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

Date: May 1, 2018
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 May 1, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board amends agreement that oversees Red Rock Corridor Commission

The Washington County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the county's Regional Railroad Authority May 1, approved amendments to the agreement that oversees the commission planning the Red Rock Corridor, a transitway that follows Highway 61 from Hastings to the Union Depot in St. Paul.

The Red Rock Corridor Commission was formed in 1998 to jointly exercise powers granted to Regional Railroad Authorities and plan for multimodal transportation needs along Highway 61. The changes in the joint powers agreement will update commission membership, change the planning purpose from commuter rail to bus rapid transit, and add financial services language to reduce the number of agreements guiding commission activities.

The commission's current agreement was amended in 2004. Listed in that agreement are Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington counties, the cities of Cottage Grove, Hastings, Minneapolis, Newport, St. Paul, St. Paul Park, and Denmark Township, and the University of Minnesota.

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority's May 1 action approves the updated membership to Ramsey and Washington counties and the cities of Cottage Grove, Hastings, Newport, St. Paul, and St. Paul Park. Member cities and Ramsey County have already approved the changes.

Contact: Emily Jorgensen, Planner, 651-430-4338

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

County Board approves comments on Cottage Grove TIF district

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved comments on the creation of a tax increment financing (TIF) district in the City of Cottage Grove May 1.

The City of Cottage Grove will conduct a public hearing May 2 to consider the creation of a TIF district, proposed to be an economic development district with a maximum life of nine years to facilitate a 24,000-square-foot expansion to an existing office/warehouse. The development is anticipated in 2018. A TIF district allows the additional property taxes generated by development to be used for development costs.

The county's comments expressed support for the plan, and stated that the development is consistent with the county board's goals through the Community Development Agency to support the efforts of cities to increase the tax base in the county and add jobs. Also, the development will have minimal to no impact to the county's systems.

By law, the city must provide a 30-day notice to the county and the county has the ability to provide comments to the city to be included in the public record of the public hearing.

Contact: Kevin Corbid, Deputy Administrator, 651-430-6003

County Board notes May as Mental Health Month

The Washington County Board of Commissioners proclaimed May as Mental Health Month May 1. Mental health is a priority for Washington County government, its departments, workforce, and the communities it serves. The county's 2013 Community Health Assessment indicated mental health is a top priority for residents. The 2016 Minnesota Student Survey shows over time that there has been a decline in suicidal thoughts and behaviors for ninth grade students. However, there are still needs and gaps to be addressed for healthier youth development. Collaboration between the county and community organizations encourages greater awareness and steps for supporting people living with mental illnesses.

Contact: Jean Streetar, Public Health Program Manager, 651-430-6786

PCiRoads will repair County Road 51 bridge in May, Stillwater townships

PCiRoads, LLC, will repair a bridge on County Road (CR) 51 that spans the Canadian National Railroad on the border between May and Stillwater townships, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$621,538 contract with the company.

The bridge, which carries CR 51, or Partridge Road, over the railroad, was constructed in 1977. It carries 750 vehicles a day.

The project will repair damage to the bridge, including broken or cracked girder/bearing restraint blocks. In addition, this project will remove and replace the bridge deck while salvaging the beams that support the deck, which will provide considerable cost savings for the repair.

The work will be done starting sometime in late May, and is expected to take about two months.

There will be traffic detours.

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

Hardrives, Inc., will do CSAH 21 pavement management, improvement project

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$3.3 million contract with Hardrives, Inc., to do a County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 21 pavement management and safety improvement project May 1.

The project is on CSAH 21, or Stagecoach Trail North, from north of 34th Street to 56th Street within Oak Park Heights, Bayport, and Baytown Township. The current traffic on the road is 6,500 vehicles per day, with a forecasted traffic load of 8,790 vehicles per day by 2038. Improvements include pavement replacement, drainage improvements, turn lane additions, shoulder widening, and railroad crossing improvements.

The project is funded by highway state aid, and by the City of Bayport and Baytown Township. There is no local share for Oak Park Heights as the project only includes pavement replacement on that section of the roadway, which is paid for by the county.

The work will start in late May, and require the full construction season. More information on the project is at www.co.washington.mn.us/County21.

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