

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, October 11, 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.

Washington County will submit plans for providing human services to state

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved plans Oct. 11 created by the county's Community Services Department to oversee programs provided through the Minnesota Family Investment Program and the Vulnerable Children and Adults Service Plans.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) requires counties to prepare and submit a biennial plan for the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and the Vulnerable Children and Adults Act (VCA). The Minnesota Legislature during its last session significantly revised the requirements of the previous "CCSA Service Plan" and renamed the law the Vulnerable Children and Adults Act. The submitted MFIP and VCA plans are posted on the county's website.

Recent legislation that oversees the VCA plan will require a reallocation of federal and state funds in budget year 2012 within the Department of Community Services, which will be done in early 2012.

County will receive grant for training for child welfare supervisors

Washington County will receive a grant for \$3,500 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services to participate in the "Strengthening Child Welfare Supervision Initiative." The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted the grant at its meeting Oct. 11.

The funds will support supervisors in the Children's Services Division to attend approved supervisory training sponsored by the Department of Human Services, implement local strategies to enhance supervisory practice, and promote effective case work practices. The goal is to improve positive client outcomes. The funds are provided by the federal government for child welfare programs.

Betmar Language Services will provide translation services to county

The Washington County Board of Commissioners ratified a contract Oct. 11 with Betmar Language Services to provide translation services to clients for a variety of programs and services.

The county's departments of Public Health and Environment, Community Services and Community Corrections all have programs which at some point may require translation services. The costs of the service will vary by the year, and are paid from a variety of funding sources, depending on the type of service.

Board voices support for Mississippi River Trail bicycle route

The Washington County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution of support Oct. 11 for the Mississippi River Trail bicycle route in Washington County.

The county's Public Works Department staff members will participate in discussions with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) on trail operations.

Mn/DOT collaboratively manages the national Mississippi River Trail in Minnesota with the local communities along the bicycle route. In Washington County, Mn/DOT is working with the communities of Newport, St. Paul Park, Grey Cloud Island, and Cottage Grove on issues related to the trail.

Since Washington County has jurisdiction over several roads and highways that may be impacted by discussions regarding the trail, it was recommended that the county be involved in the collective efforts of Mn/DOT and other road and trail authorities that comprise the trail within the county's borders.

TKDA will do inspections for Hardwood Creek Regional Trail Overpass

Engineering consultants TKDA will do the inspections and the administrative services needed for the construction of the Hardwood Creek Trail Overpass to be built over County Road 83 in Forest Lake.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to the contract with TKDA at its meeting Oct. 11. The contract for construction inspection and administration services will be completed for a not to exceed cost of \$157,000.

TKDA, Inc., performed the preliminary and final bridge design services for the county. Construction on the pedestrian bridge will begin in fall 2011 and be completed in 2012. Funding will be reimbursed by federal aid and state aid in 2012.

County will construct turn lanes on Bailey Road, Featherstone Drive in Woodbury

Washington County will accept state bonding proceeds of \$136,000 to construct turn lanes on Bailey Road and Featherstone Drive in Woodbury, after the County Board voted to accept the funds Oct. 11.

In 2008, the Minnesota Legislature approved a bonding bill with \$10 million dedicated to the Rural Road Safety Account of the Local Road Improvement Program. The Rural Road Safety Account is used as a grant to assist in paying the costs of capital improvement projects on County State Aid Highways (CSAHs) that are intended primarily to reduce traffic crashes, deaths, injuries and property damage. In addition, the projects must be supported by the county board and other agencies if impacted by the project, and be non-controversial.

Two-thirds of the \$10 million was allocated to out-state counties and the remaining third was allocated to metro counties. The funding was for projects constructed in 2009 and 2010. Funds in the metro allocation were remaining after all of the initial projects were completed, and the remaining funding was dedicated for projects that would be constructed in 2011 on a first-come, first-served basis.

The county's Public Works staff submitted the proposed turn lane installation project on CSAH 18 (Bailey Road) at Featherstone Drive in Woodbury first and received the funding. This is the only metro project to receive the remaining funding, which is capped at \$136,000. Bids for the project were opened Sept. 20. The contract was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, Hardrives, Inc., on Oct. 4.
