

# Washington County, Minnesota

## Board of Commissioners - Actions

---

### Actions at the Tuesday, July 26, 2011 Board Meeting

This page is a brief view of the actions taken by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. For further information, please telephone 651-430-6001.

---

*Washington County's mission is to provide quality public services in a cost-effective manner through innovation, leadership, and the cooperation of dedicated people.*

---

### Regional Rail Authority will apply for funds for transit study

The Washington County Regional Rail Authority (WCCRA) will submit an application to the federal government to study the best type of transit to use in the Red Rock Corridor, including a reexamination of ridership and costs. The request was approved by the Washington County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Washington County Regional Rail Authority, July 26.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has made \$175 million in new funding available in discretionary funds, which includes at least \$150 million dedicated to bus facilities, and up to \$25 million for Alternatives Analysis studies. As part of its planning and development of a five-year capital improvement program, the WCCRA has identified that one of the next steps in planning for the Red Rock Corridor is to complete an Advanced Alternatives Analysis (AAA). The corridor is roughly parallel to Trunk Highway 61 and Interstate 94.

When completed, the AAA will provide greater detail on the mode of transit appropriate to the corridor, and on alignment options that were examined in the 2007 Alternatives Analysis study. That will allow the project to move into the environmental impact assessment for the corridor and the start of preliminary engineering work.

In keeping with of the application criteria, the Red Rock Corridor Advanced Alternatives Analysis would be eligible to compete for the funds. The total project cost is estimated at \$2.5 million, with federal funds paying for 80 percent of the project, and local funds paying for 20 percent of the funds, or \$500,000.

The WCCRA must commit to providing the local match to the federal funds. If funding is received, the WCCRA would work with the Red Rock Corridor Commission financial members to split the local cost share. The submission deadline for the Advanced Alternatives Analysis funding is July 29.

---

### County accepts donations from residents, community groups

Gifts to the county were accepted by the Washington County Board of Commissioners at its meeting July 26.

Those who provided gifts to the county and their donations included:

- Barbara Greeder, Living Forest Tree Donation, \$126;
- Friends at Rocco Altobelli, Living Forest Tree Donation, \$15;
- Mike Polehna Family, Living Forest Tree Donation, \$15;
- Audrey Radke, Living Forest Tree Donation, \$15;
- Ann Meyer, Living Forest Tree Donation, \$15;
- Anonymous, Living Forest Tree Donation, \$25;
- Carolyn Phelps, display case for sheriff's gun;
- Steven and Judith Gelderman, ottoman;
- Klonz/Azman, 13 goblets;
- Mir and Shirley Verner, \$100;

- Donald Orvis Twombly, \$100;
- R.H. Stafford Library donation box, \$159;
- Bonita F. Sindelir, \$500;
- April A. Murphy, \$50;
- John and Karen Becker, \$50;
- Heather and Dennis Lavalle, \$30;
- Wildwood Library donation box, \$32;
- Walmart Foundation VAP Grant (Volunteers Always Pays) Grant, \$250;
- R.H. Stafford Library donation box, \$20;
- R.H. Stafford Library donation box, \$100;
- David J. Brodie, \$50;
- F.A. Magnuson, Laurel Boerger, Roger Larson, A. Backlund, \$405;
- IBM International Foundation Grant, \$50;
- Anonymous, \$20;
- Cheryl and Charles Anderson, \$70;
- Charles Jewell, \$100;
- Hardwood Creek Library donation box, \$43.83;
- Wildwood Library donation box, \$11;
- The Book Club, A Women's Study Group, \$50;
- Rotary Club of Forest Lake, for Water Recovery Unit, \$1,000;
- Jesse and Pamela Hartley, \$100.

---

## **Sidewalk, drainage work will repair winter damage at Headwaters Service Center**

Winter took a toll on the sidewalks leading to the Headwaters Service Center; action by the Washington County Board of Commissioners will see to repairs before the coming winter.

Bailey Construction will repair the heaving concrete in the sidewalks; changes to a repair plan made earlier in the summer were approved by the Board of Commissioners July 26.

The new plans call for an increase from four-inch to six-inch drain tile size due to the amount of water existing below the main entrance sidewalks, additional truncated domes, curb replacement, and 500 square feet of sidewalk to repair existing conditions and to accommodate the current walking routes used. Additional work at the east entrance to replace existing damaged sidewalk include excavating, trenching for drain tile, and tree transplanting to allow for pouring a new patio area.

The contract for the work is for \$61,062. The Headwaters Service Center sidewalk repair project is funded by the parking lot repair and transportation utilities budget in the county's capital repair fund.

---

## **County will receive road striping service from Dakota County**

As Washington County equipment for road striping ages and repairs become more frequent, the county Public Works Department is seeking new ways in which to get the roads striped.

In anticipation of the end of the striping vehicle's service life, Washington County Public Works will evaluate several different ways to do pavement striping maintenance. This includes private contracting and partial or full sharing of roadway striping services with other government agencies. Washington County already partners with other agencies on roadway pavement marking, and Washington County staff provides road striping services for many local communities within the county on a reimbursement basis.

The next step will be entering a joint powers agreement – which the County Board approved July 26 – to allow Washington County to purchase road striping services, at cost, from Dakota County. An area in the southern part of

Washington County has been set aside for this interagency cooperation. Dakota County crews are expected to provide approximately \$20,000 worth of striping on Washington County roads in the southwestern portion of the county.

Washington County will evaluate the effectiveness of this process, including quality of striping, advantages of striping at night, number of claims, and any administrative challenges, and use that information to develop a plan for the eventual replacement or discontinuation of Washington County's road striping truck.

---

### **Public hearing conducted for comment on changes in hazardous waste ordinance**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing July 26, to hear comment on changes to the county's hazardous waste ordinance.

Proposed changes include adopting the state's Universal Waste Rules; establishing regulation of special hazardous waste, which includes electronics; prohibiting the dumping or abandonment of appliances; and clarifying requirements for hazardous waste transfer facilities. No residents spoke during the hearing, and the County Board approved the changes to the ordinance.

---

### **Upgrades for night skiing at Lake Elmo Park Reserve getting underway**

Plans are changing, but skiers who are looking forward to lighted ski trails at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve this coming winter remain in luck.

The Lake Elmo Park Reserve Winter Recreation Project involves the development and construction of facilities to accommodate evening cross country skiing. However, plans were slowed last fall when bids for work on the project all exceeded the project's established budget. The project had included remodeling the existing barn in the park for use as a trailhead, a lighted ski trail, and the earthwork and electrical work associated with the project. The bids prompted a review of alternatives to reduce costs to complete the project within budget.

County staff identified a location for a new trailhead building adjacent to the existing entrance road that eliminates the cost and environmental impacts of a long road to the barn. With this new location, a new trailhead building will be constructed instead of remodeling the barn. The proposed location is adjacent to the new lighted ski trails and will use an existing gravel parking lot. This new plan will meet the project budget.

The project cost is \$1,341,000.

The project will be paid for in part with Parks and Trails Fund grants of \$991,000, which are part of the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment funding. The grant funding is not affected by the change in plans.

---

### **State budget ramifications noted at board meeting**

The impact of the recently-passed state budget on Washington County was reported at the July 26 meeting of the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

Administrator Jim Schug reported on the reductions in the initial allocations of funds to the county for 2011. The county will see a reduction in the remainder of 2011 of \$4.85 million in revenue from the state. The major funds that will see reductions are:

- County Program Aid will be reduced by \$2,107,032, from the initial allocation of \$7,613,683;
- Market Value Based Homestead Credit will be reduced by \$2,105,710, from the initial allocation of \$3,430,929;
- Vulnerable Children & Adults Act funding will be reduced by \$282,121, from the initial allocation of \$1,636,660;
- Adult Mental Health Grants will be reduced by \$149,574, from the initial allocation of \$1,287,163;
- Community Corrections Act funding will be reduced by \$20,923, from the initial allocation of \$1,584,647;

- Minnesota Family Investment Program funds will be reduced by \$190,785, from the initial allocation of \$2,063,998.

In addition, the county will be required to increase its cost-share in the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund by \$115,898, to \$390,580 in 2011. Other funds, with lesser amounts in them, will also see an impact. Most of the reductions will be carried into 2012; the entire Market Value Homestead Credit will be eliminated on the county level, for a reduction of \$3,430,929 from the initial allocation for 2011.

The county has anticipated reductions in its 2011 budget, and has been planning for them, and using open employee positions and other cost savings to manage its budget. County department heads will begin presenting their budget plans for 2012 to the County Board in August.

---

### **County Board passes resolution in support of new St. Croix River Crossing**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in support of a new St. Croix River Crossing, to accompany testimony that will be given this week before a U.S. Senate subcommittee.

The resolution will accompany other written testimony to be heard before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, for a hearing on S. 1134, a bill to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values.

It was expected that the subcommittee will hear the testimony Thursday, July 28. The hearing is part of the consideration of a bill that would allow for the construction of a new bridge across the St. Croix River, between Oak Park Heights in Minnesota and Houlton in Wisconsin.