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**Date:** Nov. 7, 2017  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Nov. 7, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **County Board will hear comments on proposed 2018-2022 CIP Dec. 12**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing Dec. 12 on the proposed 2018-2022 county Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The County Board set the hearing Nov. 7.

The hearing will be during the regular board meeting at 9 a.m. in the Board Room of the Government Center, 14949 62<sup>nd</sup> St. N., Stillwater.

The hearing is required by state law. During the public hearing, the County Board will hear public comments, consider any recommended changes to the draft CIP, and take action to adopt the 2018-2022 CIP, pending any final changes.

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

### **Marachan will continue serving on Valley Branch Watershed District**

Edward Marachan, Stillwater, was re-appointed to the Valley Branch Watershed District board by the Washington County Board of Commissioners Nov. 7.

Marachan will serve a three-year term expiring Nov. 13, 2020.

Watershed district governance, required by state law, helps to control or alleviate damage by flood waters; improves stream channels for drainage or navigation; reclaims or fills wet or overflow lands; oversees water supply for irrigation; regulates the flow of streams; diverts or changes water courses;

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provides and conserves water supply; and provides for the protection of groundwater and regulation of groundwater use.

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

### **City of Marine will receive funds from Jordan bequest for materials, services at library**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a request from the City of Marine on St. Croix Nov. 7 for \$6,000 from the Jordan bequest to be used for materials and services at the Marine Community Library.

The County Board also received a report Nov. 7 on the activities and services provided by the library. In 2001, Elizabeth Jordan made a bequest in her will to the Washington County Library to be used for the Marine Library branch. When the branch was closed by the county in 2012, an agreement was reached between the City of Marine on St. Croix and the county that, upon request of the city, the county would disburse funds from the bequest to support the Marine Community Library. Through a joint powers agreement between the city and the county, the city residents have maintained access to the county library system and continue to pay the county library tax.

A separate non-profit organization, the Marine Library Association (MarLA), maintains a community library, which includes privately purchased materials as well as materials and services provided by the county library. Library activities were reported to the County Board Nov. 7.

Mary Burke, Marine Community Library Board Chair, reported the number of activities provided at the library, including children's activities and adult activities. Adult programming is scheduled at least once a month, she said, including presentations by authors, artists, educators, and scientists. Children's programs include summer arts and crafts programs supported by the Marine/Scandia Lions Club and music programs from the MacPhail Center for Music.

Burke thanked the County Board for the ongoing relationship with the county, and the work that county staff does to provide a current book collection at the library, and updated equipment, such as a new self-checkout machine. She also noted the strong support of volunteers that keeps the library vibrant.

Burke said that the library's August fundraiser featured Garrison Keillor, and that the library will be celebrating its sixth birthday Nov. 19.

**Contact: Keith Ryskoski, Library Director, 651-275-8501**

**Plat for Basswood Grove in Denmark Township approved**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a five-lot plat in Denmark Township Nov. 7.

Basswood Grove is east of St. Croix Trail and north of 87th Street South.

**Contact: Nancie Schwintek, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager, 651-430-6758**

**Target Corporation donation will support Sheriff's Office Shop with a Cop**

Target Corporation donated \$1,500 to the Washington County Sheriff's Office to support the offices Shop with a Cop program.

The County Board accepted the donation Nov. 7.

**Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601**

**Sheriff's Office will receive grant to assist in securing courthouse entrance**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will receive a \$6,604 grant from the state Court Administrator's Office to help pay for the county's court security unit.

The County Board accepted the grant Nov. 7.

The Washington County Court Security Unit deputies screen approximately 110,000 visitors and 84,000 bags or parcels annually at the court's secure entrance checkpoint. The deputies use walk-through magnetometers and x-ray baggage scanners, as well as hand-held metal detectors. The deputies locate approximately 2,000 prohibited items each year.

The grant will be used to further strengthen the security features, to continue to provide safety for employees and visitors.

The cost of this project is \$13,761; the grant will fund \$6,604 of the cost, requiring a county match of \$7,157.

**Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601**

**County Board reviews draft report from transit needs study**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners received a report Nov. 7 outlining the results of a study on the transportation needs of older adults and low-income county residents, as well as those with disabilities.

The study was done to address both internal and external needs. Internally, the county is providing transportation services because staff members are frequently transporting clients to places where they have difficulty traveling. Externally, the study analyzed the current state of transportation for people with disabilities, older adults, or those with low incomes, as well as barriers to mobility for those people. The study also reviewed future transportation needs.

The study reviewed the county's demographics, showing that 14.4 percent of the population lives in poverty, and 8.4 percent have a disability. While today 13.4 percent of the county's population is 65 or older, that population is expected to grow 150 percent from 25,000 to 62,000 in 2040.

All of these residents, who are often without personal vehicles, require transportation to medical facilities, county facilities, resource centers such as food pantries, and to shop. Veterans require rides to medical appointments.

The study identified gaps in services for those residents without personal vehicles, such as:

- there is limited fixed route service;
- Metro Mobility does not serve the entire county;
- there is limited evening and weekend hours for dial-a-ride services; and
- current dial-a-ride services are not easy to access or may not be able to meet the needs of the individual.

When reviewing alternatives for providing transportation services, stakeholders overwhelmingly acknowledged that the purpose of transit in Washington County should be to serve the markets with the greatest need, and investments should be made that target people without other transportation options.

The community priorities recognized in the report are:

- centralized and easy-to-access information;
- easier travel across the region;
- new and expanded scheduled bus routes;
- for-hire service and ride sharing; and

- more specialized service for older adults and people with disabilities.

Service alternatives identified in the study include transit service available to the general public; employer sponsored transit; personal mobility; and mobility management. The study reviewed strategies for addressing transportation needs, based on the transportation benefit, community support, the financial implications, and the ability to implement the option.

A coordinated mobility management approach is proposed for the implementation of the plan. Long term, the study recommends advancing toward a brokerage model for transportation. Washington County could serve as the broker, or another provider, such as Newtrax, Community Thread, a different agency, or a for-profit contracted provider, could be the broker. Near-term, the plan could be implemented with a mobility manager to build partnerships to match potential service users and providers; facilitate conversations with partners; develop approaches for coordinated public information; and distribute information.

After the board review, the study is available for community review and comment during the next 60 days. It may be found at [www.co.washington.mn.us/2720/Transportation](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/2720/Transportation).

**Contact: Sarah Tripple, Community Services Planning and Program Manager, 651-430-6480**

### **Dynamic Recycling will transport, recycle county's consumer waste**

Dynamic Recycling will transport and recycle waste consumer electronics collected at the Washington County Environmental Center, after the County Board approved a contract with the company Nov. 7.

Washington County has been collecting and recycling waste consumer electronics since 2008. In 2017, it is estimated that 1.9 million pounds of waste electronics will be collected from county residents. The county monitors the hazardous waste and recycling markets, and recently conducted a request for proposal to ensure that the county receives the best available rates for recycling waste electronics.

The county currently uses Dynamic Recycling under a state contract as its vendor for recycling waste electronics. The new contract, directly with Dynamic, will save the county about \$78,000 annually. Under the state contract, the 2018 cost for recycling waste electronics was projected to be \$345,000; under the new contract, the 2018 cost is projected to be \$267,000.

The industry and markets for recycling waste electronics continue to evolve and one of the ways the county will save money under the new contract is by receiving credits for laptops and tower computers. The county will be paid per pound for these items, which reflects the valuable recoverable materials contained in these items and helps offset the overall cost of recycling waste electronics. The new contract also produces slightly better rates on the recycling fees paid for monitors, televisions, and peripherals, such as printers and scanners.

**Contact: Jeff Travis, Senior Environmental Program Manager, 651-430-4033**

### **DNR will be partner in Hadley Avenue/Highway 36 interchange project**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed Nov. 7 to work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the engineering for the Hadley Avenue and Highway 36 interchange project portion that incorporates the Gateway State Trail.

The intersection of Hadley Avenue and Highway 36 is controlled by a traffic signal. The intersection has double the crash and severity rate for similar intersections and operates poorly. Traffic volumes through the intersection are expected to increase 50 percent in the next 15 years. The DNR, the City of Oakdale, Washington County, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) have partnered to convert this intersection into a grade-separated interchange. The project has received a State Transportation and Economic Development grant, a federal grant, and funding through MnDOT's Cooperative Agreement program, showing the importance and benefit of the project. The DNR has also received a \$1 million federal grant to complete an underpass of the Gateway State Trail at Hadley Avenue.

Washington County's project team has been working in partnership with the DNR to incorporate the trail improvements into the interchange project. The DNR has agreed to provide preliminary and final engineering services needed to develop the plans and specifications for the Gateway State Trail. The DNR's cost share of \$101,000 for engineering is included in the project's budget.

It is expected that final design and right-of-way work will be done during the coming year, with construction beginning in winter 2018.

**Contact: Kevin Peterson, Engineer II, 651-430-4330**

