

# Washington County, Minnesota

## Board of Commissioners - Actions

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### Actions at the Tuesday, June 14, 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.

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

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### **Managed-lane alternative will be added to Gateway Corridor study**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Washington County Regional Rail Authority (WCRRA) June 14, approved adding the study of a managed lane, commonly known as a MnPASS Lane, to the Gateway Corridor study.

CH2M Hill, Inc., has been studying transit alternatives in the Gateway Corridor, which is a corridor that runs along Interstate 94 from Eau Claire, Wis., to the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul and on to Minneapolis. The Gateway Corridor Commission is leading an Alternatives Analysis Study that will determine the best mode of transit for the corridor, whether the best option is light-rail transit, commuter rail or bus-rapid transit.

Thus far, the consultant for the project has reviewed seven alignments and forms of transportation for the transit project. Recently, it was suggested through public comments at open houses on the study and by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Council that the consultant also study a MnPASS Lane from St. Paul to Hudson, Wis.

At its May 12 meeting, the Gateway Corridor Commission agreed to add the option of MnPASS lanes to the current alternative analysis study.

The WCRRA is a member of the Gateway Corridor Commission, along with the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority and cities and business partners along the corridor. The WCRRA agreed to contribute an additional \$40,000 to add the MnPASS component to the study. The source of the money will be the WCRRA's grant from the County Transit Improvement Board. The Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority will also pay for an additional \$40,000 for the study, and the Metropolitan Council will pay an additional \$20,000.

The County Transit Improvement Board is a consortium of counties, and since April 2008, Washington County, along with Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey counties, have utilized a quarter-cent sales tax and \$20 a motor vehicle sales tax, permitted by the Legislature, to invest in and advance transit projects by awarding annual capital and operating grants. For more information about the Gateway Corridor, see [www.thegatewaycorridor.com/](http://www.thegatewaycorridor.com/).

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### **County will continue pilot program for treating those with chemical dependency**

Washington County will extend its contract with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to be part of a Chemical Health Care Home Pilot Project after the Washington County Board of Commissioner signed an extension of an agreement with the department June 14.

The pilot program to serve those needing chemical health services was created in the summer of 2010 after the Legislature authorized funds to pay for these services, along with inpatient and/or outpatient services.

The Washington County program was designed to serve a maximum of 15 individuals, who had no less than two or more treatment episodes in the past two years, and met other criteria. The individuals voluntarily agree to participate in the pilot project. It is to provide and test a redesign of chemical dependency health care services, which provide additional flexibility in service and timely access to services. The primary services include a case manager, known as a "navigator," housing support, rental assistance, peer support, family engagement, independent living skills and vocational support. The County Board's action extended the term of the pilot project to June 30, 2013, and accepted \$84,000 from the state in additional funds for the program; the county's share will be \$16,200 to continue the program.

As of June 2011, 21 Washington County clients have participated and 13 remain enrolled. While it is too early to fully measure outcomes, the "navigator" reports the most common barriers for clients are homelessness, mental health needs, court or criminal involvement, and transportation.

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## **County will receive grant to continue health improvement program**

Washington County will receive almost \$70,000 to complete work under the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), which was established to reduce tobacco use and exposure and prevent obesity in Minnesota.

This grant, which the County Board accepted June 14, will be used to complete SHIP activities in the county. The amendment extends the current grant period from July 1, 2011, until Sept. 30, 2011. Due to the current unsettled state budget, the Minnesota Department of Health has made arrangements for the redistribution of unspent local and state funds to provide for the wrap-up and evaluation of these projects. In the event the state approves ongoing funding, a new grant application and work plan would be presented for board consideration at that time.

The original contract was approved by the County Board Aug. 4, 2009, and was for a two-year period, in the amount of \$1.53 million. The statewide \$47 million initiative was part of the 2008 Minnesota Health Reform Legislation funded through the Health Care Access Fund.

Washington County SHIP programs have included community forums on healthy eating, nutrition workshops at the Washington County Fair, programs encouraging breastfeeding, worksite wellness programs, and the launch of the website, Living Healthy in Washington County ([www.livinghealthywc.org](http://www.livinghealthywc.org)), which provides information for healthy living.

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## **Firm will do additional design work on Hardwood Creek Trail bridge**

Consultants TKDA will provide services to continue work on the Hardwood Creek Trail Bridge over County Road 83 in Forest Lake, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners modified a contract with the company June 14. TKDA has already provided design services for the bridge project. Additional work is needed to coordinate meetings with regulatory agencies and private utility companies, do additional design work to accommodate the soil conditions of the project, and modify the bridge from its original three-span to a one-span structure. The final design services will cost \$69,500, which will be paid for with state aid money.

In addition, a contract with consultant Bonestroo to provide construction inspection services for the bridge was amended to include modification to the design of the bridge and changes required because of the soils encountered during construction. Bonestroo will receive \$32,500 in additional payments with the amendments.

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## **County will participate in performance measure program**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed June 14 to participate in a performance measure program created by the Council on Local Results and Innovation.

In 2010, the Legislature created the council. As part of its charge, the council was tasked with creating performance standard with 10 measures for cities and 10 measures for counties, which were made public in February.

Participation in the standard measures program is voluntary. A county that elects to participate in the standard measures program for 2011 may be eligible for a reimbursement of 14 cents per capita in county program aid, not to exceed \$25,000, and is also exempt from levy limits for taxes payable in 2012 if levy limits are in effect.

Washington County has a longstanding commitment to performance measurement and improvement and therefore will be able to secure the standard set of measures without much additional work.

The 2011 reporting requirements include the County Board declare that is has adopted the corresponding 10 performance measures developed by the Council on Local Results and Innovation.

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