



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

**Date:** June 23, 2020  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the June 23, 2020, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **County Attorney's Office to receive reimbursement for prosecuting prison inmates**

The Washington County Attorney's Office will be reimbursed for the cost of prosecuting inmates in the Stillwater and Oak Park Heights correctional facilities who are involved in criminal activity.

The County Board approved an agreement with the state Department of Corrections, Facilities Division, June 23 to receive the funds. The agreement goes through June 30, 2021.

The state reimburses counties for expenses of the county attorney resulting from activities involving inmates of state correctional institutions in the county.

**Contact: Attorney Pete Orput, 651-430-6124**

### **Short Elliott Hendrickson will do pre-design work on CSAH 14 signal, trail**

Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) will perform pre-design work for signal replacement and trail construction on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 14 at Interstate 694, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to a \$126,000 contract with the firm June 23.

In 2015, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) reached an agreement with Washington County to turn back Highway 5 to the county, from Highway 120, or Century Avenue, to Highway 36, and the roadway is now known as Washington County CSAH 14.

The traffic signal at CSAH 14 and the I-694 ramps are reaching the end of their useful life, and they lack Flashing Yellow Arrows (FYA) for left turns. Along CSAH 14, the county has updated traffic

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signals at Granada Avenue, Hadley Avenue, Market Place, and Ideal Avenue to add FYA capability. Installing FYA at the I-694 ramp signals will create consistency in the corridor and reduce delays. In addition, there are gaps in the trail system along the south side of CSAH 14 in this area. As part of this project, sections of trail is planned along the south side of CSAH 14 from the intersection with Hadley Avenue to east of the northbound I-694 ramp, which is just north of the LA Fitness, as well as between PINZ and Wells Fargo just west of Market Place.

MnDOT awarded \$702,500 in funding for this project to be used only for construction. The contract of \$126,000 with SEH covers only pre-design work on the project; it does not cover final design or construction costs. SEH's work will provide a clearer picture of potential project obstacles and help determine how the cost of constructing the project will fit into the county budget.

**Contact: Mitch Bartelt, Engineer II, 651-430-4349**

### **Additions needed to finish Hadley Avenue overpass**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made changes to a contract with Shafer Contracting Company Inc. June 23 to complete the work on the Hadley Avenue and Highway 36 interchange.

The county contracted with Shafer Contracting Company Inc. to construct the grade-separated intersection, which was substantially completed last year. During construction, it was determined that changes needed to be made to the roadway design to maintain safety for motorists.

A guardrail must be added between Highway 36 eastbound and the newly constructed noise wall to guard vehicles from leaving the roadway and striking the noise wall. Guardrails must also be added on the northeast and southwest corners of the bridge abutments to guard vehicles from leaving the roadway and striking the concrete bridge abutment; 1,600 linear feet of guardrail is being added to the roadway.

The project includes construction of an eastbound auxiliary lane on Highway 36 between the new Hadley Avenue overpass and the Interstate 694 southbound off-ramp. A portion of this work is new construction and a portion makes use of the existing Highway 36 shoulder. During construction, it was observed that approximately 260 feet of the existing shoulder intended to be used for the auxiliary lane was inadequate for vehicles and needed to be reconstructed.

The additional construction work will cost \$234,517, which falls within the 7% project funding contingency.

The County Board also approved an agreement June 23 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the City of Oakdale, setting out the funding reimbursement and long-term maintenance for landscaping at the intersection. MnDOT will contribute \$100,000 toward the landscaping, and the City of Oakdale will maintain the landscaping.

**Contact: Gerritt Bangma, Construction Engineer, 651-430-4317, and Kevin Peterson, Engineer II, 651-430-4330**

### **County will continue participation in Performance Measurement Program**

Washington County will continue to participate in the Performance Measurement Program and submit the report on the 10 standard measures created by the Council on Local Results and Innovation to the Office of the State Auditor.

The County Board agreed to participation June 23, the 10th year that the county has participated. In 2010, the Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation, tasked with creating a standard set of 10 measures for cities and 10 measures for counties. The list of measures was reviewed by the council and revised in 2013, when the council released an expanded set of performance measures.

Participation in the standard measures program is voluntary. A county that elects to participate in the standards measures program may be eligible for a reimbursement of 14 cents per capita in county program aid, not to exceed \$25,000.

Washington County has a longstanding commitment to performance measurement and quality improvement and is able to report the standard set of measures with little additional work.

The county will report the results of the 10 adopted measures to residents on the county website at [www.co.washington.mn.us/performanceasures](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/performanceasures), as well as including the report in its budget documents and filing a copy with the Office of the State Auditor.

**Contact: Amanda Hollis, Senior Planner, 651-430-6021**

### **Land, Water Legacy Program will help conserve area in Afton**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a Land and Water Legacy Program project June 23 that supports creation of a conservation area park in the City of Afton with public hiking trails.

Belwin Conservancy, the City of Afton, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the county reached an agreement on the concept, funding, and conservation easement partnership. The project requires the purchase of a 31-acre parcel from a willing seller and the placement of a permanent conservation easement on it. Valley Creek flows southeasterly through the property for 750 feet and merges into the St. Croix River, and the parcel contains wetlands, a pond, and forested uplands.

The land is adjacent to and near Belwin Conservancy land and Minnesota Land Trust protected parcels. As part of the overall project, portions of two of the City of Afton's adjacent parcels to the north will be protected by conservation easements and host a segment of trail. Portions of three Belwin Conservancy parcels to the south will also host portions of a trail.

The county will contribute \$507,500 to the project, and hold the 31-acre conservation easement. The city will contribute approximately nine acres in a conservation easement area, trail access, and funding for removal of buildings on the land, an archeological survey if needed, and management plans. Belwin will contribute \$157,500, own the 31-acre parcel, manage the natural resources on all the parcels, and provide public access to a trail extending through all six parcels and parking. The state will contribute \$290,000 to the project, with funding from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

The Land and Water Legacy Program is a voter-approved program that allows the county to acquire and improve land and interests in land for the purposes of improving water quality of rivers, lakes and streams; protecting drinking water sources; purchasing parklands; preserving wetlands and woodlands; and protecting land along water bodies from development.

**Contact: June Mathiowetz, Senior Planner, 651-430-6016**