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Date: Aug. 1, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Aug. 1, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board approves comments on Stillwater Township comprehensive plan

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a comment letter for the Stillwater Township Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan Aug. 1.

All local government units within the seven-county metropolitan region must prepare a comprehensive plan and update that plan every 10 years. The Metropolitan Council is charged with reviewing local comprehensive plans.

Before formally submitting local comprehensive plan updates to the Met Council, local government units must provide adjacent and affected jurisdictions the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan. The comments received by these jurisdictions and subsequent responses must be included with the formal plan update submittal.

Comprehensive plans must be submitted to the Met Council by Dec. 31, 2018.

Contact: Colin Kelly, Planner, 651-430-6011

County Board makes appointments to county advisory groups

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved three appointments to county advisory groups Aug. 1.

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Katie Pape, a representative from Canvas Health, was appointed to the Mental Health Advisory Council, representing family support services. Pape will serve in a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2020. The Mental Health Advisory Council is required by the state to bring the community perspective and to provide advice or make recommendations to the County Board on issues presented to the committee. The committee reviews, evaluates, and makes recommendations regarding the local mental health system; annually arranges for input from the regional treatment center review board regarding coordination of care between the regional treatment center and community-based services; receives input regarding coordination of care between services; and identifies where mental health services are available in the county, and how to access the services.

Michael Kraemer, Birchwood, was appointed to the Parks and Open Space Commission to fill the Commissioner District 2 position, and will serve a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2019.

The purpose of the commission is to bring citizen perspective to the operation of Washington County Parks. It reviews current operation policies, capital improvement programs, parkland preservation, park development projects, and long-range planning efforts for parkland and facilities for county parks. The commission also provides citizens' perspectives on the administration of the Land and Water Legacy Program.

Lee Ann Cox was appointed to the Workforce Development Board as a small business representative, and will serve a second term expiring June 30, 2020.

The Workforce Development Board, established by state law, determines the most effective designation of administrative entities, grant recipients, and program operators for the Workforce Service Area; jointly plans for collaboration; provides for on-site review and oversight of program performance; and selects local priorities for service and target populations for programming.

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

County will request money to upgrade Highway 36 at Manning Avenue interchange, Ideal Avenue at 44th Street

Washington County will request \$7 million from the Transportation Economic Development (TED) program to upgrade the Highway 36 and Manning Avenue interchange west of Stillwater, and \$2.5

million from the Transportation Economic Development Infrastructure (TEDI) program for improvements at Ideal Avenue and 44th Street in Oakdale.

The Highway 36 project is estimated to cost \$25.4 million, which includes interchange construction, right-of-way, and engineering. The project is scheduled for 2019.

The Ideal Avenue and 44th Street project is a pavement, drainage, and pedestrian improvement project, the second phase of the project on Ideal Avenue, or County State Aid Highway 13, between Old Highway 5 and County State Aid Highway 35. The estimated cost of the project is \$3.5 million, which includes right-of-way and engineering. The project is scheduled for 2019.

The funds are sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

The TED program is a competitive grant program designed to help meet the state's transportation and economic development needs by creating and preserving well-paying jobs and leveraging private and local investment in transportation infrastructure. The TEDI program was created to foster interagency coordination between the two state departments.

The programs' purpose is to fund construction, reconstruction, and improvement of state and local transportation infrastructure to create and preserve jobs, improve the state's economic competitiveness, increase the tax base, accelerate transportation improvements to enhance safety and mobility, and promote partnerships with the private sector.

The improvements would enhance the statewide transportation network while promoting economic growth. A total of \$18.4 million is available in this year's TED solicitation, with \$4.2 million available in the TEDI program.

The funding will be split between projects in Greater Minnesota and the Twin Cities. Projects will be selected on the basis of transportation impact, statewide economic impact, project financial plan, and project readiness.

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

County will receive funds to address drug trafficking in area, add analyst for work

Washington County will receive \$117,500 through the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, after the County Board accepted the grant Aug. 1.

The County Board also approved a special projects employee position to fill the position of a person who will be working as an analyst for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area project.

The program is designed to provide resources to federal, state, local, and tribal agencies to coordinate activities to address drug trafficking in specifically designated areas of the country. It helps to identify and disrupt or dismantle drug trafficking and money laundering organizations; reduce drug-related crime and violence; and identify and respond to emerging drug trends.

The grant funds used to fund a criminal analyst position include overtime, training, travel and operation expenses. The term of the grants is Jan. 1, 2017, through Dec. 31, 2018.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601

County will work with St. Paul Park to improve intersection

Washington County will work with St. Paul Park to improve the Summit Avenue (County State Aid Highway 22) and St. Paul Park Road intersection after the County Board approved an agreement with the City of St. Paul Park Aug. 1.

Summit Avenue was constructed with concrete and the St. Paul Park Road leg was constructed of asphalt. The heavy truck traffic coming from the petroleum refinery in the city is causing severe rutting in the roadway and shifting of the concrete.

This cooperative agreement will pay one-third of the construction cost of extending the concrete roadway 100 feet to the west to eliminate the existing roadway issues and minimize or prevent continuous maintenance efforts. It is estimated that engineering will cost \$32,400, and construction will cost \$98,000, with the county's share of both totaling \$43,500, paid for with county program aid. The project will be led by the City of St. Paul Park, with the county reviewing plans and monitoring construction for compliance. It is expected that the plans and project specifications will be complete in August, with construction yet this fall.

Contact: Nathan Arnold, Engineer, 651-430-4384