

**City of Ramsey
Weekly Update
August 30, 2012**

1. Weekly Update

- 1. Weekly Update - August 30, 2012**

Weekly Update

1. 1.

Meeting Date: 08/30/2012

Information

Weekly Update

Weekly Update - August 30, 2012

Attachments

Weekly Update

Form Review

Form Started By: Kathy Schmitz

Started On: 08/30/2012 11:59 AM

Final Approval Date: 08/30/2012

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, September 3, 2012

City Offices Closed in Observance of Labor Day



Tuesday, September 4, 2012

6:00 p.m. – City Council Work Session – Lake Itasca Room

Immediately Following CC Work Session – HRA Work Session – Lake Itasca Room

Immediately Following HRA Work Session – HRA Special – Lake Itasca Room

Thursday, September 6, 2012

7:00 p.m. – Planning Commission – Council Chambers

Preview of Next Week

The Draw Summer Series: Scheduled as entertainment for tonight, August 30 at The Draw – Bourbon Street Boys – 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. *Attached to the Weekly Update is The Draw Summer Event Series Flyer.*

Farmer's Market. Today, August 30.

City Council Work Session (6:00 p.m. – LIR)

- Consider Response to City of Anoka Comprehensive Plan Amendments
- Review City Hall Floor Plan

HRA Work Session (Immediately following CC Work Session – LIR)

- 2013 HRA Budget & Levy
- Discuss Sign Package and Design Framework Modifications

HRA Special (Immediately following HRA Work Session – LIR)

- Approve Purchase Agreement for Lot 5, Block 1, COR TWO (Portions may be closed to the public)

Planning Commission (7:00 p.m. – CC)

- Request for an Interim Use Permit to Allow for the Operation of a Church in the B-1 Business District; Case of Rum River Retail Ventures
- Review Zoning Ordinance Amendments Related to the 2030 Comprehensive Plan and General Updates
- Consider Zoning Ordinance to Amend Chapter 117, Article II, Division 4, Subdivisions II, IV and V by Consolidated into One Subdivision (Shorelands)

- Consider Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Create Sec. 117.117a. E-3 Employment (Office Park) District
- Consider Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Rezoning of Lot 9, Block 2 Windsorwood

Council Update

Department Activities:

City Clerk

- Proofed General Election ballots to return to printer
- Recruiting additional Election Judges for November
- More conversation with potential restaurant/on-sale liquor/caterer

Finance

- Research paycard solution
- Verify F&C 5th Draw Request
- 2013 Budgets – EDA, HRA & General-Further updates and meetings

Fire

- Notable Responses
 - 8/23- Multi vehicle P.I. accident near the intersection of 178th Ln & CR 7. Two vehicle head on accident, one DOA. Provided patient care to other, assisted with traffic and accident reconstruction.
 - 8/29- Structure fire in the 14300 block of Potassium St NW. Residential home on fire with fire spread through the attic and floor joists upon arrival. Crews extinguished and conducted salvage and overhaul. Mutual aid from Anoka-Champlin and Andover also assisted.
 - 8/29- Grease fire from turkey fryer in the 14600 block of Potassium St NW. Fire out upon arrival. Crew moved fryer onto driveway and checked for possible extension
- Administration
 - Attended prep meeting for Fire Department activities during Happy Days
 - Hosted a kitchen fire simulator training for surrounding communities
 - Completed rough-in and hydro test for suppression system- Hope Fellowship
- Training this week: Major Maintenance

HR

- Continued work on the following recruitments:
 - City Engineer
 - Fall Seasonals
 - Firefighters
- Met with new employees as follows:
 - Fall Seasonal Worker
 - Part-time Police Technician

IT

- Website updates
- Bad card read in detention garage sally port
- Customer Request Management FAQ and workflow

Parks

- **(These kids are serious about their sport!)** The ARAA Football Jamboree was very well attended last weekend at Central Park and 'kicked off' ;-) the football season with 20 ARAA teams, and 24 out-of-town teams from as far away as North Branch. Football being known as a bit rough-n-tumble was borne-out with ready-to-rumble players sustaining 2 broken arms, 1 broken leg, 1 broken collar bone and a broken finger during the event (and they say skateboarding is hazardous?).
- The extra football field that ARAA installed (and paid for) between fields #3 and #4 at Central has now been completed with sod. Extra irrigation has been running over this area to help root the new turf. The football folks are *hoping* to use the lighted field yet this fall for games...
- Slit seeded another 300 pounds of grass seed at North Commons; and the irrigation system interference (stray voltage 'noise') from Municipal Well #8 has now been resolved there.
- Due to both the lack of rain and people-power for watering, many trees along Sunwood Drive east of The COR have turned color (some lost their leaves). Staff did get out with the water truck on two days however.

Police

- **Drug Bust.** The Ramsey Police Department assisted the Anoka Hennepin Drug Task Force on a search warrant at a Ramsey residence this past week. A member of the task force has been working on this case for some time. The warrant produced two and a half pounds of marijuana and \$31,000 in cash. One person was taken into custody and the task force will continue on this case. Since this was a drug task force case, the City of Ramsey will not see any of the cash.
- **Rats.** A citizen called to report that she had a live rat in her toilet. She wanted assistance in removing the critter from her home. She was advised that we do not assist in rat removal and was advised to contact an exterminator. It is unknown how the rat got into the toilet but there have been stories of rats entering homes through the sewer system. Fact or fiction?
- **Happy Birthday.** A person contacted the police to report that she could hear children screaming at her neighbor's residence and believed that children were being abused. An officer checked the residence and spoke to a parent. She reported that her twin eight year sons were celebrating their birthdays and got a little excited with their presents. Unknown what the presents were, but they must have been really something.

Public Works

- Pull election signs from the ROW on collector streets
- Begin preparation for Happy Days
- Gathering data for stop sign requests

Utilities

- Utility personal worked with a contractor to replace several components at our lift station #7 site in the Brookfield sub division. The SCADA system that operates at this site lost its internal memory during a power outage. This SCADA system alerts the on-call person with a pre-recorded message stating any issues that this site has encountered, some examples are power outages, failed sewage pumps, high sewage levels radio communication failures, etc. The new PLC (programmable logic controller) will not lose its program during power outages.
- As the hot dry weather this summer drags on, our water consumption continues to increase. In June we pumped and treated over 93 million gallons, July is always our peak month we pumped over 116.5 million gallons and with a couple more days to go in August we are already over 100 million gallons for the month.

Save the Date:

- **September 8, 2012 – Happy Days Festival** – The Ramsey Happy Days Festival will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 8 & 9. *Attached to the Weekly Update is the Happy Days Schedule of Events.*
- **September 13, 2012 – Park Patron Picnic, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** – Come celebrate another successful year of The Draw Summer Event Series and Farmers Market. *Attached to the Weekly Update is the Park Patron Picnic Flyer*

Best regards,



Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

Attachments: The Draw Summer Event Series Flyer.
Happy Days Schedule of Events
Park Patron Picnic Flyer
Invitation to Thrive MSP 2040 Council Member Listening Sessions
Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces September Programs
Transportation Alliance, News Review, August 24, 2012



AUG 30:
BOURBON STREET BOYS



- 6:30-8:00 PM
- PRESENTED BY:
JERRY BAUER
LAND AND INVESTMENTS

SEP 06:
THE SPLATTER SISTERS



- 6:30-8:00 PM
- PRESENTED BY:
RAMSEY HRA/
THE COR AT RAMSEY



Pick up your free meal card from the FARMERS MARKET Thursday from 3-7! For each \$6 purchase at the Farmers Market from Aug 23rd until Sept. 13th, you'll get a stamp worth 1 free meal at the Park Patron Picnic September 13th from 5:00-7:30.

You could win a \$300 gift card to SEARS or 2 tickets to a UFC event at Target Center Oct. 5th!

AUG 30: BOURBON STREET BOYS

Reuben Ristrom's several decades of experience include jazz festivals, concerts, shows, and recording sessions. Some of his styles include dixieland, mainstream jazz, swing, standards, latin, as well as a dose of vintage rock 'n' roll.

Event Sponsor- Jerry Bauer Land and Investments

*Food and drinks will be available for purchase during the event.

SEP 06: THE SPLATTER SISTERS

The Splatter Sisters are a Minnesota favorite in family entertainment. They have been performing for years throughout the Twin Cities and locations in greater Minnesota and Wisconsin. The sassy-folk and jazz-based vocals swing Andrews Sisters style. Their upbeat, interactive act makes them the perfect showband for families.

Event Sponsor- Ramsey HRA/The COR at Ramsey

The primary purpose of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority is to undertake certain types of housing and redevelopment or renewal activities that will provide a balanced supply of housing for people of all income levels, ethnicity and physical abilities. Also eliminate barriers to construction of affordable housing and add and preserve the existing supply of affordable housing.

*Food and drinks will be available for purchase during the event.

Located at 'The Draw' - 7401 E Ramsey Parkway,
Ramsey, MN

www.CORatRAMSEY.com

14th ANNUAL CITY OF RAMSEY

HAPPY DAYS



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8 AND SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2012

PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS

- Ace Solid Waste
- Ramsey Bicycle Connections Church
- The Links at Northfork
- NAU Country Insurance
- One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning
- PSD, LLC
- Coborn's

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2012

Pancake Breakfast	7:30 am	11:00 am
5K Run/Walk & Kids Fun Run	8:00 am	11:00 am
Car Show	11:00 am	2:30 pm
Business Expo	11:00 am	7:00 pm
Craft Fair	11:00 am	7:00 pm
Political Booths	11:00 am	7:00 pm
Farmers Market	11:00 am	7:00 pm
Kids INFLATABLES, ROCK WALL & POWER BUNGEE	11:30 am	7:30 pm
Minnow Races (NEW) AT EVENT TENT	12:00 pm	3:00 pm
Parade	3:00 pm	4:30 pm
Polka Fest (NEW)	4:30 pm	---
Dance Caravan (NEW) RENAISSANCE DANCE	4:30 pm	5:30 pm
Dew Dah Magician, Ken Shank (NEW)	4:30 pm	& 5:30pm
Bingo AT EVENT TENT	4:30 pm	---
Trebuchets (NEW) MIDDLE-AGES CATAPULTS	4:30 pm	---
Go Kart/Lawn Tractor Races (NEW)	5:00pm	9:30pm
<small>Ramsey Raceway, north side of Highway 10 at Armstrong Blvd</small>		
Bon Fires	6:30 pm	Midnight
Jacob Martin Band	6:30 pm	9:00 pm
Fireworks	9:00 pm	9:30 pm
Sterns County 17	9:30 pm	Midnight

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2012

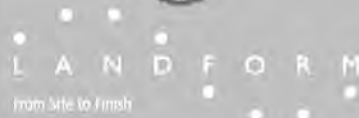
Family Bike Tour	Noon	4:30 pm
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Sterns County 17

Jacob Martin Band

PLATINUM SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS

- Weikel & Boyd Law, PLLC
- LANO Equipment INC
- Lowe's
- State Farm Insurance
- Pearson Farm
- Randall & Goodrich, P.L.C.

BRONZE SPONSORS

- Healing Therapeutic Services, LLC



LOCATION: 7550 Sunwood Drive NW – Ramsey, MN 55303 – Within The COR

WEBSITE ci.ramsey.mn.us EMAIL happydays@ci.ramsey.mn.us PHONE 763-427-1410

Park Patron Picnic

Thursday, September 13 from 5:00-7:30

The Draw 7401 E Ramsey Parkway, Ramsey, MN 55303
(within the COR)

Come celebrate another successful year of The Draw Summer Event Series and Farmers Market with a live broadcast from BOB FM.

Free Food & Free Prizes

How It Works

Pick up your Free Meal Card at any Farmers Market Booth on Thursdays from 3-7 PM. For each \$6 purchase at the Farmers Market from August 23rd until September 13th, you'll get a stamp worth 1 free meal at the grill. Fill a whole card (\$24 in Farmers Market purchases over 4 weeks) and qualify for the valuable grand prize. Turn in your stamped card from 5:00-6:45 PM on September 13th for free food, drink & to enter the prize drawing.

Must be present to win* **Rainout date is Sep. 20th*



The City of Ramsey Park & Recreation Commission and the City of Ramsey Foundation

FOOD AND DRINKS will be available for purchase during the event
FARMERS MARKET adjacent to the amphitheater in The Draw
LOCATION The Draw 7401 E Ramsey Parkway, Ramsey, MN 55303

Electronic Agenda

Subject: FW: You're Invited! Thrive MSP 2040 Listening Sessions

From: Metropolitan Council [<mailto:METC@public.govdelivery.com>]

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2012 2:59 PM

To: Tim Gladhill

Subject: You're Invited! Thrive MSP 2040 Listening Sessions



You're Invited!

Thrive MSP 2040 Council Member Listening Sessions set for September

Join Metropolitan Council members and staff for an opportunity to help create the vision for the Twin Cities metropolitan region over the next 30 years. There are 10 Listening Sessions planned in September for local officials, community leaders and the general public to provide their feedback on what our region needs to thrive. Attend whichever meeting is convenient to your schedule and encourage other members of the community to attend, as well.

Please RSVP to Council public information if you're planning to attend; 651-602-1140 or public.info@metc.state.mn.us.

For more information about the Thrive MSP 2040 effort, visit thrivemsp.org.

Share Your
Ideas
Thrive MSP

Can't make a meeting? Join the conversation online.

Questions? Contact the Thrive MSP 2040 project team at thrivemsp@metc.state.mn.us

Coon Rapids

Thursday, Sept. 6, 5 to 7 p.m.

Coon Rapids Civic Center, [11155 Robinson Drive](http://www.coonrapids.com), Civic Room B

St. Paul

Monday, Sept. 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway, Amherst Wilder Auditorium

Savage

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 6 to 8 p.m.

McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center, 13550 Dakota Avenue, Aspen Room

Plymouth

Thursday, Sept. 13, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Avenue, Black Box Theatre

Vadnais Heights

Wednesday, Sept. 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Vadnais Heights Commons, 655 East County Road F, East Vadnais Room

Eagan

Thursday, Sept. 20, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Wescott Library, 1340 Wescott Road, Lower Level Meeting Room

Minneapolis

Monday, Sept. 24, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall, Pohlad Hall

Chanhassen

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 5 to 7 p.m.

Chanhassen Library, 7711 Kerber Blvd, Thornton Wilder Meeting Room

Stillwater

Thursday, Sept. 27, 6 to 8 p.m.

Washington County Government Center, 14949 62nd St. N., Lower Level Meeting Room

Edina

Thursday, Sept. 27, 7 to 9 p.m.

Valley View Middle School, 6750 Valley View Road, Auditorium



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COUNTY OF ANOKA

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT CENTER
2100 3RD AVENUE STE 700 • ANOKA, MINNESOTA 55303-5024
(763) 323-5700

August 29, 2012

MARTHA WEAVER

Public Information Manager

Direct #763-323-5744

E-mail: martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us

Contact: Jennifer Fink, Marketing Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, 763-757-3920,
or e-mail: jennifer.fink@co.anoka.mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces September Programs

September means back to school and crisp weather! Take advantage of the great outdoors before the snow flies in Anoka County's more than 11,000 acres of scenic parkland.

Pre-registration is required for most programs. Go to www.anokacountyparks.com or call 651-429-8007 for more information about these or other park programs.

Disc Golf

Try out the nine-hole course at Bunker Hills Regional Park and learn about the equipment, rules, and style of play used in disc golf. A disc will be given to each participant. Meet at the parking lot near Pavilion #2. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$15/person (plus tax)

Saturday, September 1, 12-2 p.m.

Bunker Hills Regional Park, Andover

-more-

Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces September Programs – Add I

Introduction to Kayaking

This is your chance to learn the basics behind this fun and easy recreational activity. We will use sea kayaks to learn the basics of kayaking while exploring the Mississippi River and the lakes around the Wargo Nature Center. Space is limited to seven participants (aged 15 and up). Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$25/person (plus tax)

Saturday, September 8, 12-2p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Coon Rapids

Monday, September 24, 6-8 p.m.

Wargo Nature Center, Lino Lakes

Stand Up Paddle Boarding

Looking for a fun and easy new way to get on the water? Stand up paddle boarding is easy, exciting, and also great exercise. After a few minutes of instruction we will get you up and out on the water. (It's easier than you think!) Space is limited to four participants (aged 15 and up). Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$20/person (plus tax)

Monday, September 10, 6-7:30 p.m.

Centerville Beach, Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park, Lino Lakes

Wednesday, September 12, 5-6:30 p.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Coon Rapids

-more-

Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces September Programs – Add 2

Rum River Kayak: Fall Tour

Join us for a day of paddling on the Rum River, one of Anoka County's true gems. Relax and enjoy a lovely fall day on the water. All equipment is provided. Paddling experience is necessary. Program geared for paddlers aged 15 and up. Limited to 12 participants. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$15/person (plus tax)

Saturday, September 29, 12-3 p.m.

Rum River South Regional Park, Ramsey

Nature Play – Nature Sense

Nature is full of interesting things to see, smell, touch, and listen to. Head outside to explore nature with all of your senses. This program is geared for 2-5 year-olds who are accompanied by an adult. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$6/parent/child; \$3/additional child (plus tax)

Friday, September 14, 10-11:15 a.m.

Wargo Nature Center, Lino Lakes

Hooray for Honey!

It's time to check the Wargo Nature Center beehives! We'll learn about honey bees and beekeeping and take a short hike to visit the hives. These important pollinators produce gallons of the much-loved sweetener honey! Sample a sweet honey treat and learn about the many ways to use honey and other bee products in your everyday life! For participants aged 12 and up. If under 18 years old, you must register with an adult. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

-more-

Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces September Programs – Add 3

Fee: \$5/person (plus tax)

Wednesday, September 26, 6-8 p.m.

Wargo Nature Center, Lino Lakes

Bird Walk Series

Join an experienced birder as he guides you through several Anoka County parks. Enjoy seeing and/or hearing 20-60 species of birds on each walk. A checklist of Minnesota birds and a map of each area will be provided. All ages and birding abilities are welcome. Pre-registration is required.

Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$5/person (plus tax)

Saturday, September 1, 8-10 a.m.

Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Coon Rapids

Saturday, September 8, 8-10 a.m.

Mississippi West Regional Park, Ramsey

Birding at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS)

The Arden Hills Army Training Site is a unique site not open to the public. Join us for this special birding opportunity! This program provides the opportunity to view the area's permanent residents and migrating species. Birders aged 10 and up are welcome with a maximum of 12 participants.

Minimal walking will be required. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$5/person (plus tax)

Saturday, September 15, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Meet at AHATS, Arden Hills. Go north on Hamline Avenue from Hwy. 96 and then north to the parking lot and left by the new building.

-more-

Anoka County Parks and Recreation Announces September Programs – Add 4

Birding Carlos Avery

This annual program delivers a birding tour of Anoka County's magnificent Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. By late September migrating waterfowl should be passing through. We will also look for other species as well. Meet at the nature center and carpool to the site. Pre-registration is required. Register online at www.anokacountyparks.com or for more information call 651-429-8007.

Fee: \$5/person (plus tax)

Saturday, September 29, 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Wargo Nature Center (parking lot), Lino Lakes

-30-

RB:de

Electronic Agenda

Subject:

FW: Transportation Alliance News Review Aug 24, 2012

From: "Margaret Donahoe" <Margaret@transportationalliance.com>

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2012 2:53:06 PM

Subject: Transportation Alliance News Review Aug 24, 2012



Transportation
Alliance

**News
Review**

August 24, 2012



Top Story

Disaster Relief Bill Seeks \$79M for Road Repairs *Finance & Commerce*

As the state Legislature takes up a \$167 million disaster relief package Friday, some transportation repairs stemming from the floods and high winds that struck northeast Minnesota last June are moving along.

More permanent fixes, however, will take awhile.

Scott Peterson, director of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Office of Government Affairs, said that some repairs will be finished by winter but that more extensive projects won't be done until next summer at the earliest.

The bill offers \$79 million for transportation-related projects, including:

- \$3 million for operations and maintenance, to pay for work MnDOT did immediately after the storms, like setting up detours and moving debris;
- \$11 million for "program planning and delivery," which includes engineering and design of permanent, long-term repairs;
- \$30 million in matching funds for repairs of local roads and bridges that are eligible for federal emergency aid;
- And \$35 million for construction costs of the permanent repairs to the trunk highway system.

National

Unspent Earmarks Go Up for Grabs *Finance & Commerce*

More than \$11 million in unused transportation earmarks are being made available for new projects in Minnesota, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced on Friday.

The money is among more than \$470 million in federal earmarks that was allocated between 2003 and 2006 but has not yet been spent, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Federal officials say the earmark legislation allows the unspent funds to be reallocated.

US Transportation Secretary Announces Creation of Freight Policy Council *Aiken Leader*

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood today announced the launch of the Freight Policy Council which will focus on improving the condition and performance of the national freight network to better

ensure the ability of the United States to compete in today's global economy. The council will develop a national, intermodal plan for improving the efficiency of freight movement and will work with states to encourage development of a forward looking state freight strategy. Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) joined Secretary LaHood for the announcement at the PCC Logistics Duwamish Facility in Seattle, WA.

"Our freight system is the lifeblood of the American economy, moving goods quickly and efficiently to benefit both businesses and consumers across the country," said Secretary LaHood. "With the launch of the Freight Policy Council, we have an opportunity to make not only our freight system, but all modes of transportation, stronger and better connected."

Aging Transportation System Threatens US Agriculture *Western Farm Press*

U.S. farmers depend on a 50-year-old highway system, a 70-year-old inland waterway system and a railway network build in the late 1800s to move their products from the fields to end users. This aging transportation system has been providing U.S. soybean farmers a competitive advantage in the global market, but a recent study funded by the United Soybean Board's (USB's) and soy checkoff's Global Opportunities (GO) program supports the growing evidence that this advantage continues to be threatened by the deterioration of U.S. highways, bridges, rails, locks and dams.

The study, "Farm to Market – A Soybean's Journey," analyzed how soybeans and other agricultural products move from the farm gate to customers, highlighting weaknesses found in the system along the way. The study was recommended by the checkoff-funded Soy Transportation Coalition.

Oil Boom Provides Increase in Rail Business *Star Tribune*

The last time a train crawled east out of Cameron, rolling through town at about 5 miles per hour, a railroad worker stood on the front of the locomotive, peering at the warped rail and broken ties to make sure the train wouldn't slip off the track.

The railroad gave the line over to weeds and saplings for more than a decade. The state almost turned it into a bike trail.

But now Canadian National Railway is spending \$35 million to rebuild the track. Why? Frac sand.

Cheese Country Beckons Minnesota Road Builders *Finance & Commerce*

Interstate 94 in western Wisconsin is going to be a busy place for construction in the next few years, but will it be enough to get Minnesota contractors to cross the river?

There's certainly opportunity in western Wisconsin: A stretch of interstate just east of the St. Croix River — roughly from Hudson to Eau Claire — is programmed for about \$200 million to \$300 million worth of repairs over the next 10 to 15 years.

Examples of upcoming work on the I-94 corridor include a \$4 million concrete pavement project in Hudson and a \$15 million to \$20 million project in Menomonie. A major interchange project near the Roberts exit is under way and scheduled to finish next year.

A \$10 million to \$15 million interchange project at Wisconsin Highway 35 near River Falls is scheduled for a March 2013 letting, and there are "a large number of resurfacing projects" in the \$4 million to \$10 million range between Roberts and Eau Claire, Solberg said.

A fair amount of resurfacing work has been done over the years on I-94 in western Wisconsin, but "you can only do overlays so long," Solberg said.

Even more I-94 work, above and beyond the \$200 million to \$300 million in programmed projects, may be on the way.

Local/Regional

Last Hurdle Cleared for St. Croix River Crossing *Star Tribune*

A new bridge over the St. Croix River cleared its final hurdle Thursday evening when the Oak Park Heights City Council accepted a controversial state plan to rebuild the Hwy. 36 corridor leading to a new river crossing.

The decision came on a 4-1 vote, with Mayor David Beaudet dissenting.

The overall bridge project, which MnDOT has said could cost as much as \$676 million, would include new highways on both sides of the river and numerous environmental and historical protections. The Oak Park Heights portion of the project will involve extensive rebuilding of Hwy. 36 and frontage roads through the city and moving or replacing underground utilities.

Oak Parks Heights, a city of about 4,300 residents, has businesses and residences on both sides of Hwy. 36, and many of its water and sewer pipes are more than 40 years old

\$18M Road Bond Question Goes to St. Cloud Voters in November *St. Cloud Times*

St. Cloud residents will decide in November whether the city should spend more money to improve roads.

The St. Cloud City Council unanimously approved Monday to put a question on the ballot asking whether the city should issue \$18 million in bonds over the next four years to catch up on road reconstruction projects.

Transportation has been a topic of conversation this year after a community survey showed that residents ranked it their highest priority.

Southwest LRT Bidding Begins Again *Finance & Commerce*

After halting a previous bid process, the Metropolitan Council has released a pair of new requests for proposals (RFPs) to begin engineering work on the Southwest Light Rail Transit line.

The RFPs were made public on Friday and bids are due by Oct. 2, according to the Met Council, which is leading planning efforts for the proposed 15-mile transit line between downtown Minneapolis and Eden Prairie.

Hope Remains for High-Speed Link to Duluth *Finance & Commerce*

An alliance that has spent five years planning a 155-mile high-speed passenger rail line connecting Minneapolis and Duluth is looking to wrap up its work and hand the project over to the state.

The transition isn't expected to come immediately but was signaled Wednesday when the Northern Lights Express Passenger Rail Alliance met to discuss the 2013 budget. Group members said that they wanted to consider using more of their \$270,000 reserve over the next two years and begin winding down their involvement with the project.

Alliance members had always intended to prepare the estimated \$1 billion project for preliminary engineering and pass the project off to the state, he said. The two-year, \$8 million preliminary engineering process could begin in January.

Highway 101 Relief Finally in Sight *Finance & Commerce*

Motorists who use Highway 100 in St. Louis Park – one of the most congested freeway areas in the Twin Cities – are finally about to get some relief.

Plans for a series of congestion and safety improvements between Highway 7 and Minnetonka Boulevard are being finalized by the Minnesota Department of Transportation now, and city officials are expected to sign off on the work by the end of the year.

Property owners who live adjacent to Highway 100, meanwhile, are weighing in on whether or not a sound barrier should be included as part of the work. The barrier is a federal requirement, but can be omitted if a majority of impacted residents say they don't want it.

Work on the \$72 million project isn't expected to begin until late 2014, but the progress signals the end of a long wait for upgrades in the area, considered the last "sub-standard" section of Highway 100 south of I-394.

MnDOT Recommends Second Bridge in Winona *Rochester Post Bulletin*

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is recommending that a new two-lane bridge be built parallel to the Highway 43 bridge in Winona and that the existing bridge be rehabilitated for continued

use.

The recommendation, which was released Thursday, calls for the new bridge be built upstream from the existing bridge, with access from the intersection of Fourth Street and Winona Street. The new bridge will also tie in to Highway 43 on Latsch Island.

This recommendation will allow the new bridge to be built first, with traffic switching to the new bridge while the existing bridge is rehabilitated.

States Aim to Boost Minority, Female Firms on St. Croix Project *Finance & Commerce*

The Minnesota and Wisconsin departments of transportation are working on a reciprocity agreement to boost participation of disadvantaged contractors on the St. Croix Crossing project.

The estimated \$626 million project, which calls for a new bridge between St. Joseph, Wis., and Oak Park Heights as well as approach work, will have goals for participation of businesses disadvantaged businesses.

To count toward those goals, businesses must be certified as “disadvantaged business enterprises,” or DBEs. Individual states have their own certification processes.

Other States

Only Corbetts Green Light Can Fix Transportation *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*

State Transportation Secretary Barry Schoch has seen the road ahead, and it is filled with potholes, weight restrictions, closings and detours, plus more impassable bridges. Mr. Schoch, along with the rest of Pennsylvania, needs help from his boss, Gov. Tom Corbett.

Due to cuts at both the federal and state levels, Pennsylvania's 12-year transportation spending plan is nearly 40 percent lower than the one adopted four years ago. The \$41.6 billion is down by \$26.3 billion, which means new capacity-adding projects will be off the table and progress that the state has made to reduce the number of deteriorating bridges will be reversed.

His commission put together a package of moves that could generate \$2.5 billion annually for transportation, with higher fees for driver's licenses and vehicle registrations and removal of a cap on fuel taxes paid by wholesalers.

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