

Date: Sept. 9, 2025
Contact: Tina Elam, Communications Manager
Phone: 651-430-6004 (office), 651-592-5989 (after hours)
E-mail: Tina.Elam@WashingtonCountyMN.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Sept. 9, 2025, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota.

County Board makes reappointment to Brown's Creek Watershed District

The Washington County Board of Commissioners reappointed Chuck LeRoux of Oak Park Heights to a third term as a manager on the Brown's Creek Watershed District Sept. 9.

The term begins Oct. 22, 2025, and expires Oct. 21, 2028.

Contact: Holly Hess, Administrative Assistant, 651-430-6015

County Board approves maintenance agreements for Gold Line signals

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved two maintenance agreements for signals along the METRO Gold Line in Woodbury and Oakdale Sept. 9.

The agreements between the county, Metropolitan Council, and the cities of Woodbury and Oakdale outline that the county will be responsible for maintaining the signals and will be reimbursed for all activities.

The METRO Gold Line opened in March 2025. Metropolitan Council is responsible for 100% of the operation and maintenance costs, but they have partnered with other agencies, including Washington County, Saint Paul, and Maplewood, to perform the maintenance activities.

Lyssa Leitner, Public Works Planning Director, 651-430-4316

Sheriff's Office receives donation for employee appreciation event

The Washington County Sheriff's Office received a \$1,000 donation from Guardian Fleet Safety in support of the Sheriff's Office's annual Employee and Family Appreciation Day and Wellness Event.

The County Board of Commissioners approved the donation Sept. 9.

The event will take place in September and more than 300 Sheriff's Office employees and their families will be attending.

Contact: Commander-Jail Administrator Roger Heinen, Sheriff's Office, 651-430-7606

County Board proclaims September as Library Card Sign-up Month

September is officially Library Card Sign-up Month in Washington County. The Washington County Board of Commissioners made the proclamation Sept. 9.

Library Card Sign-up Month is a national campaign to remind everyone about the valuable resources available with a library card. Library Card Sign-up Month began in 1987 and was inspired by then Secretary of Education William Bennett, who encouraged the initiative because "Every child should obtain a library card and use it."

Washington County Library is celebrating September as Library Card Sign-up Month by promoting the benefits of signing up for a library card, including access to materials and resources that serve students of all ages as well as lifelong learners, job seekers, small business owners, and more.

By declaring September 2025 as Library Card Sign-up Month in Washington County, the county acknowledges the important role libraries play in our communities and encourages everyone to sign up for their library card today.

Contact: Kim Ukura, Senior Communications Specialist, 651-275-8511

County Board approves design contract for Century Avenue North reconstruction project

Kimley-Horn will perform final design services on the Century Avenue North Reconstruction Project, which includes Highway 120 (Century Avenue North/East County Line Road) from Interstate 694 to County State Aid Highway 12 (Wildwood Road/County Road E).

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$699,990 contract with the firm Sept. 9.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) transferred jurisdiction of Highway 120 to Washington and Ramsey counties. Washington County accepted jurisdiction of the east side of the road in the City of Mahtomedi, and Ramsey County accepted jurisdiction of the west side of the road in the City of White Bear Lake. Washington County is leading the design and construction phases of this project on behalf of both counties.

Prior to the jurisdictional transfer, Washington County was awarded \$7 million in federal funding to be used for construction. The County Board approved a contract with Bolton & Menk in September 2023 for preliminary

design services and community engagement. From the community engagement phase, the project improvements were determined to include pavement reconstruction, intersection improvements, including traffic operations enhancements at critical intersections with unique traffic patterns, new pedestrian and bike facilities, improved access to local transit stops, and stormwater treatment.

The county posted a request for proposals for final design services in June 2025 and received four proposals. County staff, in partnership with Ramsey County staff, selected Kimley-Horn as the final design consultant.

The scope of Kimley Horn's design consultant services will include:

- Project coordination.
- Agency and public involvement.
- Drainage analysis and design.
- ADA design.
- Significant emphasis on construction staging and development of detour plans.
- Completing permit applications.
- Producing construction documents.
- Calculating estimated project costs.

The final design phase will occur now through 2026. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2027.

Contact: Erin Clarkowski, Public Works Engineer II, 651-430-4384

County receives MAGC Northern Light communications awards

Washington County's Office of Administration Communications Team received four awards from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC) at the organization's annual Northern Lights Awards ceremony on July 30, 2025.

The awards include:

- A first-place Northern Lights Award in the General Publication category for the 2024-2029 Washington County Strategic Plan.
- A silver award in the Photography category for the photos in the county's 2025-2035 Groundwater Plan.
- A silver award in the Logo, Illustration, or Graphic category for the county's Mental Health In Motion van wrap.
- A bronze award in the Social Media Engagement category for the Election 2024 social media campaign.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized staff for the awards at its Sept. 9 meeting.

MAGC is a peer organization of professionals who are dedicated to improving public-sector communications. The annual Northern Lights Contest recognizes outstanding work in Minnesota's government, educational, and nonprofit communications.

Contact: Tina Elam, Office of Administration Communications Manager, 651-430-6004 (office), 651-592-5989 (after hours)

Photo Cutline: The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized the Communications Team in the Office of Administration for receiving four awards at the 2025 Minnesota Association of Government Communicators Northern Lights Awards. From left to right: Washington County Commissioner Karla Bigham, Website Specialist Ching Lo, Commissioner Bethany Cox, Communications Specialist Ainsley Francis, Commissioner Fran Miron, Graphic Designer Jacqueline Johnson, Senior Communications Specialist Brian Kaufenberg, Commissioner Stan Karwoski, Commissioner Michelle Clasen, Communications Manager Tina Elam.