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

Date: Nov. 8, 2016
Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager
Phone: 651-430-6026, after hours 952-807-3723
E-mail: yvonne.klinnert@co.washington.mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Nov. 8, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board will accept public comment on infrastructure plan Dec. 13

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will accept public comment on the county's 2017-2021 Washington County Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) at a public hearing Dec. 13.

At its Nov. 8 meeting, the board set the public hearing, required by state law.

During the public hearing, the county board will hear public comments, consider any recommended changes to the draft CIP, and adopt the final 2017-2021 CIP, pending any changes.

The draft plan may be found on the Washington County website at www.co.washington.mn.us, and searching "CIP."

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

County Board conducts public hearing on redevelopment, TIF plan for Newport, approves plan

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing Nov. 8 regarding the proposed modification of a redevelopment plan and a proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District for Red Rock Crossing in Newport, and then approved the plan.

Two residents spoke at the hearing. After the hearing, the County Board adopted a modified redevelopment plan, established Tax Increment Financing District 2-2, and adopted a tax increment financing plan. The Newport City Council has also voted to support the creation of the TIF district.

A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow

The City of Newport plans to redevelop a northern section of the city, known as Red Rock Crossing, and the City Council adopted a redevelopment plan in 2012. The redevelopment is projected to increase

property values from \$4.5 million to \$56 million through more efficient land uses and the creation of a transit-oriented neighborhood.

The land, in the southwest quadrant of Interstate 494 and Highway 61, would see almost 100 percent of the land area improved under the plan. Currently, almost 60 percent of the structures on the land are substandard. The Washington County Community Development Agency's (CDA) consultant has determined the parcels in the proposed district meet the eligibility criteria for a redevelopment TIF district.

The district would be in effect for a 25-year maximum, with the first TIF receipt in 2020. The district would expire Dec. 31, 2045.

The CDA, through a joint powers agreement with the City of Newport, is obliged to secure financing to pay for typical upfront redevelopment activities for the project, including property acquisition, relocation, demolition, environmental analysis, and public infrastructure improvements. With a TIF district, those costs would be paid for by capturing the increased property taxes generated by the increased property value of the project.

The project financing in the city's redevelopment plan includes TIF as the main source of money, with levy, grants, and other funds supplementing the project costs.

The final action before certifying the TIF district was the public hearing to consider approval to establish a TIF district.

Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager, 651-430-6026

,

County Board accepts gift from P.A.W.S. Pet Hospital for Sheriff's Office canine unit

P.A.W.S. Pet Hospital in Hugo donated \$1,027 to be used for the Washington County Sheriff's Office Canine Unit.

The County Board accepted the donation Nov. 8. The donation will help fund the canine program.

Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601

Bolton and Menk will do design, project coordination to improve CSAH through Grant, Mahtomedi, Willernie

Bolton and Menk, Inc., will do engineering design and project coordination for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12 improvement project through Willernie, Mahtomedi, and Grant.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the \$559,906 contract Nov. 8. The project will be paid for by state aid.

The roadway has poor pavement quality, substandard pedestrian facilities, and traffic congestion through its corridor. The engineering project will complete a corridor study to identify phased construction to be completed in 2017, 2019, and 2021. Also included in the engineering contract is public engagement, parking and speed studies, walkway enhancements, and assistance with requests for funding.

Consulting costs are part of the Capital Improvement Plan for the roadway, spread out over multiple years. Work on Highway 244 to Wildwood Road, which is a city project, should be completed in 2017, including a new traffic signal at the Middle School entrance. Additional work is scheduled for 2019 and 2021.

The project goals are to improve traffic operations and the quality and life of the pavement. It is also to improve pedestrian accessibility and safety, and limit impacts to the natural environment. The project will also analyze parking. The roadway has inadequate pedestrian facilities, which are poorly delineated, inconsistent, and not accessible, resulting in unsafe crossings. The roadway is also congested, especially during school start and end times.

Bolton and Menk will oversee agency involvement, public engagement, a parking and speed study, landscape design, environmental documentation and drainage analysis, and final traffic signal design.

Contact: Kevin Peterson, Engineer II, Public Works, 651-430-4330