

**City of Ramsey  
Weekly Update  
November 1, 2012**

- 1. Weekly Update**
  - 1. November 1, 2012**

**Weekly Update**

**1. 1.**

**Meeting Date:** 11/01/2012

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**Information**

**Weekly Update**

November 1, 2012

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**Attachments**

Weekly Update

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**Form Review**

Form Started By: Kathy Schmitz

Started On: 11/01/2012 04:18 PM

Final Approval Date: 11/01/2012

November 1, 2012

## *Weekly Calendar of Events*

### **Tuesday, November 6, 2012**

Election Day - no meetings.



### **Thursday, November 8, 2012**

7:30 a.m. – EDA – Lake Itasca Room

1:00 p.m. – Ramsey Station Ribbon Cutting – Ramsey Northstar Station

6:30 p.m. – Park & Recreation Commission – Council Chambers

## *Preview of Next Week*

**Election Day, November 6.** All Polling Locations Open for Voting for General Election

### **EDA (7:30 a.m. LIR)**

- Discuss Potential RV Expo
- 15153 Nowthen BLVD, Old City Hall Site, Development Planning Update
- Prospect Update, Mike Mulrooney
- Business Retention & Expansion Program Introduction, Update
- 2013 EDA Work Plan
- Ramsey EDA Business Networking Breakfast Event Update

**Ramsey Station Ribbon Cutting** – Inaugural First Ride at Ramsey Station, Thursday, November 8, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. – Plan on a train ride from Ramsey to Elk River and back. Regular commuter services begin November 14<sup>th</sup>. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a flyer for the Ramsey Station Ribbon Cutting.*

### **Park and Recreation Commission (6:30 p.m. – CC)**

- Presentation by Girl Scout Troop #11375
- Review and Recommend 2013 – 2017 Parks Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan
- Commission/Staff Input – Discuss Need for December Meeting

**Youth First 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Community.** Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., at Greenhaven Country Club in Anoka. This terrific annual event puts all your favorite restaurants under one roof. Cost: \$30.00. For more information contact Youth First Community of Promise at 763-421-8530.

## *Council Update*

**Highway 47 and Bunker Lake Road Intersection.** The City has received a proposal from an engineering consultant to review the traffic and access situation at this intersection. Our staff is working with the City of Anoka and Anoka County to review the proposal and to allocate cost. This will come to the Council for future action.

**Interview with WCCO Television.** Mayor Ramsey was interviewed by WCCO TV for a story about Highway 10 and the safety and transportation issues related to the highway. The interview is part of a bigger story about efforts to upgrade Highway 10 that will air later in November, and will include comments from MNDOT, Met Council, Anoka County and other local jurisdictions.

**Express Bus Service.** The last day of express bus service from the Ramsey commuter station will be on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The train will replace the bus and opens for service on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Bus riders will be getting flyers notifying them of the change and new schedule. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a Press Release Regarding Northstar Service.*

**Absentee Voting.** Absentee voting continues at City Hall as well as the elections department at Anoka County. Thus far, the City of Ramsey has had about 340 voters at the reception counter. As of Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, the State of Minnesota passed the million mark with absentee ballots.

**The preliminary tax rates have been received from the County.** A brief tax summary of the past two years for all taxing jurisdictions: City, Anoka County, and Respective School District – Anoka/Elk River are as follows:

### **Anoka School District #11**

<u>Collectable</u>	<u>Ramsey</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>ISD #11</u>	<u>Districts</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>as %</u>
2012	<b>44.154</b>	42.173	21.447	5.178	112.952	39.091%
2013	<b>44.198</b>	45.453	26.751	4.146	120.548	36.664%

### **Elk River School District #728**

<u>Collectable</u>	<u>Ramsey</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>ER #728</u>	<u>Districts</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>as %</u>
2012	<b>44.154</b>	42.173	45.492	5.178	136.997	32.230%
2013	<b>44.198</b>	45.453	51.290	4.146	145.087	30.463%

It should be noted that Ramsey's tax rate stayed almost constant from 2012 to 2013 whereas Anoka County and the School Districts increased. The city had originally proposed a tax levy rate of 44.71% at the preliminary levy adoption on September 11, 2012.

## **Department Activities:**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Work on 2012 general election items
- Continue to move office furniture
- Post surplus equipment and firewood to auction site

### **City Clerk**

- Transcribing meeting minutes
- Conducted Public Accuracy Test
- Receiving and accepting absentee ballots into State system, including conducting Ballot Board
- Elections preparation

### **Engineering**

- Sunwood Drive Project – The Contractor is currently is paving the wear course of bituminous on Armstrong Blvd, Sunwood Drive, and the entrance to the COR TWO retail area / Northstar Marketplace. The storm sewer and draitile along Armstrong Blvd has been installed. The Landscaper is scheduled to begin planting trees and installing the irrigation system on Sunwood Drive on Friday and will continue into next week. We also anticipate the final signage and striping to be completed next week. Connexus Energy anticipates receiving the light poles on November 15<sup>th</sup>, with installation immediately following.
- Alpine Drive – The wear course of bituminous has been paved and we anticipate striping will occur next week.

### **Finance**

- CIP updates and draft CIP
- Unclaimed Property reporting
- Utility billing analysis
- Verify 7<sup>th</sup> F&C Draw Request
- Further Update of CIP Cash flows

### **Fire**

- Notable Responses:
  - Smoke filling house in Nowthen Oct 25. Actually food left on stove and burned while homeowner outside.
  - Smoke coming from Garage Oct 25. Exhaust from car warming up.
  - Fire alarm water flow Oct 31. Leaking suppression system. Turned system off and drained.
  - Flames in woods in Nowthen Oct 31. Large illegal burn. Resident cited by Sheriff. Fire Extinguished.
  - Explosive devise in vehicle causing fire inside Nov 1. Fire out on arrival. Evidence brought to PD for testing.
- Administration
  - Writing draft of grant for Shared Services
  - Officers Meeting on Monday
  - Fire Marshal in training 2 days for suppression systems
- Training this week: None-Conducting Halloween code enforcement

## HR

- Prepared for Open Enrollment
- Worked on Benefits, Payroll Changes and Workers Compensation Tasks
- Initiated annual Boards/Commissions & Rink Attendant Recruitments

## IT

- The Connect Anoka County project has made its way into our building. Technicians were here most of Wednesday and are scheduled to finish running fiber for the Municipal Center and Police Department Thursday. In the near future the Public Works Utilities building will also be connected.
- The IT department is going through hardware and software and determining what we still have need of. What this means that in the coming weeks there will (with council approval) a series of surplus items up for public auction on our auction site [www.publicsurplus.com](http://www.publicsurplus.com).

## Parks

- Annual fall tree street tree planting concluded this week with over 60 trees in various boulevard locations where trees were either missing, hit by vehicles or residents requested one. Plus, several to Solstice and Central Parks and River Birch at 'The Tributary' at The Draw. Tree wrapping (to prevent frost cracking) begins on all young maples (most notably the Autumn Blaze Maples at The Draw and on boulevards.
- Staff was able to get back to aerating the athletic fields with the timing ideal - as contractor TruGreen applied winter fertilizer to the athletic fields at Central, Alpine and Elmcrest – as well as all of The Draw.
- Final irrigation system blow-outs to be completed this week.
- Dept. of Corrections continuing on Lake Itasca boardwalk renovations
- Anoka County Courts sent restitution affidavit for vandalism in park (for offender who was caught and plead guilty).

## Planning/Building

- Meeting with Podawiltz Development Corporation re: future development plans and timelines
- Respond to request for Lord of Life re: future use of existing counseling center
- Respond to Mn/DOT re: potential right of way encroachment on TH 47 at 167<sup>th</sup> Ave (building)
- Review signage requests for rail event

## Police

- **Anyone Can Have a Kid (or Plant Carrots Get Carrots).** An officer was dispatched to a residence to speak with the complainant's 4 year old son about taking cookies and candy without permission. The officer talked to the complainant about parenting skills and then gave the 4 year old a tour of the squad.
- **Daytime Burglaries.** Officers have responded to seven residential daytime burglaries in the past month in Ramsey. The department was very concerned about these burglaries and was working hard to solve them. A list of possible suspects was formulated and the investigation was very active. Officers were watching one location in particular on Wednesday and observed a person wanted by another jurisdiction in the yard. When they made contact with him, jewelry was observed that officers believed to be stolen. Officers eventually arrested a 20 year old female and a 35 year male. The two are now linked to the seven Ramsey burglaries and approximately 30 burglaries in Coon Rapids. This investigation is ongoing and there is a lot of work to be done. Great police work by all!

- **Training.** The department completed its POST mandated inclement weather/night shoot last week at the Anoka County Range. Officers are required to train in low light conditions and in poor weather conditions. If you recall, last week it was cold and rainy so officers got a true test of their ability in less than perfect conditions. Approximately 6000 handgun rounds were used and about 3000 rifle rounds were discharged. That is a lot of brass that had to be picked up.
- **Server Training.** On Tuesday, the police department hosted a free alcohol server and fraudulent ID training for 39 local Anoka County business employee's from a variety of establishments. The alcohol server portion covered serving underage customers; over-serving customers; cutting off customers who have over consumed; information on how alcohol affects your customers; laws that all servers need to be aware of in order to stay free of illegal serving practices and compliance checks. The fraudulent ID portion covered recognition techniques of common fraudulent ID's and DL's; security features on current MN ID's; types of acceptable ID's; confiscating suspected fake ID's and MN laws regarding when service should be denied based on ID. Another free class will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Works**

- Alert contractor to repairs needed on traffic signals on Hwy 47 and Dysprosium/ Bunker Lake Blvd
- Install culvert under trail near Junkite St/145<sup>th</sup> Ct to alleviate occasional ponding of storm water at 14580 Junkite St
- Meet with plowing contractor to go over plowing requirements for the city hall campus
- Clear area for "snow dump" east of lake Ramsey in COR
- Repair barricades on bike trail between Argon St and Hwy 47

### **Utilities**

- Crews removed 45 large irrigation water meters and shut off and winterized services at all of the multi-family complexes these meters are stored in a secure heated location until after spring thaw when they are re- installed for the irrigation season.
- We worked with a contractor to remove and move/lift a fire hydrant at sunfish lake blvd. and the north driveway at Life fitness. This hydrant was located in the bottom of the ditch there, and would be very tough to utilize in the winter months since snow from the driveway and Sunfish lake blvd would quickly bury it
- An employee responded to a residents home to assist shutting the water off after the hose bib on the house froze and burst
- All fire Hydrants have been repaired and are in service, however there are a few new hydrants on the new section of Sunwood drive that are not operational yet

### **Save the Date:**

- **John Enstrom Invite.** John Enstrom invited the public to come to Verteran's Lake on Veteran's day, Monday, November 12, in recognition and honor of those that served.
- **Stepping Stone Emergency Housing Open House.** November 11, 2012, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Anoka Regional Treatment Center Cronin Building. RSVP no later than, Thursday, November 8, by calling 763-323-7006 or emailing [rsvp@steppingstoneeh.org](mailto:rsvp@steppingstoneeh.org). *Attached to the Weekly Update is the Invite to the Stepping Stone Emergency Housing Open House.*

- **Mediation Services 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Volunteer Recognition Celebration** – to be held Friday, November 16, 2012, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the new Harvest Grill at Bunker Hills golf Course, Coon Rapids. Tickets are \$35 per person which includes dinner. *Attached to the Weekly Update is the flyer and information relating to the Mediation Services event.*
- **Annual City of Ramsey Holiday Party**– To be held on Friday, January 4, 2012. Stay tuned for details.

Best regards,



/kas

Kurtis G. Ulrich  
City Administrator

Attachments:

Flyer for the Ramsey Station Ribbon Cutting  
Press Release Regarding Northstar Service  
Invite to the Stepping Stone Emergency Housing Open House  
Flyer and information relating to the Mediation Services event  
Press Release: Anoka County Commissioner Honor Andover Couple's 75-Year  
Marriage  
Press Release: It's Your Money! Anoka County Creates Tool to Claim  
Outstanding Checks  
Transportation Alliance Legislative Committee Meeting Agenda – 11/15/12  
New Transportation Video from PIM  
Transportation and Economic Development Agenda 2012

# Ramsey Station Ribbon Cutting

Inaugural Ride at Ramsey Station

**Ramsey City Hall**  
**7550 Sunwood Drive NW**  
**Thursday, Nov. 8**  
**1:00 p.m.**

## *Emcee*

Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look

## *Welcome*

Mayor Bob Ramsey

## *Invited Speakers*

Counties Transit Improvement Board Chair Peter McLaughlin  
Metropolitan Council Member Edward Reynoso

Guests are invited to ride the train from Ramsey to Elk River and back. Train will leave at 2 p.m.

Refreshments will be served in the City Council Chambers prior to a short program. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the station prior to boarding the train.





**Special copy of news release for Ramsey Star Express riders.  
Get ready to upgrade your ride from bus to train on Nov. 14.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2012

**RAMSEY STATION TO OPEN FOR NORTHSTAR SERVICE NOV. 14**

RAMSEY, Minn. – (Oct. 29) –Northstar commuter trains will begin service to the newly constructed Ramsey Station on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Twelve Northstar trips will serve the station each weekday during rush hours. The station will also be served by six trips on Saturdays and Sundays as well as specially scheduled trains for large downtown events such as Vikings games and Saturday Holidazzle parades. The one-way weekday fare between Ramsey Station and Minneapolis is \$3.50 (see other fares at metrotransit.org/northstar or call 612-373-3333).

“Ramsey Station will provide hundreds of daily connections for commuters and travelers – including veterans accessing the new Northwest Metro VA Outpatient Clinic in Ramsey,” said Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb.

Located between Elk River and Anoka stations, Ramsey Station is the seventh along the line and the only new station added since Northstar began service on Nov. 16, 2009. A skyway from the adjacent Ramsey Municipal Parking Facility connects the station to parking spaces for Northstar customers.

In celebration of the station opening and the line’s third anniversary, the public is invited to enjoy free rides on all Northstar trains from all stations on Nov. 14 and 15. Metro Transit staff will be available at all stations to assist first-time customers and will also provide transfers to buses and the Hiawatha light-rail line at Target Field Station.

<b>Weekday departures</b>	
<b>Southbound</b>	<b>Northbound</b>
5:16 a.m.	6:43 a.m.
6:06 a.m.	4:27 p.m.
6:36 a.m.	4:57 p.m.
7:06 a.m.	5:27 p.m.
7:36 a.m.	5:55 p.m.
5:21 p.m.	6:45 p.m.

<b>Saturday departures</b>	
<b>Southbound</b>	<b>Northbound</b>
10:38 a.m.	12:00 p.m.
1:38 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
5:28 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday departures</b>	
9:48 a.m.	11:10 a.m.
12:08 p.m.	1:50 p.m.
2:58 p.m.	5:25 p.m.

Station funding was provided by the City of Ramsey, Anoka County Regional Rail Authority, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, State of Minnesota and Metropolitan Council. Sheehy Construction is the general contractor. The project will be completed on schedule and well within its \$13.2 million budget.

Northstar is operated by Metro Transit, a service of the Metropolitan Council. Customers boarded Metro Transit buses and trains 81 million times last year.

###

Note: The last day for Ramsey Star Express bus service will be Nov. 13. Watch for a special “Welcome to Your New Ride” packet on the bus with appreciation gifts from local businesses.

# Welcome Home

Stepping Stone Emergency Housing invites you to be our honored guest:

## OPEN HOUSE

**November 11 ~ 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Anoka Regional Treatment Center**  
**Cronin Building**

Let us show you our gratitude and the results of the work, donations, support and services you provided to Stepping Stone in its move to the expanded and new-to-us facility.

Heavy appetizers will be served.  
Welcoming remarks scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

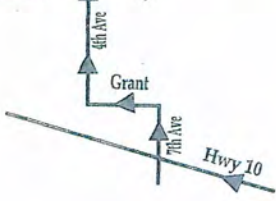
Please let us know no later than  
**Thursday, November 8**  
if we should be expecting you.  
(763) 323-7006 ~ [rsvp@steppingstoneeh.org](mailto:rsvp@steppingstoneeh.org)

STEPPING Stone EMERGENCY HOUSING



PARKING

SSEH Cronin Bldg



Home New Our  
Stepping Into

*Come Celebrate With Us!*

**Mediation Services for Anoka County's**  
*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*  
**& Volunteer Recognition Celebration**

**Friday, November 16, 2012 - 6 to 9 pm**  
*The new Harvest Grill at Bunker Hills Golf Course, Coon Rapids*

**Tickets = \$35 per person**

**Dinner, Silent Auction, Wall of Wine and more!**

*Help us celebrate 25 years of nonprofit service to the area, recognize our wonderful mediators and learn exciting news about the future.*

*Please consider sponsoring the event to help us meet the growing needs in Anoka County for conflict resolution*  
**\$1000+ Gold    \$500 Silver    \$250 Bronze    \$100 Table Host**

*All contributions are appreciated! RSVP reply card and payments by mail should be received no later than Wednesday, November 7th, 2012. Learn more about the event at our new website: [www.mediationservice.org](http://www.mediationservice.org)*

Mediation Services for Anoka County is a community-focused 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are very much appreciated and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law.

2520 Coon Rapids Blvd. Suite 100 Coon Rapids, MN 55433

[www.mediationservice.org](http://www.mediationservice.org) office: 763-422-8878 fax: 763-422-0808 [info@mediationservice.org](mailto:info@mediationservice.org)



# COUNTY OF ANOKA

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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

October 26, 2012

**MARTHA WEAVER**

Public Information Manager

Direct #763-323-5744

E-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

Contact: Martha Weaver, Public Information Manager, 763-323-5744, or e-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Anoka County Commissioners Honor Andover Couple's 75-Year Marriage**

Anoka County Commissioners Rhonda Sivarajah of Lino Lakes and Robyn West of Blaine today honored the 75-year marriage of Clelland and Ellen Darr by presenting the couple with an official copy of their marriage certificate from the state of Iowa. Photos from the presentation can be viewed at <https://picasaweb.google.com/114891279310154978059/Darr75thAnniversaryPresentation>

“When the Darrs’ relationship came to my attention, I knew we had to do something to honor this incredible couple,” said Anoka County Commissioner Robyn West. “It’s a joy to be able to present them with this document that ‘started it all!’”

“Their marriage has reached a rare milestone and with it comes incredible perspective,” said Anoka County Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah. “It’s a privilege to be able to present this keepsake to them while hearing stories of their life together and the way the world changed during that time.”

Clelland Rush Darr married Ellen Ruth Rouse June 1, 1937, in Ruthven, Iowa. According to Mrs. Darr it was a double wedding with Mr. Darr’s sister and her groom-to-be. The Darrs now live in Andover, MN.

**-more-**

## Anoka County Commissioners Honor Andover Couple's 75-Year Marriage – Add 1

Anoka County Vital Statistics staff worked with the Darr family to request the official copy of the marriage certificate; the original will remain on file in Iowa.

-30-

### CUTLINE

Photo 1



Photo 2



**Anoka County Commissioners Honor Andover Couple's 75-Year Marriage – Add 2**

Photo 3



Anoka County Commissioners Rhonda Sivarajah, Lino Lakes, and Robyn West, Blaine, present Clelland and Ellen Darr with a copy of their 1937 marriage certificate.

MW:de



# COUNTY OF ANOKA

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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

November 1, 2012

**MARTHA WEAVER**

Public Information Manager

Direct #763-323-5744

E-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

Contact: Martha Weaver, Public Information Manager, 763-323-5744, or e-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **It's Your Money! Anoka County Creates Tool to Claim Outstanding Checks**

Every year, Anoka County writes thousands of checks to individuals and businesses. A small number of these checks are never cashed by the recipient and remain outstanding on the county's books. To help reunite people with their unclaimed money, Anoka County has created the Claim Your Check online tool available at <http://www.anokacounty.us/outstandingchecks>.

"This new tool is a great way for people to reconnect with the money they're due," said Anoka County Commissioner Matt Look, who chairs the county's Finance Committee. "Providing a self-service, online tool is a quick and convenient way to search for an unclaimed check."

By law, Anoka County cannot keep the funds from outstanding checks and must submit the money to the State of Minnesota after it is held for five years. If you believe you received a check from Anoka County but never cashed it, the new Claim Your Check tool can help you confirm an unclaimed check, and provide instructions about how to file an affidavit with the county to ask that a new check be issued.

Users can search for their uncashed check by name, or scan the complete list to see if their name or business name is on it. Then follow the check replacement instructions provided.

**-30-**

MW:de

**Subject:** FW: Transportation Alliance Legislative Committee Nov 15th  
**Attachments:** Legagenda2012.pdf

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**From:** "Margaret Donahoe" <[Margaret@transportationalliance.com](mailto:Margaret@transportationalliance.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2012 2:12:39 PM  
**Subject:** Transportation Alliance Legislative Committee Nov 15th



Please join us in developing our 2013 Legislative Agenda. Last year's Alliance Agenda is attached for your review.

## Legislative Committee Meeting

The next Legislative Committee Meeting of The Minnesota Transportation Alliance will be held on

**Thursday, November 15, 2012**

**\*\*11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
AGC Conference Room, Ste. 110  
525 Park St, St. Paul

Agenda will include:

### 2013 Legislative Agenda

Updates – Transportation Finance Advisory Committee TFAC  
MnSHIP

Transportation Advocacy – New Video, TRIP Report

Please let us know if you are planning to attend  
**\*\*Lunch will be provided for \$10. Please RSVP**

**Phone: 651.659.0804**  
**Fax: 651.659.9009**  
[margaret@transportationalliance.com](mailto:margaret@transportationalliance.com)

Margaret Donahoe  
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Watch What The Alliance Can Do  
For You!

[Click Here to Watch our New 3  
minute Video](#)



**Subject:** FW: NEW Transportation Video from PIM

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**From:** "Margaret Donahoe" <[Margaret@transportationalliance.com](mailto:Margaret@transportationalliance.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 31, 2012 9:02:43 AM  
**Subject:** NEW Transportation Video from PIM

Dear Alliance Member:

I'm pleased to share with you the new Transportation Advocacy video – **Planning Ahead** -- that we produced under the auspices of Progress In Motion:  
<http://youtu.be/HSk7BOJMBFA>

I encourage you to take a few minutes and watch the video. It sends a strong message about the importance of the transportation system for economic development and provides some excitement and hope for the future. We were fortunate to have some real community leaders participate who really made the video more credible with "expert voices." Our videographer – John Kaul – did an excellent job in keeping it moving and interesting for viewers.

We have started running this video on **Twin Cities Metro channel 6**. The schedule is below. We will be distributing the video to cable TV stations around the state as quickly as possible.

Monday 12:30am & 2:30pm  
Tuesday 5:00am & 11:30pm -3:00 am & 1:00pm  
Wednesday 2:30 am & 7:30pm  
Friday 7:30am & 4:00pm – 5:00am & 1:00pm  
Saturday 12:30am, 7:00am & 5:00pm & 1:00pm  
Sunday 9:00pm & 1:00pm

**If you have not yet signed up for our Alliance Annual Meeting and 2013 Construction Forecast on November 1st, please register online at: [www.transportationalliance.com](http://www.transportationalliance.com)**

As always, Thank You for your membership in the Transportation Alliance – you make our transportation advocacy work possible.

Margaret Donahoe  
Executive Director  
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Watch What The Alliance Can Do  
For You!  
[Click Here to Watch our New 3  
minute Video](#)





Investments in transportation infrastructure will:

- Put people back to work in construction and engineering
- Support businesses and industries that rely on moving people and products
- Improve the safety and effectiveness of the system that all Minnesotans use

Transportation Projects are waiting to be let for construction. Let's get Minnesota's economy moving!

## TRANSPORTATION and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA 2012

- **Alliance supports increased funding for all modes of transportation to meet the documented unmet needs on the transportation system statewide.** The 2008 Transportation Funding bill – Chapter 152 – has met a fraction of the identified need. Investments in transportation infrastructure are critical right now while bids are low, interest are low and job creation and economic development are top priorities.

### Capital Bonding for Job Creation

Transportation Alliance supports general obligation bonding to meet the following identified needs:

- At least \$75 million for the Local Bridge Program
- Two-year funding of \$100 million for the Local Road Improvement Program
  - \$40M Routes of Regional Significance Account – including funding for a 10-ton network of county highways
  - \$40M Rural Road Safety Account
  - \$20M Trunk Highway Corridor Account – to match state funds provided for interchange projects
- \$10M for Rail Service Improvement Program
- \$10M to recapitalize the Port Development Assistance Program
- \$9M to fund installation of railroad grade warning devices at railroad grade crossings with paved county highways that currently have no signals.
- Metro Transitways - \$35.25M
  - Bottineau Transitway - \$2.5M
  - Southwest LRT - \$25M
  - Gateway Corridor - \$1M
  - I-35W Bus Rapid Transit - \$6.75M
- Greater Minnesota Transit – \$11.855M
  - Duluth Multi-modal Transit Terminal - \$6M
  - Mankato Bus Garage - \$3M
  - St. Cloud Office and Training Center - \$1.255M
  - St. Cloud Operations Vehicle Storage Addition - \$1.6M

- Northern Lights Express - \$13M
- Minneapolis Interchange Transit Hub - \$19M
- Wetland Mitigation through DNR - \$13M

- **Alliance supports adequate funding for transit systems to maintain current levels of service and opposes further cuts in the general fund appropriation.** The level of funding provided through the metro area sales tax levied by the Counties Transit Improvement Board should remain at 50% of the operating cost for transitways.
- **All revenue from the motor vehicle sales tax on purchased and leased vehicles should be used for transportation purposes only.** Current statute dedicates only the remaining funds after the angel investor tax credit from the leased vehicle sales tax revenue to transportation. The revenue from the sales tax on motor vehicles should be distributed so that when fully phased in, 60 percent of the revenue is used for highway purposes and 40 percent for transit. The sales tax paid on a purchased vehicle should be the same rate charged on a leased vehicle: 6.87% of the price. Any proposals to expand the base of the sales tax and reduce the rate should exclude MVST from the rate reduction.
- **Alliance supports increased funding for the Transportation Economic Development (TED) Account within the Trunk Highway Fund** that uses criteria related to business expansion and job creation in evaluating projects to be funded under the program.
- **Alliance supports increased authorization for trunk highway bonds with additional revenue to pay for debt service on the bonds.** Additional revenue can be obtained from a variety of sources including:
  - **A 2-cent per gallon of fuel fee that is imposed when the petroleum tank release cleanup fee blinks off.** Funds should be deposited in the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund in accordance with Minnesota's Constitution which directs that all motor fuel taxes be deposited in the HUTDF.
  - **Removing certain exemptions in current law from payment of the motor vehicle sales tax**
    - Gifts between individuals
    - Vehicles acquired by inheritance
    - Persons moving into Minnesota
    - Preferential computations that reduce revenue
  - **Increasing and indexing the state gas tax** until an alternative fee structure is in place
  - **Adjusting the motor vehicle registration tax**
  - **Dedicating sales tax on motor vehicle repair and parts or other sales tax revenue.**
- **Alliance supports an annual fee for electric vehicles to compensate for the lack of payment of any motor fuel tax with proceeds deposited in the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund.**
- **Alliance supports the expansion of authority for levying a wheelage fee to all 87 Minnesota counties and the removal of the current \$5 cap for all counties.**
- **Alliance supports authorization for municipalities to create street improvement districts.**

- **Alliance strongly encourages the Metropolitan Council to use its regional levy authority to the full extent authorized by the legislature each year.** Alliance supports broadening the use the transit property tax levied in the metropolitan area to include both capital and operating expenses.
- **Alliance supports the use of innovative financing** for certain projects, including public-private partnerships, where there is agreement between the state and local partners.

### Policy Issues

- 1) Support legislation to improve the transportation project delivery process, including the permitting process in order to speed up the completion of projects and reduce costs.
  - Deadlines for issuing permits from agencies
  - Consolidation of permitting function among agencies including the DNR and MPCA
  - Continuation of the design/build pilot program for counties
  - Elimination of some requirements for projects within the existing right-of-way
  - Increased use of innovative technologies: prefabricated bridges, warm mix asphalt, thin overlays, permeable pavement, safety edge, adaptive signal control technology, intelligent compaction, stone matrix asphalt, rubblization with overlay etc.
- 2) Support financial accountability by addressing any gaps in the current Mn/DOT accounting system as recommended by the Transportation Strategic Management Task Force.
  - Ensure reporting of total construction project cost including engineering, right-of-way, oversight, and supplemental agreements and compare final cost of projects to final public cost estimate and the award price.
  - Track changes in project cost and timing and report on funds expended each fiscal year in all categories versus funds appropriated.
- 3) In the event of a state government shutdown, state permits issued for local road, bridge and airport projects should remain in effect with local governments responsible for meeting all legal requirements of the permits. Additional costs incurred by contractors and vendors related to a government shutdown should be paid out of the state general fund.
- 4) Road weight issues – Support the prohibition of any weight limit exemptions except during harvest and support the ability of counties to establish load restrictions on their county road systems. Support establishing maximum axle weights and gross weights for implements of husbandry. Support eliminating the implements of husbandry exemptions for posted bridge weights and support civil penalties for excess weight. Support eliminating the liability exemption for damage caused by non-weight related unlawful operation on public highway bridges. Permit for timber haulers and unprocessed agricultural products should be reinstated and funds directed to State Aid for bridge inspections.
- 5) Support an exemption from payment of state sales tax for all materials and professional services purchased for transitways, road and bridge maintenance and construction and public works buildings funded with transportation dollars.
- 6) Support the elimination of the requirement that the local option sales tax authorized outside the seven-county metropolitan area for transportation purposes under Session Laws 2008, Chapter 152, be approved by voter referendum.
- 7) Support existing Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) statutory authority, governance and revenue structure which provides critically important authority for metro counties to advance regional transitway development.

- 8) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) - monitor proposals developed by the Collaborative to re-establish the Working Capital Loan Fund and a Targeted Group Business program.
- 9) Support full state funding, from non-transportation funding sources, for mitigation of wetland impact from county and municipal highway projects.
- 10) Funds in the Park Road Account should be used for roadways and associated access points only.
- 11) Oppose increased funding out of the Highway Trust Fund for recreational trails or other non-highway purposes and support a comprehensive study of diversions of revenue from the Trunk Highway Fund.
- 12) Support electronic and photo monitoring for data collection, traffic planning, driver education, and enforcement as a means of reducing road wear, crashes and injuries.
- 13) Expand the transit taxing district in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to encompass the entire seven-county metropolitan region if additional operating revenue is provided.
- 14) Support a constitutional amendment to eliminate the current cap on the amount of state bonds that can remain outstanding for use on rail improvements.
- 15) Support retaining current law regarding mitigation of business impacts due to construction projects.
- 16) Oppose any proposed constitutional amendments that would change the current process or requirements for increasing state revenue.
- 17) Restore the levy authority for regional rail authorities that was lost as a result of the new homestead exclusion.