
Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

Date: July 12, 2016
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the July 12, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County's WorkForce Center will receive grant to expand on-the-job training

The Washington County WorkForce Center will receive funding to serve dislocated workers, especially to expand on-the-job training.

The County Board accepted the \$272,368 grant July 12, which is from the U.S. Department of Labor, and administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The grant runs through June 30, 2017.

The money will be used to expand on-the-job training, as well as credentialed and non-credentialed training programs. People to be served are workers who have been laid-off and are eligible for the dislocated worker program. In addition, they must be seeking work or a skill upgrade in healthcare, advanced manufacturing, Information Technology, transportation, and agriculture/natural resources.

Contact: Robert Crawford, WorkForce Center Division Manager, 651-275-8660

County will sell tax-forfeited land to City of Forest Lake

Washington County will sell tax-forfeited land to the City of Forest Lake, after the city asked to purchase the land for conservation purposes.

The County Board approved the sale July 12.

The city requested the parcels for utility and drainage use and has agreed on a purchase price of \$1,000, plus extra costs of \$109.30 for all three parcels. Conservation lands may be sold to

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a governmental subdivision of the state for less than its market value under state law.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Election Division Manager, 651-430-8272

County Board lends support to request for new bus route in Red Rock corridor

The Washington County Board of Commissioners added its support to a Metro Transit grant application for a new bus route in the Red Rock Corridor July 12.

Metro Transit is submitting a grant application for a new route in the Red Rock Corridor, Route 363, that would provide service every 30 minutes going both north and south from downtown St. Paul to Cottage Grove from 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The Regional Solicitation for federal transportation project funding is part of the Metropolitan Council's federally-required transportation planning for the Twin Cities.

Every two years, the Regional Solicitation process allocates federal transportation funds to locally-initiated projects to meet regional transportation needs. The Met Council works with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) to review the requests.

As authorized by the most recent federal surface transportation funding act, projects will be selected for funding as part of three federal programs, Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, and Transportation Alternatives Program.

Funding for projects is expected to be available from 2020-2021.

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

County Board will conduct public hearing on land use responsibilities

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing Aug. 2 to discuss removing the county's land use responsibilities in townships.

The County Board set the public hearing July 12. County townships are May, Stillwater, West Lakeland, Baytown, Denmark, and Grey Cloud Island.

In 2014, the County Board discussed removing land use responsibilities in townships and have been working with township officials on the issue. Through 2014 and 2015, county staff and commissioners have met with townships officials on multiple occasions to discuss the issue.

During the process, it was discovered that this transition could be made cooperatively through

township resolution and County Board action, with no need for amending legislation.

If the transfer of land use authority is approved, the county would retain control of planning and authority related to riverways, shoreland floodplains, subsurface sewer treatment systems and mining. The county has received resolutions from all the townships agreeing to this effort. The Metropolitan Council verified that all townships have comprehensive plans in place that are consistent with regional and county long-term plans.

The Washington County Planning Advisory Commission conducted a public hearing May 9 to consider the action, and has recommended that the County Board take action to amend the Washington County Comprehensive Plan 2030 and the Washington County Development Code.

Contact: Ann Pung-Terwedo, Senior Planner, 651-430-4362

Sheriff's Office will work with BCA against Internet crimes against children

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will work with the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) to form the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The joint powers agreement between the two agencies was approved by the County Board July 12. The intent of the task force is to investigate and prosecute crimes against children and the criminal exploitation of children that is committed through the use of computers, and to disrupt and dismantle organizations committing the crimes.

The BCA will receive a federal grant to assist law enforcement in investigating and combating the exploitation of children through the use of computers. The BCA will provide funding for equipment, training, and expenses, including travel and overtime funding, which are incurred by the Washington County Sheriff's Office during such investigations.

The agreement is in effect June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2019.

Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601

Board approves contract with SRF for design engineering on Lake Elmo, Oakdale road project

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with SRF Consulting Group, Inc., July 12 for final design and right-of-way services for a road improvement project on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 13 between Lake Elmo and Oakdale.

The project is along Ideal Avenue North/Olson Lake Trail North between CSAH 35 and 34th Street North (formerly Highway 5) and borders Lake Elmo and Oakdale. It will be paid for with state aid money.

The project will improve operations and safety along the corridor. It will provide new pavement, increase intersection safety, evaluate options for improvements to pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations, and enhance surface water drainage. It will also provide options for local residents to connect to city sewers.

The project is on a roadway where the traffic is expected to double in the future, to almost 6,000 trips a day. Right now, the 1.7-mile stretch of roadway does not have shoulders or pedestrian paths.

The county has conducted a number of neighborhood meetings and open houses to gather community comment. After looking at a preliminary design, it was determined to build the roadway with curb and gutter, and a trail on the west side of the road. Reasons are:

- lowest overall project cost;
- lowest property impact;
- the best way to address pedestrian/bicyclist needs at nominal increased cost;
- the best way to address water quality and erosion control; and
- it minimizes property impacts.

The project has received support from the public. Feedback from property owners expressed a preference for curb and gutter over a ditch, and a preference for a trail separate from the roadway. Property owners also expressed a concern over the impact the project will have on driveways and assessments, and not all property owners are ready to hook up to city sanitary sewer.

The first phase of the project, which will be the reconstruction from 50th Street to 44th Street, will occur in 2017. It will include a mill and overlay of the roadway from 44th Street to CSAH 14.

The timing of the second phase, which will be a reconstruction of the roadway from 44th Street to CSAH 14, may coincide with the redevelopment of property owned by 3M along the roadway.

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