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Date: May 24, 2016
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the May 24, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board reviews liquor application for county fair

The Washington County Board of Commissioners reviewed and approved an application for temporary on-sale liquor licenses May 24 for VFW Post 323 for the Washington County Fair in Baytown Township Aug. 3-7.

Because temporary liquor licenses are issued for one to four days, and the fair runs over five days, the post requires two liquor licenses for the course of the fair.

The post has the required insurance, and the Sheriff's Office has been notified of the event.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Elections Supervisor, 651-430-8272

County Board approves cost share agreement with City of Lake Elmo for road project

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a cooperative cost share agreement with the City of Lake Elmo May 24 for work on the Count State Aid Highway 17 Corridor Management and Safety Improvement/Old Village project.

Washington County has partnered with the City of Lake Elmo to improve and replace aged infrastructure in downtown Lake Elmo. The cost share agreement with the city replaces an earlier agreement to update project costs as the end of Phase I construction nears, and with the board's approval of a contract for construction of Phase II May 3. The new cost share agreement was approved by the Lake Elmo City Council at its May 3 meeting.

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Contact: Wayne Sandberg, County Engineer and Deputy Public Works Director, 651-430-4339

Traffic Marking Services will do road striping on county roadways

Traffic Marking Services, Inc., will do latex striping on Washington County road projects this summer, after the County Board approved an \$87,200 contract with the company May 24.

Washington County Public Works previously performed annual road striping maintenance using its own crews and equipment, using a striper truck purchased in 1995. The truck reached the end of its useful service life and was in need of costly repairs if it were to continue to be operated. Washington County began to contract for highway striping in 2011. Since then, county highways in southern Washington County have been striped by Dakota County crews on a reimbursable basis.

A private striping firm has been hired to stripe roadways in northern Washington County for the past four years, which will continue in 2016.

Contact: Joe Gustafson, Traffic Engineer, 651-430-4351

DNR installing more observation wells in Mahtomedi

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will install three observation wells in Washington County's road right-of-way in Mahtomedi after the County Board approved an agreement for the work May 24.

These wells are in addition to an existing DNR well in use. The DNR's observation well network monitors groundwater levels in the aquifers under the 11-county metropolitan area. The wells provide data to the DNR to assess groundwater availability, pumping impacts, and the interaction between groundwater and surface waters.

The agreement is for 20 years with an option to renew. At termination, the wells are to be sealed according to state regulations. The DNR will pay any costs that might be associated with restoring the site to original condition.

Contact: Carol Hanson, Public Works Office Specialist, 651-430-4313

County Board receives update on East Metro Strong program

Will Schroeer, executive director of East Metro Strong, provided the Washington County Board of Commissioners with an update on the organization's work May 24.

East Metro Strong is a public-private partnership of businesses, cities, counties, and philanthropic organizations that work toward successful transit investments in the east metropolitan region. Its model encourages investment in transit, which drives economic development.

The organization supports transit investment through:

- leading stakeholders to create a vision;
- supporting others in implementing that vision; and
- working with others to educate and advocate.

At its members' request, East Metro Strong led stakeholders in developing a vision for the region that would be served by Gold Line (Gateway), Red Rock, Robert Street, Riverview, Rush Line, and the Red Line extension transitways. Stakeholders established common values, and then a vision for the area that embody those values. That vision illustrates a positive way to accommodate a substantial portion of forecast growth. By 2040, the east metropolitan area is forecast to gain 393,000 new residents, and 159,000 new jobs.

During the visioning process, members reviewed where they would like that growth to be accommodated. The resulting vision also responds to a future with fewer households with children, and "downsized" households with the retirement of the baby boomers. It is expected that those changes will increase the demand for smaller homes on smaller lots with access to transit.

East Metro Strong anticipates that the vision will be used:

- to make the case for transitway development and funding;
- for community comprehensive planning, which the Metropolitan Council will require of communities by 2018; and
- for planning in and around station areas.

Contact: Jan Lucke, Transit/Transportation Planning Manager, 651-430-4316

Metro Transit will use the Newport Transit Station as State Fair park-and-ride

Metro Transit will use the Newport Transit Station as a park-and-ride site for the 2016 Minnesota State Fair, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement for the service May 24.

Metro Transit operates expanded park-and-ride services through the Twin Cities to provide frequent transit service to and from the fair. Metro Transit has identified the Newport Transit Station as an ideal location for this service. Metro Transit will do parking lot striping of up to an additional 350 parking spaces in the grassy outlots near the station, bringing the parking capacity to 500 spaces for the State Fair. There is no cost to Washington County for granting the license.

Contact: Jan Lucke, Transit/ Transportation Planning Manager, 651-430-4316

County lists request for federal funding for future transportation projects

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved requests for federal transportation funding May 24, which will be sent to the Metropolitan Council to be included in a regional request. The Regional Solicitation for federal transportation project funding is part of the Metropolitan Council's federally-required transportation planning for the Twin Cities area.

The funding requirements are established by the U.S. Department of Transportation and administered locally through collaboration with the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Every two years, the Regional Solicitation process allocates federal transportation funds to locally-initiated projects to meet regional transportation needs.

As authorized by the most recent federal surface transportation funding act, FAST ACT, projects will be selected for funding as part of three federal programs. Funding for projects is expected to be available from 2020-2021.

The county projects included on the list were selected based on the program criteria as having the best chance of receiving funding. They are:

- roadway expansion at the interchange at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 (Manning Avenue) and Highway 36;
- roadway expansion at CSAH 19 (Woodbury Drive), building the roadway to six lanes from Interstate 94 to Tamarack Road;

- roadway reconstruction and modernization at CSAH 12 (Stillwater Road) from Wildwood Road to CSAH 9 (Jamaca Avenue);
- multi-use trails and bikeways as a CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail) connection to the Browns Creek portion of the Gateway State Trail; and
- traffic management upgrades countywide.

The County Board will also send a request for funding to MnDOT through its 2018 Metro Municipal Agreement Program to fund construction of a roundabout at the intersection of CSAH 19 (Keats Avenue South) and Highway 61 in Cottage Grove.

If the project is selected, funds from MnDOT would not be available until after July 1, 2018.

Contact: Jan Lucke, Transit/ Transportation Planning Manager, 651-430-4316

Work to begin on Point Douglas Regional Trail connection

Work will begin on a 2.5-mile trail along abandoned rail bed to follow the Mississippi River between the Hastings bridge and Point Douglas Park and the Prescott bridge after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with S.M. Hentges & Sons for the work May 24.

The contract is for \$2.48 million. The board also approved a contract with Stonebrooke Engineering for \$214,406 for construction management of the project.

The project is a key pedestrian link with existing trails between two states and three counties. One portion will provide a connection to Hastings and the Dakota County trail system. Another portion of the trail will provide a connection to the St. Croix Valley Trail and the additional regional and state parks and trails in Washington County. A third connection will be between Point Douglas Park in southern Denmark Township and Prescott, Wis.

Contact: Frank Ticknor, Design Engineer, 651-430-4319

Washington County summer road construction gets underway

Road work is underway for the season in Washington County, and the County Board approved four additional projects May 24.

The road projects will be done at:

- County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 4 from 500 feet east of Ingersoll Avenue to CSAH 15. This project is a 2.6-mile project in May Township and Hugo. Work includes removal of aging bituminous, new pavement surface, guardrail replacements, culvert replacements, and striping.
- CSAH 5 from Highway 96 to CSAH 11. The project is a 1.8-mile project in Stillwater Township. Work includes stabilized reclamation of aging bituminous, new pavement surface, culvert replacements, and striping.
- County Road (CR) 57 from 3,800 feet north of Lynch Road to CSAH 4. This 3-mile project in Hugo includes removal of aging bituminous, full depth reclamation, new pavement surface, culvert replacements, and striping.

The three projects will be done by Valley Paving, Inc., for \$2.98 million, with a 7 percent contingency fund. Of that, \$1.9 million will be paid for with proceeds from the wheelage tax, and \$1.3 million from state aid funds.

The City of Hugo will also assist with contract administration and construction inspection, for a fee of \$46,600.

In addition, CSAH 23 (Paris Avenue/Beach Road) from Orleans Street to Upper 61st Street in Oak Park Heights will be reconstructed. The existing road needs repair to its stormwater drainage system, added pedestrian facilities, and pavement repair.

The County Board approved a contract with Arnt Construction Company, Inc., for \$1.26 million to do the project. Alliant Engineering, Inc., will do the design for \$281,875. Funds for the project will be from state aid money. The City of Oak Park Heights will also pay \$35,100 for half the cost of new sidewalks. Also, an agreement between the county and the city state that the city will maintain an infiltration basin in the area of the county's Government Center, and the county will contribute to the maintenance of the city's storm sewer system based on the flow of water that drains from county property.

Contact: Frank Ticknor, Design Engineer, 651-430-4319