questions to the staff. This action is not intended to result in substantive board action during this time. Any action necessary because of discussion will be scheduled for a future board meeting.



7. 9:45 **Board Correspondence**
8. 9:45 **Adjourn**
9. 9:50 **Board Workshop with Public Works**
 - A. Transit Needs Study (TNS) and Community Circulator Update
10. 10:20 **Board Workshop with Administration**
 - A. Discussion on requested letter to federal legislative delegates regarding federal detention center



Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:
January 13, 2026

Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
4.A

Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Administration	REQUESTOR: Megan Carlson, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-6001
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT: Megan Carlson 651-430-6001	

Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Approval to re-appoint Temmy Olasimbo to a second full term on the Washington County Community Development Agency as a District 5 Representative starting January 14, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2028.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: The Washington County Community Development Agency (CDA) was established in 1974 to undertake certain types of housing, redevelopment, and economic development activities in Washington County. The CDA Board members are appointed by the county board and the board consists of five citizen members, one commissioner from the County Board, and one consumer of CDA services who must also be a resident of the county. The organization's enabling legislation requires the county board to appoint one citizen member from each county commissioner district. The county board interviewed six applicants for the position. Temmy Olasimbo was appointed to the CDA board on March 2, 2021, to complete a term, and reappointed in January 2023, to a full first term.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED? Interviews for the District 5 Representative position were conducted with the Washington County Board of Commissioners on Monday, January 5, 2026.		

Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

Approvals

John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	01/07/2026
Kevin Corbid, County Administrator	01/08/2026



Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:
January 13, 2026

Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
4.B

Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Attorney's Office	REQUESTOR: Jennifer Baltaian, Administrative Services Manager	REQUESTOR PHONE:
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT:	

Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Adopt a resolution to approve a contract with Thomson Reuters for Westlaw subscription in the amount of \$150,310.00, for the period of February 1, 2026, through April 30, 2029.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? Yes	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: The County Attorney's Office has identified a need for a more efficient solution for comprehensive digital legal research materials essential to the operation of the office. Thomson Reuter's Westlaw Advantage with CoCounsel, combines Westlaw's legal research platform with CoCounsel's AI document analysis and drafting skills to help staff conduct time-consuming legal work more efficiently. The County Attorney's Office is requesting approval to enter into Contract No. 17962 for a term of 3 years (with the option to add an additional 2 years), pursuant to the single source exception described in Procurement Policy #1202 because Thomson Reuter's Westlaw Advantage with CoCounsel is a unique subscription with proprietary content that can not be found in any other source. The Single Source Justification Form has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney's Office and County Attorney. The total cost of the contract is \$150,310.00 and will be distributed monthly as follows: February 1, 2026, through April 30, 2026 (\$3,028.74 a month); May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027 (\$3,361.90 a month); May 1, 2027, through April 30, 2028 (\$3,883.00 a month); May 1, 2028, through April 2029 (\$4,523.69 a month). Optional years 4 and 5 would be distributed monthly as follows: May 1, 2029, through April 30, 2030 (\$4,727.26 a month); May 1, 2030, through April 30, 2031 (\$4,892.71 a month). The 2026 cost is included in the 2026 approved budget.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?		

Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION: Levy	

Approvals

Kevin Magnuson, County Attorney	01/06/2026
John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	01/07/2026
Kevin Corbid, County Administrator	01/07/2026

DATE January 13, 2026

DEPARTMENT County Attorney

MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER _____

SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER _____

RESOLUTION FOR WESTLAW SUBSCRIPTION

WHEREAS, the County Attorney’s Office has identified a need for a more efficient solution for comprehensive digital legal research materials essential to the operation of the office; and

WHEREAS, this software packet includes office-wide access to comprehensive digital legal research materials essential to the operation of a public law office. The digital subscription, also known as, Westlaw Advantage with CoCounsel, combines the power of Westlaw's premier legal research platform with CoCounsel's advanced AI document analysis and drafting skills to help legal professionals conduct time-consuming legal work more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, that this comprehensive subscription allows unlimited access to identified legal materials, allowing for cost efficient and time efficient legal research. Use of these legal materials, allow attorneys to conduct more accurate, thorough, and comprehensive legal research to obtain optimal litigation outcomes. The new CoCounsel feature aids an attorneys to properly review and analyze complex legal issues and prepare accurate legal memos with strict formatting requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Attorney’s Office is authorized to enter a Software Subscription Agreement with West Publishing Corporation to the extent that products or services will be provided by West Publishing Corporation, and/or Thomson Reuters Enterprise Centre GmbH to the extent that products or services will be provided by Thomson Reuters Enterprise Centre GmbH for the purpose of utilizing its West Proflex products within the County Attorney’s Office for the period of February 1, 2026, through April 30, 2029.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Attorney’s Office, is hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement this agreement on behalf of Washington County.

ATTEST:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

YES NO

MIRON	_____	_____
KARWOSKI	_____	_____
COX	_____	_____
BIGHAM	_____	_____
CLASEN	_____	_____

COUNTY BOARD CHAIR



Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:
January 13, 2026

Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
4.C

Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Community Services	REQUESTOR: Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-6014
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT: Kathy Mickelson	

Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Approval of 1.0 FTE Special Project Senior Social Worker for Opioid Response.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE: NA	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: This Special Project Senior Social Worker position will enable the county to expand community-based opioid and substance abuse disorder prevention, harm reduction, and treatment connection efforts by embedding a clinical substance use professional directly within the Mental Health in Motion mobile outreach program. This position is funded through a grant approved by the Washington County Opioid Settlement Council, utilizing opioid response grant funding provided to Washington County through the national opioid settlement payments. The special project position is for 12 months.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED? 1/6/2026 - Personnel Committee reviewed and recommends County Board approval.		

Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION: Opioid Response funding	

Approvals

Jennifer Castillo, Director	01/06/2026
John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	01/08/2026
Kevin Corbid, County Administrator	01/08/2026

POSITION REQUEST FORM
ADDING NEW FTE OUTSIDE ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

Department/Division: CSD/Adult Services **Date Requested:** 12/18/2025

Job Title: Senior Social Worker **Business Unit:** 7410003101

Position Type:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full-Time | FTE Amount: <u>1.0</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Part-Time | Length: <u>12 months</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Special Project | Current End Date: <u>12/31/2026</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation of Special Project | Request End Date: _____ |
| | Current Position # : _____ |

Mandated? Yes No

Explanation of Mandate:

245.466 LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM.
 Subdivision 1.Development of services. The county board in each county is responsible for using all available resources to develop and coordinate a system of locally available and affordable adult mental health services.

Funding Details

Funding Source(s) (describe):

This Senior Social Worker position will be funded through Washington County Opioid Response funding.

Is this item budgeted? Yes No Partial

If partial, please describe.

This is new grant funding that was received after the 2026 budget was submitted.

If no, complete information below.

Annual Unbudgeted Amount: \$ 120,000,00

Business Unit	Object Code	Budget Increase	Budget Decrease
741000934	Wages and Benfits	\$ 114,600.00	\$
	Operational Expenses	\$ 5,400.00	\$
		\$	\$
		\$	\$

POSITION REQUEST FORM

CONTINUED

Justification

Rationale for request to extend:

This Senior Social Worker position will be funded through Washington County Opioid Response grant funding. The position will enable the County to expand community-based opioid and substance use disorder prevention, harm reduction, and treatment connection efforts by embedding a clinical substance use professional directly within the Mental Health in Motion mobile outreach program. This role addresses a critical service gap by providing on-site assessments, overdose prevention education, naloxone distribution, and rapid linkage to treatment and recovery services for residents who face barriers to accessing traditional care.

Consequences if not approved:

If this position is not approved, we will not fulfill the Washington County Opioid Response grant requirements, and we will lose the funding.



Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:
January 13, 2026

Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
4.D

Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Health and Environment	REQUESTOR: Stephanie Holt, Sr Management Analyst	REQUESTOR PHONE:
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT: Tyler Dale	

Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Approve licenses for the use of real property in the cities of Mahtomedi and Stillwater for the collection of household hazardous waste, and authorize execution by the Board Chair and County Administrator.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? Yes	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? Yes	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE: State Statutes Require Counties to Collect Household Hazardous Waste	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: Two satellite household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events are planned in Washington County for weekends in 2026. Satellite collections bring the services offered at the Washington County Environmental Centers, located in Forest Lake and Woodbury, closer to residents throughout the county. These events make it more convenient and practical for residents to recycle electronics and properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Confidential document shredding will also be available at these events. Licenses to use real property allow Washington County to utilize sites owned by others to host these events and collect household hazardous waste and unwanted electronics. The collection events are planned as follows: Mahtomedi — Saturday, April 25, 2026 Wildwood Elementary School Ball Field Lot 8698 75th St N, Mahtomedi, MN 55115 Stillwater — Saturday, May 16, 2026 Lily Lake Ice Arena 1208 S. Greeley Street, Stillwater, MN 55082 In addition to the satellite collection events, six dates have been scheduled for confidential paper shredding at the Washington County Environmental Centers. All shredding events will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and are open to Washington County residents and businesses only. Shredding events at the North Environmental Center will be held on Thursdays: May 14, July 23, and November 5. Shredding events at the South Environmental Center will be held on Wednesdays: April 22, June 24, and September 9. The Washington County Environmental Centers provide residents with free and convenient year round disposal options for household hazardous waste,		

electronics, and recyclables.

North Environmental Center hours of operation:

Monday: 11 am - 7pm

Tuesday: CLOSED

Wednesday: 8 am - 4:30 pm.

Thursday: CLOSED

Friday: 8 am - 4:30 pm.

Saturday: 8 am - 2 pm.

Sunday: CLOSED

The South Environmental Center hours of operation are:

Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday: 11 am - 7 pm.

Wednesday: CLOSED

Thursday: 8 am - 4:30 pm.

Friday: 8 am - 4:30 pm.

Saturday: 8 am - 2 pm.

Sunday: CLOSED

The Department of Public Health and Environment recommends approval of the licenses in Stillwater and Mahtomedi for the use of real property.

PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?

Previous Board Acton on 1/24/17, 1/16/18, 1/22/19, 1/14/2020, 1/26/21, 2/1/22, 2/7/23, 2/9/24 and 1/21/25.

Budget Impact

YEAR:

UNBUDGETED AMOUNT:

\$

FUNDING DESCRIPTION:

County Environmental Charge

Approvals

David Brummel, Director 01/05/2026

John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief 01/07/2026

Kevin Corbid, County Administrator 01/07/2026



Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:
January 13, 2026

Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
4.E

Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Health and Environment	REQUESTOR: Adriana Atcheson, Senior Planner	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-6716
PRESENTER(S):	MEDIA CONTACT: Stephanie Souter 651-430-6071	

Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Approve comment letter regarding Valley Branch Watershed District 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Consent	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 0 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) released their draft 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan for the 60-day formal review and comment period. This 10-year plan is intended to replace the current VBWD Plan, which was adopted in 2015. Public Health and Environment and Public Works staff have reviewed the plan and provided draft comments for the board's consideration in the attached letter.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?		

Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

Approvals

David Brummel, Director	01/05/2026
John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	01/05/2026
Kevin Corbid, County Administrator	01/07/2026



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PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

David Brummel, Director
Jill Timm, Deputy Director

January 13, 2026

Greg Williams
Barr
4300 Market Pointe Drive Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55435

RE: Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan – 60-day Review Draft

Dear Mr. Williams,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Valley Branch Watershed District's 2026-2035 Watershed Management Plan. The county commends the VBWD for developing a planning framework to provide direction for managing water resources. Washington County finds the Watershed Management Plan to be generally consistent with Washington County's 2025-2034 Groundwater Plan.

Attached are comments from the county in response to the Watershed Management Plan. Please contact Adriana Atcheson at 651-430-6716 or via email at adriana.atcheson@washingtontcountymn.gov if you have questions regarding the comments.

Sincerely,

CC: Washington County Board of Commissioners
Kevin Corbid, County Administrator
David Brummel, Director, Department of Public Health & Environment
Jill Timm, Deputy Director, Department of Public Health & Environment
Stephanie Souter, Senior Program Manager, Department of Public Health & Environment
Smita Rakshit, Supervisor, Department of Public Health & Environment
Wayne Sandberg, Director, Department of Public Works
Kevin Peterson, Design Engineer, Department of Public Works
Oluwatoni Ajala, Engineer I, Department of Public Works



Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P.O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
P: 651-430-6655 | F: 651-430-6730 | TTY: 651-430-6246

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Public Health and Environment

General Comments:

The VBWD Watershed Management Plan identifies goals in line with the Groundwater Plan including reducing chloride loading, groundwater sustainability, limiting potential for groundwater contamination, and preventing or mitigating negative impacts from groundwater-surface water interactions. PHE appreciates the addition of annual coordination meetings with partners, and the goals focusing on climate resiliency. PHE looks forward to working with the VBWD and finding opportunities for collaboration and partnership during the implementation of the county's Groundwater Plan and the VBWD Watershed Management Plan.

3.1.3 Permitting and Project Review:

The county recommends the VBWD strive for consistency in permit processes and practices with other Watershed Districts when examining and updating their watershed rules. The county acknowledges rules differ across watershed boundaries based on the water resource being protected and land uses but appreciates when Watershed Districts look for opportunities for alignment across boundaries.

FL-7 Groundwater Conservation/Reuse projects (VBWD will implement groundwater conservation and/or reuse projects):

The county supports and encourages safe and feasible water reuse.

Public Works

General Comments:

The formatting of the VBWD web_map hyperlink varies throughout the document.

Issues and Goals:

- Page 29 – The groundwater contamination section should precede the threatened and impaired water bodies section, given references to PFOS as a pollutant.
- Page 35 – In Table 2-3, PAH is listed under hydrocarbons and also in a separate row; consider removing one for clarity.
- Page 41 – For Goal 18A, consider specifying the mechanism the District will use to increase visibility.

Implementation Program:

- Page 52 – The last sentence of the Land Use Planning section appears incomplete.



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Land and Water Resource Inventory

- Page 96 – Bay Lake is listed twice in the water quality modeling section.

Subwatershed Summaries

- Page 117 – In the Lake DeMontreville Watershed section, review the formatting of the sentence beginning “The VBWD web map presents_subwatersheds.”
- Page 133 – In Table 5-13, there is an additional parenthesis by the ordinary high water level label.
- Page 165 – In the Goose Lake Watershed section, check the formatting of the sentence “The VBWD web map presents_subwatersheds and drainage patterns within the Goose Lake watershed.”



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Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:
January 13, 2026

Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
5.A

Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Administration	REQUESTOR: Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-6014
PRESENTER(S): Jan Lucke	MEDIA CONTACT: Jan Lucke 651-430-6003	

Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Adoption of Washington County's 2026 Legislative Platform.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Board	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 10 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: Each year, the Washington County Board of Commissioners adopts position statements on state funding requests and legislative issues specific to Washington County. Each platform item, or plank, has its own one-page fact sheet that provides the county's position, background information, likely supporters, and the financial impact. Revisions to planks were made following a board workshop on December 16, 2025. The Office of Administration recommends the adoption of the 2026 Legislative Platform. Following adoption, the 2026 Legislative Platform will be shared with the county's legislative delegation.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED? 12/16/2025 - The board held a workshop to preview the draft legislative platform and give feedback and direction to staff.		

Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

Approvals

John Ristad, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	01/05/2026
Jan Lucke, Deputy County Administrator	01/08/2026



2026 Legislative Platform

January 13, 2026

Washington
County
Rooted in **Connection**
Growing with **Direction**

Background

- Each year, the Washington County Board of Commissioners adopts position statements on state funding requests and legislative issues specific to Washington County.
- First review took place at a county board workshop on December 16, 2025; board feedback has been incorporated into the platform recommended in the board meeting packet.



Washington County Wood Recovery and Utilization Project



Washington County requests **\$4 million in state funds and policy support** to enable the effective implementation of mandated wood waste management strategies.

Support

- Washington Conservation District
- Partnership on Waste and Energy
- Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

East Metro PFAS Biomonitoring



Washington County requests a **\$1.1 million** appropriation to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to conduct an updated biomonitoring study for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in East Metro residents.

County Highway 10, 17, and 17B Intersection Improvements



Washington County requests **\$2 million in state funds** to design and construct improvements at the intersection of County Highway 10, County Highway 17, and County Road 17B.

Support

- City of Lake Elmo
- Stillwater Area Public Schools

County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 18 (Bailey Road) and CSAH 19 (Woodbury Drive) Intersection Improvements

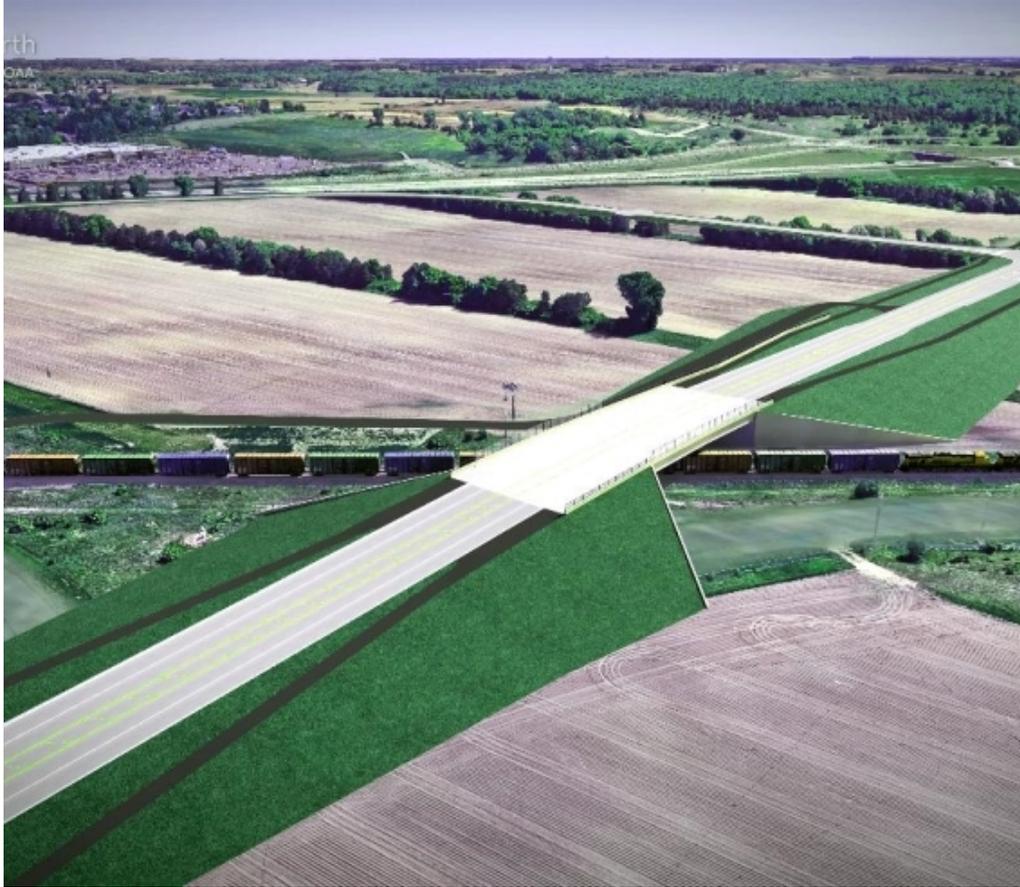


Washington County requests **\$500,000 in state funds** for intersection improvements at CSAH 18 (Bailey Road) and CSAH 19 (Woodbury Drive).

Support

- City of Woodbury

County Road 19A and 100th Street Realignment Project



Washington County and the City of Cottage Grove request **\$22.5 million in state funds** to construct the County Road 19A and 100th Street Realignment Project.

Support

- Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
- City of Cottage Grove
- 3M
- Renewal By Andersen

CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail) and Brown's Creek State Trail Connection Project



Washington County requests **\$3 million in state funds** to construct a trailhead and trail connection(s) from County State Aid Highway 5 to the Brown's Creek State Trail.

Support

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Stillwater Township
- City of Stillwater

Protect County Transportation Funding



Washington County urges the Minnesota Legislature to **protect the current formula** for distributing Transportation Advancement Account (TAA) funds and Regional Transportation Sales and Use Tax (RSUT).

Support

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Hennepin County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County

Sales Tax Exemption for 2027 Washington County Regional Public Facility Investments



Washington County requests **special legislation granting a sales tax exemption** under Minn. Stat. § 297A.75 for construction materials, supplies, and equipment for two major regional public facility projects scheduled for construction in 2027: R.H. Stafford Library and Public Works South Shop.

Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Trail Lighting



Washington County requests **\$3 million in state funds** for trail lighting in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

Support

- City of Cottage Grove
- Metropolitan Council

State Bonding for Metropolitan Regional Park System



Washington County requests **\$20 million in state funds for capital projects** within the Metropolitan Regional Park System.

Support

- Metropolitan Council
- The 10 partnering regional park implementing agencies

Requested Action

Adopt the 2026 Washington County
Legislative Platform





Washington County Wood Recovery and Utilization Program

Washington County requests **\$4 million in state funds and policy support** to enable the effective implementation of mandated wood waste management strategies.

Issue At-A-Glance

- Minnesota’s Metro Solid Waste Policy Plan requires counties to respond to rapidly increasing amounts of wood waste from diseased trees and severe weather. However, regional wood product markets are underdeveloped, landfilling of wood waste is not allowed, and spontaneous combustion of stagnant wood chip piles has become a serious risk for local tree care companies.
- Tree service costs have been steadily increasing and are expected to continue to rise. Those in search of affordable solutions may choose unsafe tree work or disposal by dumping or burning, which threatens both public health and the environment.
- Processing tree material into usable products helps protect residents from volatile tree care fees and smoky air. By converting tree material into wood and carbon products, Washington County will capture and store carbon in accordance with Minnesota’s Climate Action Framework and benefit the entire region by establishing a sustainable system for material recovery and utilization.
- State funds will enable the county to develop the sites needed to convert surplus tree material into lumber and carbon products that can improve soil and water quality, thereby expanding access to these products throughout the region and creating sustainable material supply chains for manufacturers to scale up processing.

Support

- Washington Conservation District
- Partnership on Waste and Energy
- Lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Previous Considerations

This project was submitted for consideration in 2025.

No Action

If the state funds are not provided, residents in the region will continue to face rising tree service costs, experience polluted air due to accidental and intentional burning of wood waste piles, and miss an opportunity to capture the economic value from local trees needing removal.

Financial Implications

- Washington County: \$5 million
- **State of Minnesota: \$4 million**

Total estimated project cost: \$9 million



East Metro PFAS Biomonitoring



Washington County requests a **\$1.1 million** appropriation to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to conduct an updated biomonitoring study of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in East Metro residents.

Issue At-A-Glance

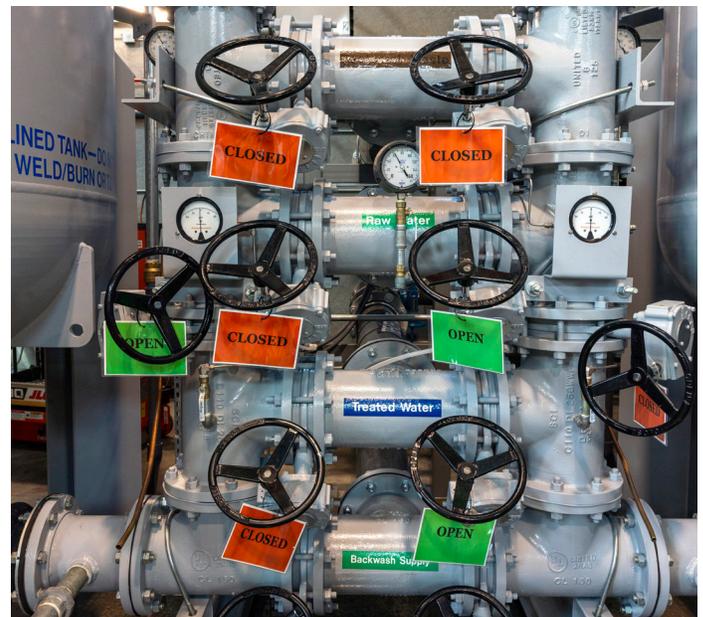
- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are chemicals that have been used for many years to make products that resist stains, grease, water, and heat. PFAS have been found in East Metro drinking water supplies, including several Washington County communities, since the early 2000s.
- The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), directed by the Minnesota Legislature, has completed three studies testing PFAS blood levels in people who live in the East Metro since 2008. The last study was conducted in 2014. Results indicated progress in reducing PFAS levels, but residents still showed higher levels of PFAS compared to national data sets at that time.
- An updated PFAS biomonitoring study will help MDH, Washington County, and municipalities understand the prevalence of PFAS in our communities and how public health interventions continue to impact those levels.
- An updated PFAS biomonitoring study is also supported by Washington County's newly adopted Groundwater Plan, which includes a strategy to monitor and advocate for research and studies (e.g. biomonitoring, additional surveillance) on health effects from PFAS and other contaminants.

No Action

Without additional funding, an updated PFAS biomonitoring study would not be conducted.

Financial Implications

State of Minnesota: \$1.1 million appropriation to Minnesota Department of Health



County Highway 10, 17, and 17B Intersection Improvements



Washington County requests **\$2 million in state funds** to design and construct improvements at the intersection of County Highway 10, County Highway 17, and County Road 17B.

Issue At-A-Glance

- Washington County, in partnership with the City of Lake Elmo, is planning an improvement project for the intersection of County Highway 10 (10th Street North), County Highway 17 (Lake Elmo Avenue North), and County Road 17B (Lake Elmo Avenue North).
- The construction of a new elementary school in the northwest quadrant of the intersection will result in a significant land use change. The school's anticipated traffic volumes require the county transportation system to be improved.
- A temporary traffic signal is being installed at the intersection as part of school construction, but is a stop gap measure and further investment is needed to meet the long-term needs of the community.
- This project will focus on new pedestrian and bike paths near the intersection to connect the new elementary school to surrounding neighborhoods, including Cimarron Park, a highly diverse manufactured home community. There are multiple nearby destinations, including Lake Elmo Park Reserve, a regional park with over 530,000 annual visitors, and Oak-Land Middle School. This project will include analysis for future connections to these destinations. Proper infrastructure is key to ensuring pedestrian safety, including the safety of children walking to school.
- Washington County is leading preliminary design on this project and has invested \$365,000 to date.

Support

- City of Lake Elmo
- Stillwater Area Public Schools

Previous Considerations

No previous consideration.

No Action

If state funds are not provided, the county will be limited in what improvements can be made to pedestrian connectivity and safety outside of the intersection itself.

Financial Implications

- Washington County: \$1.75 million
- City of Lake Elmo: \$400,000
- **State of Minnesota: \$2 million**

Total estimated project cost: \$4.15 million



County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 18 (Bailey Road) and CSAH 19 (Woodbury Drive) Intersection Improvements



Washington County requests **\$500,000 in state funds** for intersection improvements at CSAH 18 (Bailey Road) and CSAH 19 (Woodbury Drive).

Issue At-A-Glance

- The intersection of Bailey Road and Woodbury Drive is located in the City of Woodbury, one of Minnesota’s fastest growing and most populated cities. The area in which this intersection is located is developing especially rapidly, with growth expected to continue, increasing strain on the transportation system.
- This intersection is near three public and private schools and a regional destination, M Health Fairview Sports Center. It experiences backups, especially during overlapping school start and end times and during the numerous large events at the Sports Center that occur year-round.
- This intersection improvement project will increase roadway capacity to better meet the transportation needs of this rapidly growing area.

Support

- City of Woodbury

Previous Considerations

No previous considerations.

No Action

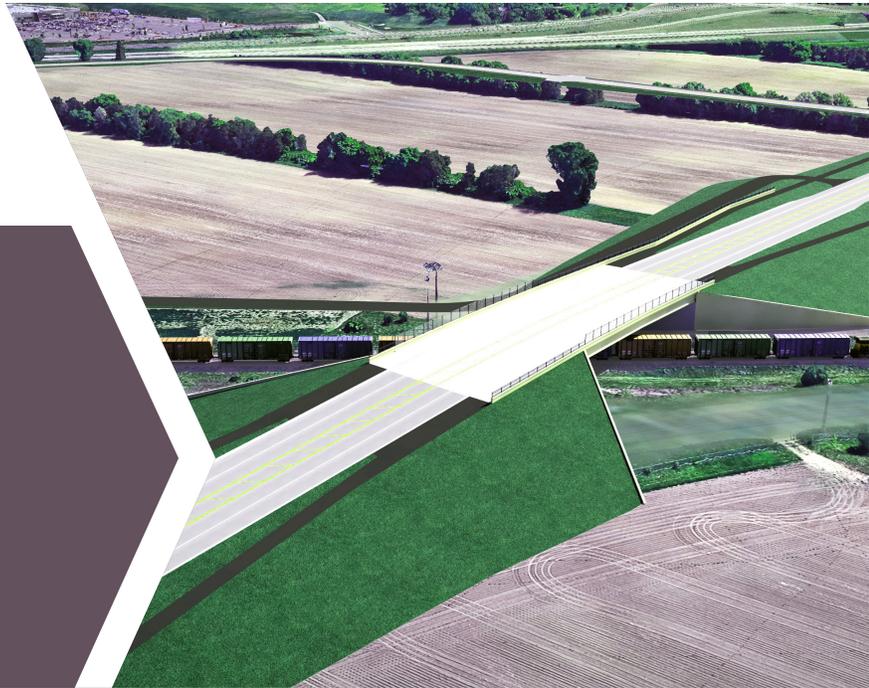
Without state support, Washington County may need to divert funding from other important public services in order to complete the improvements to this intersection.

Financial Implications

- Washington County: \$500,000
- **State of Minnesota: \$500,000**

Total estimated project cost: \$1 million





County Road 19A and 100th Street Realignment Project

Washington County and the City of Cottage Grove request **\$22.5 million in state funds** to construct the County Road 19A and 100th Street Realignment Project.

Issue At-A-Glance

- A new arterial route is needed to support 500 acres of planned development and to help balance the regional traffic patterns on U.S. Highway 61.
- A new railway grade separation included in the project will efficiently accommodate growth in freight traffic associated with the rapidly growing industrial area.
- The project will be transformative for the southeast metro as it improves safety and mobility and creates economic opportunity in the area.
- Washington County and the City of Cottage Grove have invested more than \$1,400,000 in project engineering to date.
- The project has received \$13.6 million in federal funding for construction which will begin expiring in 2028. **If the remaining funding gap is not filled, the county and city may need to return their awards.**



Support

- Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
- City of Cottage Grove
- 3M
- Renewal By Andersen

Previous Considerations

This project was submitted for consideration in 2024 and 2025.

No Action

If the state funds are not provided, the county and city may have to return \$13.6 million in awarded federal funds, and the project will be delayed.

Financial Implications

- Federal Grants: \$13.6 million
- City of Cottage Grove: \$6.8 million
- Washington County: \$4.0 million
- **State of Minnesota: \$22.5 million**

Total estimated project cost: \$46.9 million



CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail) and Brown's Creek State Trail Connection Project



Washington County requests **\$3 million in state funds** to construct a trailhead and trail connection(s) from County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 to the Brown's Creek State Trail.

Issue At-A-Glance

- Accessing the Brown's Creek State Trail from surrounding neighborhoods requires users to take an uneven, unsafe, and unsanctioned footpath down a steep ravine. A new trail connection would make this link safe, accessible, and compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA).
- In 2025, Washington County added new trails and resurfaced existing trails along County Highway 5 in areas adjacent to the Brown's Creek State Trail. The bridge crossing over the trail was also replaced. However, the trail that would connect people directly to the Brown's Creek Trail was not included due to a lack of funds. The 2025 project was financed with local funds and cost approximately \$6 million.
- During 2025 construction, the county received reoccurring comments from the community expressing disappointment that the direct connection to Brown's Creek Trail was not included.
- State funds, if provided, will be used to construct a trailhead and trail connection(s) from County Highway 5 to the Brown's Creek State Trail.

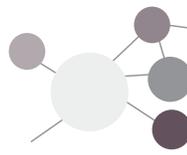
More about the Brown's Creek State Trail



More than
120,000 users
annually access the
Brown's Creek State Trail.



5.9 mile-trail
connects the City of Stillwater
and the City of Grant on a
former railroad bed.



Connects parks and
trail systems, including
the Gateway Trail, the
most used DNR trail in
Minnesota.

Support

- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Stillwater Township
- City of Stillwater

Previous Considerations

This project was submitted for consideration in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

No Action

If the state funds are not provided, the connection will not be built, leaving only the steep, uneven, unsanctioned footpath to the Brown's Creek State Trail.

Financial Implications

Washington County expenses to date: Trail resurfacing and road improvements:

- Local funds: \$6 million

Trail connection

- **State of Minnesota: \$3 million**

Total estimated project cost: \$9 million





Protect County Transportation Funding

Washington County urges the Minnesota Legislature to protect the current formula for distributing Transportation Advancement Account (TAA) funds and Regional Transportation Sales and Use Tax (RSUT).

Issue At-A-Glance

- The Transportation Advancement Account (TAA) and Regional Transportation Sales and Use Tax (RSUT), established in 2023, are currently funded by sales taxes and delivery fees in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.
- The TAA and RSUT funding stream is essential to maintain and improve local transportation systems. It supports road rehabilitation, active transportation (walking and biking), transit, and climate-friendly projects. The formula was carefully negotiated and ensures that counties receive funding based on both population and financial need.
- This funding is critical for Washington County to keep up with growth, maintain aging infrastructure, and provide safe, accessible transportation options for all users. Counties are responsible for nearly one-third of Minnesota’s roads and over 40% of its bridges. In Washington County, many of these roads are part of the state aid system and serve as major connectors for freight, transit, and daily travel.
- State law requires metropolitan counties to use TAA and RSUT funds as follows:
 - 41.5% for active transportation and transportation corridor safety studies.
 - 41.4% for repair, preservation and rehabilitation of transportation systems and roadway replacement without expansion.
 - 17% for transit, complete streets and greenhouse gas mitigation.
- Under the current funding structure, Washington County is expected to receive approximately \$7 to \$8 million annually.

Support

- Anoka County
- Carver County
- Dakota County
- Hennepin County
- Ramsey County
- Scott County

Previous Considerations

No previous consideration.

No Action

Washington County plans to fund almost 30 separate transportation projects in the next five years with TAA and RSUT funds. If the formula to distribute transportation funds is changed, these critical safety, pedestrian, preservation, and capacity projects would be canceled or delayed.

Financial Implications

Changing the TAA formula would affect Washington County’s ability to plan and fund important projects, shifting more costs to local taxpayers. The current system is inclusive, effective, and reflects the real responsibilities counties have to keep Minnesota moving. The Legislature should preserve the TAA formula and ensure that counties continue to receive the funding they need to invest in safe, reliable, and future-ready transportation solutions.





Sales Tax Exemption for 2027 Washington County Regional Public Facility Investments

Washington County requests special legislation granting a sales tax exemption under Minn. Stat. § 297A.75 for construction materials, supplies, and equipment for two major regional public facility projects scheduled for construction in 2027: R.H. Stafford Library and Public Works South Shop.

Issue At-A-Glance

- Under current law, local governments are exempt from sales tax. However, this exemption does not extend to construction materials purchased by contractors under lump-sum or guaranteed-maximum-price contracts. This bill would provide a sales tax exemption for materials, supplies, and equipment incorporated into upcoming county construction projects.
- In 2027, Washington County will begin two major public facility projects totaling more than \$57 million, addressing critical infrastructure needs identified through formal studies. A state sales tax exemption would reduce project costs, strengthen taxpayer value, and support on-time delivery of these essential improvements.



R.H. Stafford Library

R.H. Stafford Library is a regional asset that requires modernization. It is the county's highest-use library and is one of the top five busiest libraries in Minnesota. The current layout is inefficient, finishes are worn, and mechanical and electrical systems are at the end of their service life. Upgrades will improve functionality, energy efficiency, and long-term operating costs.



Public Works South Shop

The Public Works South Shop is outdated and undersized. A 2013 study found the facility deteriorated, non-ADA compliant, and consuming twice the energy per square foot of a modern building. The space no longer supports current equipment or operational needs, limiting the county's ability to serve the growing southern region.

Previous Considerations

No previous consideration.

No Action

If a state sales tax exemption is not provided, Washington County will bear the full sales tax burden on construction materials for both projects, reducing the overall purchasing power of the allocated funds. This could result in reduced project scope, delayed timelines, or the need for additional local funding to achieve the same outcomes.

Financial Implications

Both projects rely significantly on bond proceeds, and reduced costs would enhance Washington County's ability to deliver these projects within budget and on time.

- R.H. Stafford Library: estimated sales tax is \$600,000.
- Public Works South Shop: estimated sales tax is \$1 million.



Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park Trail Lighting

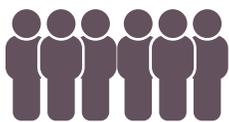


Trail lighting at Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Washington County requests **\$3 million in state funds** for trail lighting in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

Issue At-A-Glance

- Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park is in the City of Cottage Grove and consists of over 500 acres of hills and forested ravines. The most popular park feature is the 12 miles of trails for walkers, hikers, bicyclists, skiers, snowshoers, and other park visitors. It is one of the fastest growing parks in Washington County and located in one of the fastest developing areas of the region.
- Lighting 5 kilometers of trail will expand the park's year-round use, improving visitor experience and safety. The shorter daylight hours in fall and winter limit the use of the park, which is especially limiting during cross-country ski season.
- There is strong support from the community for this project, especially from skiers, hikers, and trail runners. The park has the ideal terrain, elevation, and facilities to accommodate larger events, team practices, and high school meets.
- This trail lighting project would advance the vision for the trailhead and trail network at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park by leveraging over \$3 million in recent investments that Washington County has already made, including Ravine Landing — a multiuse facility and trailhead that has dramatically expanded the park's programming and event capacity for trail users, cross-country skiing, and more.



**150,000 - 180,000
annual visitors.**

Source: Washington County Parks estimate.

Support

- City of Cottage Grove
- Metropolitan Council

Previous Considerations

This project was submitted for consideration in 2024 and 2025.

No Action

If the state funds are not provided, Washington County will have to seek other funding sources, and the project may be delayed or not built.

Financial Implications

Washington County expenses to date: Ravine Landing facility and trailhead (completed 2021)

- Washington County: \$3.8 million

Trail lighting

- **State of Minnesota: \$3 million**

Total estimated project cost: \$6.8 million



State Bonding for Metropolitan Regional Park System



Washington County requests **\$20 million in state funds for capital projects** within the Metropolitan Regional Park System.

Issue At-A-Glance

- The Metropolitan Regional Parks System is a highly utilized resource, receiving approximately 65.7 million visitors in 2024.
- Washington County depends on state bonding to the regional parks system for ongoing capital improvements. This provides the funding for Washington County to address pertinent needs within the regional parks and trails system.
- Every \$3 of state bonding to the Metropolitan Council's regional park system leverages \$2 of additional Metropolitan Council funding up to \$10 million. Of that total, Washington County would receive 7% for its regional parks.
- Washington County has several proposed projects in 2026-2027 that rely on regional park system bonding for implementation, including improvements to Big Marine Park Reserve, Point Douglas Regional Trail, and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

Support

- Metropolitan Council
- The 10 partnering regional park implementing agencies.

Previous Considerations

This is a biennial request necessary to fund our regional parks system. Metropolitan regional parks did not receive funding in 2024 or 2025.

No Action

If the requested state bonding is not provided, the proposed projects will either not proceed or will be scaled back significantly.

Financial Implications

- **State of Minnesota: \$20 million**
- Metropolitan Council Match (if funded): \$10 million

Total Requested Investment: \$30 million

Project Examples

Point Douglas Regional Trail



Updates to the existing trailhead and restroom facilities.

St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park



Campground upgrades.





Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:
January 13, 2026

Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
9.A

Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Works	REQUESTOR: Rana Campbell-Beams, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-4355
PRESENTER(S): Sara Allen, Emma Verkuilen	MEDIA CONTACT: Sara Allen 651-430-4363	

Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Transit Needs Study (TNS) and Community Circulator Update		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Workshop	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 30 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: Washington County is in the process of updating a Transit Needs Study (TNS), originally completed in 2018. An update to that plan began in January 2025, and is on track to be complete by spring 2026. The TNS will evaluate the transportation needs of Washington County residents with a focus on people with disabilities, limited mobility, seniors, people with low or limited income, transit dependent populations, and others who need access to jobs with non-traditional work hours. The objectives of the Transit Needs Study are to:

- Evaluate the current state of transportation for transit-dependent individuals in Washington County.
- Identify gaps and barriers to mobility.
- Identify and quantify county resources being used to provide transportation services.
- Identify future transportation needs.
- Recommend strategies to address those needs.

At this workshop with the Board, staff will provide an update on the Community Circulator work that has occurred since the board workshop on September 23, 2025, describe the background of the TNS, highlight key takeaways from an Existing Conditions Report, and review public engagement thus far. The focus of the workshop will be a discussion of next steps and an opportunity for the Board to provide feedback on the study thus far.

PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?
 September 23, 2025 – Discussion on expansion of Community Circulators in Washington County.
 December 17, 2024 – Adoption of a resolution approving the final 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) document.
 April 9, 2024 – County board discussion and policy direction for the use of new Transportation Advancement Account transit funding.

Budget Impact

YEAR:

UNBUDGETED AMOUNT:

\$

FUNDING DESCRIPTION:

Approvals

Wayne Sandberg, Director

01/06/2026

Jennifer Wagenius, Deputy County Administrator

01/06/2026

A dark teal outline of the Washington County map, positioned on the left side of the slide.

Transit Needs Study (TNS) and Community Circulator Update

January 13, 2026

Agenda

01

Community Circulator Update

02

Transit Needs Study Background

03

Transit Needs Study - Existing Conditions Report

04

Public Engagement

05

Next Steps

06

Discussion

- Are there transit options you've heard communities request that you don't see in the list and should be analyzed?
- Are there community input themes you have heard that were not captured within this presentation?

Community Circulator Update

Community Circulator Updates

Forest Lake: Service is tentatively scheduled to begin February/March, with multi-pronged engagement and rider education outreach occurring from now until launch.

St. Paul Park and Newport Loop: Service is tentatively scheduled to begin in March, with multi-pronged engagement and rider education outreach occurring at the end of January, up until launch date.

Stillwater: Loop discontinued and funding from cities was reallocated to Community Thread going towards their volunteer driver program instead.

Transit Needs Study Background

Transit Needs Study (TNS) - Objectives

- Evaluate transportation needs of residents.
 - Focus: people with disabilities, limited mobility, seniors, low or limited income, transit dependent, jobs with non-traditional work hours.
- Identify gaps and barriers to mobility.
- Identify and quantify county resources being used to provide transportation services.
- Identify future transportation needs.
- Recommend strategies to address those needs.



Washington **ship**
County

UPDATE

Washington County Transit Needs Study
FINAL REPORT

February 2018

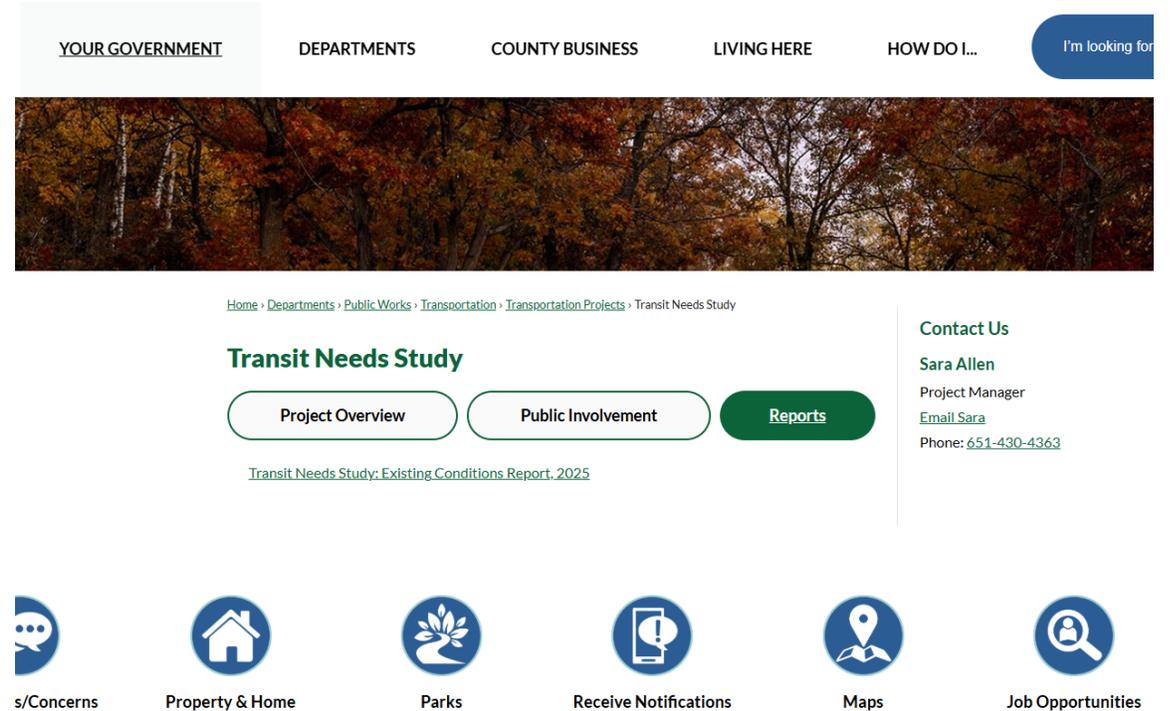
Transit Needs Study - Schedule



Transit Needs Study – Existing Conditions Report

Existing Conditions Report

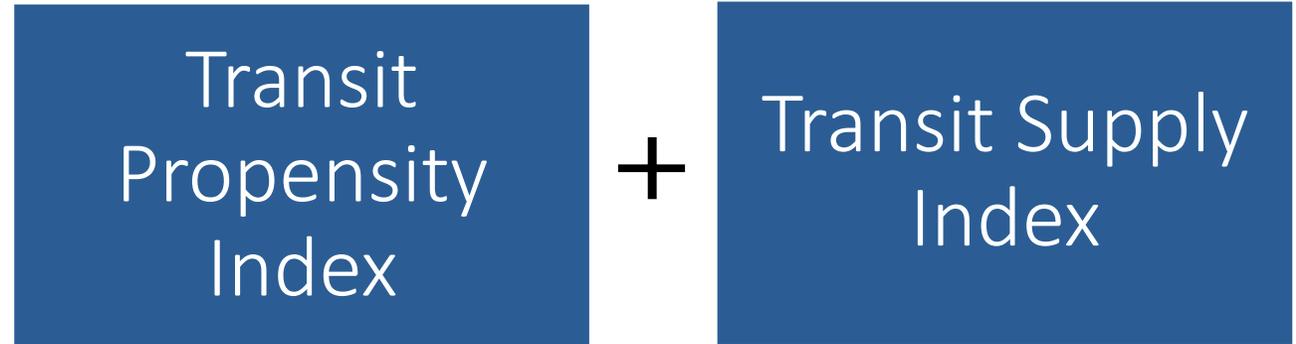
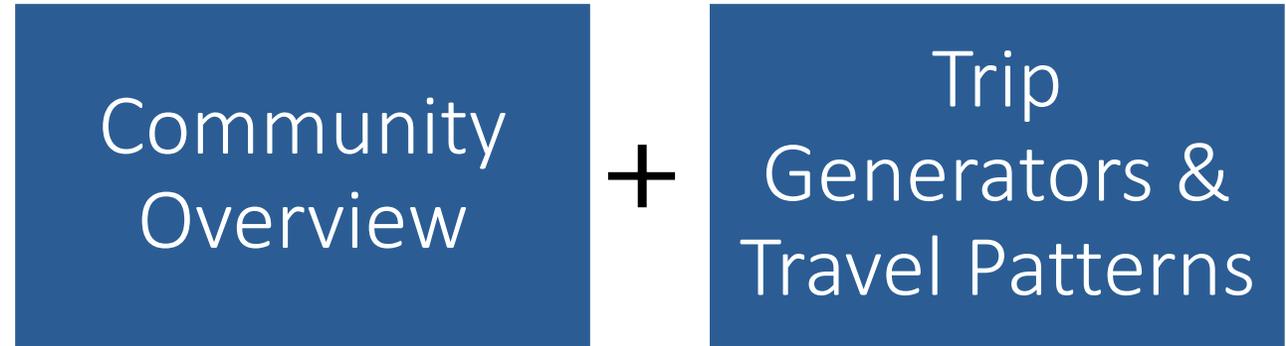
- Review of Existing Documents
- Community Overview
- Trip Generators and Travel Patterns
- Transit Availability, Needs, and Gaps
- Conclusions



Snip of Washington County Transit Needs Study webpage, with a link to the [Existing Conditions Report, 2025](#).

Transit Gap Analysis

- Layering of collected data to provide a picture of transit gaps and opportunity areas to identify gaps.



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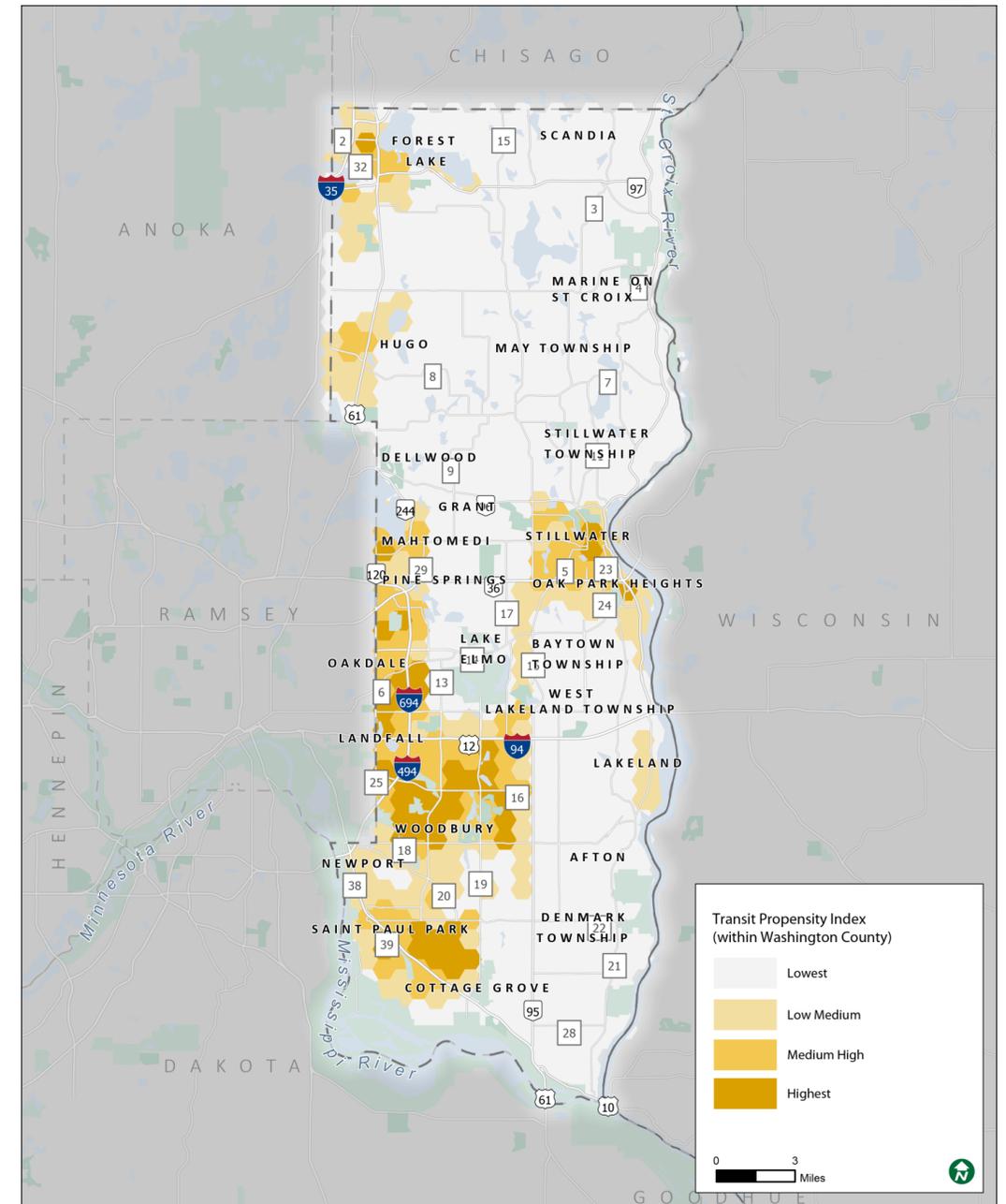


Source: U.S. Census, and "[Marginalized Populations' Access to Transit: Journeys from Home and Work to Transit](#)" (NITC), August 2023.

Transit Availability, Needs, Gaps

Transit Propensity Index

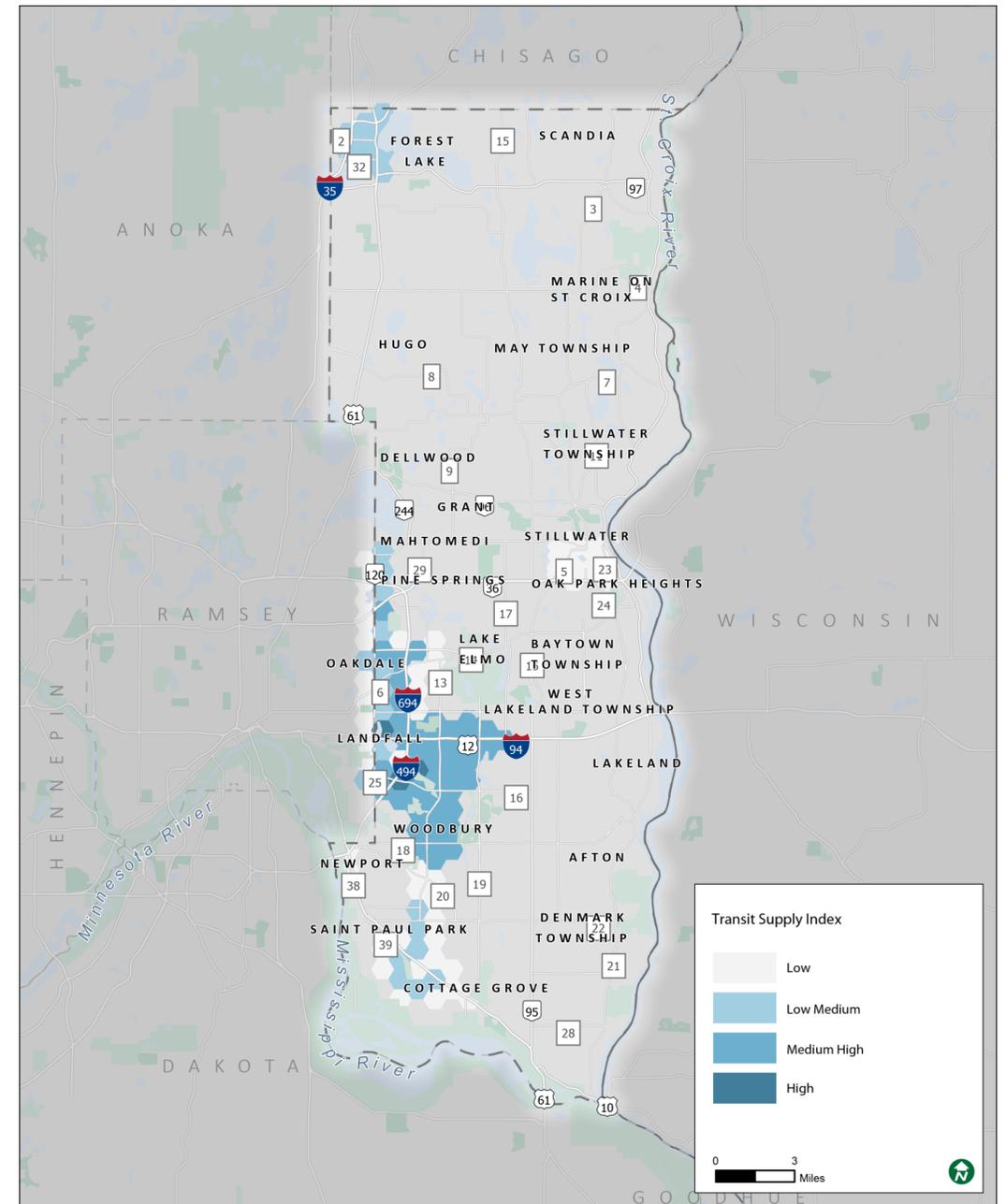
- Areas with highest propensity:
 - Parts of west Forest Lake
 - Western Mahtomedi
 - Eastern Stillwater
 - Portions of Oak Park Heights
 - Landfall
 - Parts of Woodbury, St. Paul Park, and Cottage Grove



Transit Availability, Needs, Gaps

Transit Supply Index

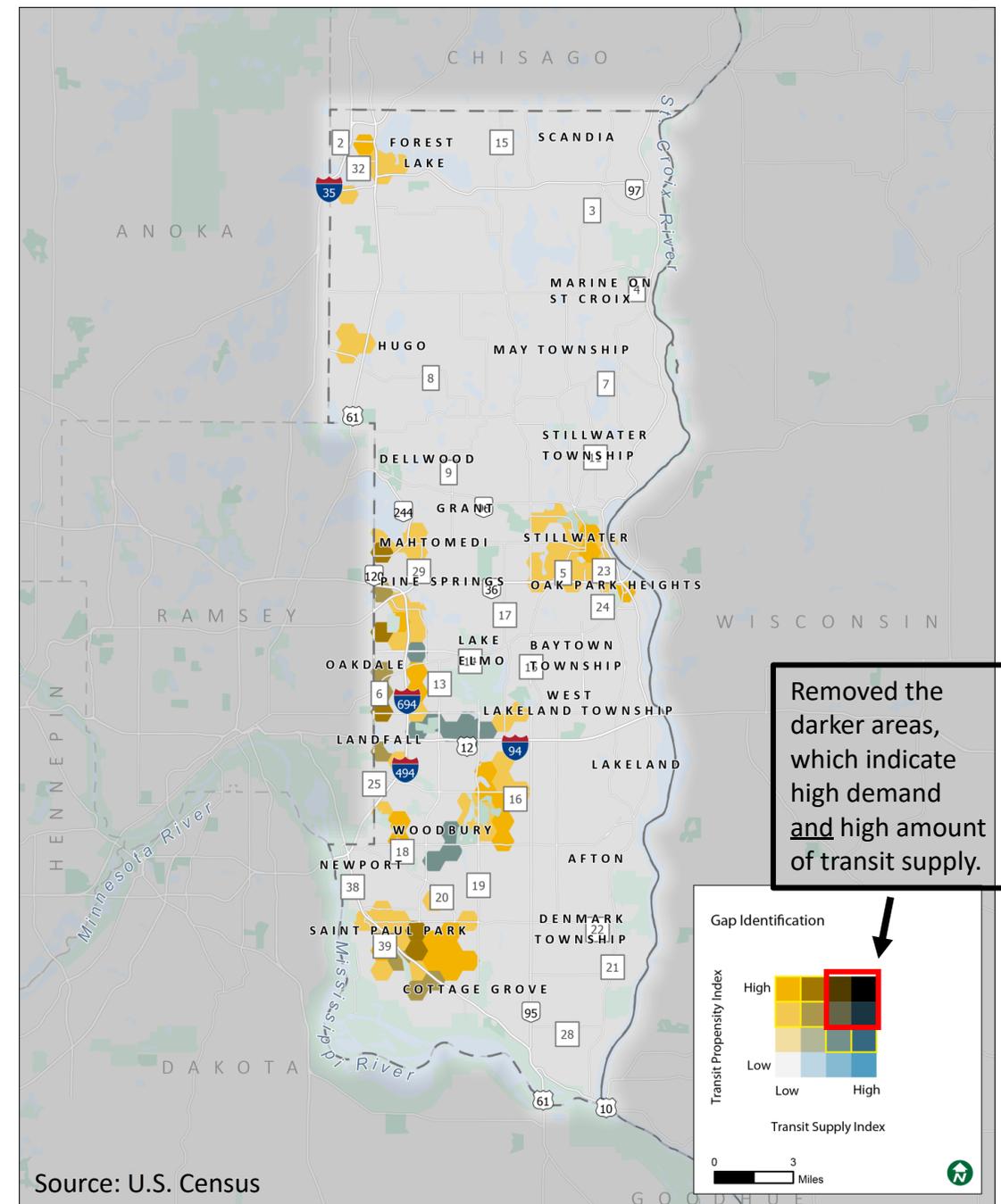
- Calculation of daily weekday bus trips within a half-mile grid, based on most recent Metro Transit schedules.



Transit Availability, Needs, Gaps

Map: Combined Transit Propensity and Transit Supply, *filtered*

- Transit Propensity layered on Transit Supply
- Note: bright yellow indicates there's a *high* propensity for transit, but a low supply.
- Removed the darker “high Transit Propensity, *high* Transit Supply” to call out the “high Transit Propensity, low Transit Supply = opportunity areas to provide services.



Existing Conditions Analysis Conclusions

- Progress continues to be made since the 2018 Transit Needs Study.
 - The Mobility Management program was a key recommendation from the 2018 study, and it was implemented successfully.
- Analysis shows that there are underserved transit markets in Washington County.
 - The largest gaps are in Stillwater, Oak Park Heights, St. Paul Park, Cottage Grove, and the eastern edge of Woodbury.
 - Forest Lake, Hugo, and Mahtomedi also emerge as places where the underlying density and demographics are not matched by transit services.
- Given the diversity of environments and needs within the county, **a diversity of strategies will likely be required.**

Public Engagement

Public Engagement Approach

- In-person “pop-up” at events around the County
 - March 22, 2025 - Gold Line Grand Opening
 - April 29, 2025 - Forest Lake Senior Wellness Event
 - May 23, 2025 – Basic Needs Food Shelf in Cottage Grove
 - May 28, 2025 – Woodbury YMCA Senior Wellness Event
 - May 29, 2025 – Community Wellness Event at Pondview Homes
 - July 17, 2025 – Stillwater Community Resources PIT Event
 - July 29, 2025 – Senior Day at the Washington County Fair
- 2025 County-wide Community Survey results
- Long Range Transportation Plan Survey results
- Interviews with Mobility Managers
- Focus Groups



Pop-up at Forest Lake YMCA Senior Wellness Event, May 2025

2025 County-Wide Community Survey Key Themes

By the Numbers

Score

32/100

Ratings of Community
Characteristics: Public Transit
Table 91

49/100

Ratings of Problem: Access to
public transit. *Table 81*

43/100

Ratings of Problems:
Transportation Options-*Table 81*

Scale

0= Poor
100 = Excellent

0= Not a problem
100 = Major problem

0= Not a problem
100 = Major problem

Key Insight: Transportation rating (32) lags regional peers:
Olmstead (56), Dakota (46), Scott (42).

What Residents Said

"There is no public transportation in my neighborhood.. We need city bus service in suburban and rural areas."

"Walking and biking along busy roads is unsafe — we lack sidewalks and safe connections to get where we need to go."

"The community is entirely car-dependent. There's limited walkability to commercial amenities and services."

"We need expanded bus line service and better local public transportation options."

Long Range Transportation Plan (LTRP) Survey: Supplemental Input for TNS

By the Numbers

81%

Say transit access is Important

Highest priority among alternative modes

57%

Rate current transit as Poor or Very Poor

Lowest rating of any transportation mode

#3

Transit expansion priority ranking

Out of 12 categories for future transportation consideration characteristics

Key Themes from Residents

Service Hours

Need for evening, weekend, early morning service. Current hours limit work and social activities.

Regional Connections

Desire for transit to Minneapolis, St. Paul, airport, and Gold Line

Local Circulation

First/last mile gaps, interest in on-demand services connecting to park and rides

Medical and Accessibility

Gaps in local medical transit; Metro Mobility users need extended hours.

SURVEY SAMPLE

21 residents from seven communities including: Cottage Grove, Woodbury, Oakdale, Lake Elmo, Scandia, Forest Lake

Focus Groups



Focus group in Forest Lake, summer 2025

- Focus Groups – *Participants are those who experience transportation as a barrier to meeting day-to-day needs.*
 - 5 groups, 10-20 participants in each
 - **Phase I** : Transit needs, opportunities, challenges (Summer 2025)
 - **Phase II**: Draft strategies & themes (Fall/Winter 2025)

Key Themes:

- Consistent interest in flexible, local services (especially Metro micro)
- Better regional connections
- Strong support for bilingual navigation assistance
- Community-specific needs, such as – circulators or a micro service in Cottage Grove area, and regional buses in Forest Lake

Key Themes Across All Engagement Activities

- Strong demand for flexible, local services.
- Desire for regional connectivity.
- Language and navigation barriers.
- Equity and accessibility gaps.
- Safety and infrastructure concerns.
- Community-specific needs.

Public engagement was required to identify which trips are most appropriately served, and by which **type** of transit service.



“Transit story mad-libs” collected at a pop-up at the Stillwater Community Resource PIT Event, July 2025

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Layer gap analysis, feedback from public engagement, transit options, incorporate today's feedback into draft recommendations.
- Workshop with Board on draft recommendations (early Spring 2026).
- Board action to approve Transit Needs Study Update (Spring 2026).

Board Discussion

- Based on your knowledge of local communities:
 - Are there transit options you've heard communities request that you don't see in the list and should be analyzed?
 - Are there community input themes you have heard that were not captured within this presentation?

Transit Options Being Analyzed
Bus service
Express bus service
Bus Rapid Transit, BRT (Gold Line)
Demand Response Transit Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Public Dial-a-Ride, Transit Link• ADA Paratransit, Metro Mobility• Micro Transit, Metro micro
Community Circulators
Other – volunteer drivers, Uber/Lyft, vanpools, taxis, shared rides from family/friends



Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:
January 13, 2026

Commissioner's Report

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
10.A

Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Administration	REQUESTOR: Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-6014
PRESENTER(S): Kevin Corbid	MEDIA CONTACT:	

Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Discussion on requested letter to federal legislative delegates regarding federal detention center		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Workshop	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 30 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: At its January 6, 2026 County Board meeting, the commissioners requested staff draft a letter to be sent to federal legislative officials regarding reporting that the federal government is considering locating an immigration detention center within the county. There was significant discussion amongst board members during the meeting about the contents of the letter. A workshop will allow the board to review the draft letter. A final letter for approval will be brought to the board at a future meeting.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED?		

Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

Approvals

Kevin Corbid, County Administrator 01/08/2026