

Weekly Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Please Note: All Meeting Scheduled for December 4 have been cancelled.

Thursday, December 6, 2012

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

Preview of Next Week

December Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. to hold their regular meeting. There is one item on the agenda for Sketch Plan Review of Seasons of Ramsey; Case of Podawiltz Development Corporation.

Council Update

Comprehensive Plan Amendment (The COR) Review Update. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment for The COR will be officially reviewed by the Metropolitan Council Community Development Committee on Monday, December 3rd at 4:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Council offices. The request is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed by the full Metropolitan Council for final decision on Wednesday, December 12th.

Department Activities:

Building Maintenance

- Install cabinet in Police Department garage
- Set up EDA Networking Event
- Update city vehicle and equipment list
- Move file cabinets for Engineering Department

City Clerk

- 2013 Licensing
- Minutes proofing
- Documents ready for scanning
- Worked with Anoka County on JPA for Elections equipment
- Worked with update supplement for City Code
- Ordinance publications

Engineering

- Sunwood Drive Project – Connexus Energy has informed us that the production of the street lights has been delayed by approximately two weeks by the supplier. We anticipate that they will be delivered next week and Connexus has stated that they will install them upon delivery.

- Rum River Hills Storm Sewer Project – All of the major excavation and pipe installation work is complete. Only minor items and restoration work remains to be completed.

Finance

- 2013 Certification –Preparation of Special Assessment Files and Reports for 2013 Anoka County Tax Certification
- Reconcile tree and sod account – Finalize old outstanding accounts
- Oct Bank Reconciliation
- 8th F&C Draw Request – Final Request for City Payment
- 2013 Council Orientation Packet Update

Fire

- Notable Responses
 - 11/22- Fire in the oven in the 4800 block of 155 Ln NW. Arrived to a fire out situation. Crew checked for extension and ventilated home.
 - 11/23- Assist P.D. at the intersection of Hwy 10 & Armstrong Blvd. Crew removed snow covering signal light lens on Hwy 10 at intersections of Armstrong, Ramsey and Sunfish Lk Blvd.
 - 11/24 – Smoke showing from front door of residence in the 7800 block of 179th Ln NW. Unit arrived to find a smoldering fire under front door and into entry way. Crew extinguished and checked for extension.
 - 11/25- Head on P.I. on Hwy 47 near Trott Brook. No injuries, crew provided traffic control and cleanup of debris.
- Administration
 - Inspection of business for their state license renewal
 - Attended EDA Fall Network Event
 - Met with business to discuss occupant load capacity
 - Met with business to work through over pressure of suppression system
- Training this week: FD Response to Petroleum/Hazardous Material Spills

HR

- Continued open enrollment activities
- Met with new patrol officer
- Prepared orientation materials for new councilmembers
- Met with LELS Patrol regarding the next labor agreement

IT

- New PD cameras for the evidence room courtesy of ISS

Parks

- Staff members staked their plow route in preparation of the oncoming snow events. Back of curb staking helps the plow drivers define the street which reduces scuffing/peeling up of the resident's lawns adjacent to roads and trails
- Finished moving vehicles that are not used during the winter months into water tower storage for the winter including staff cars, mow trucks, etc.
- Park and Rec Intern working on the Facility Use Permit project and is in the fact finding and resources gathering mode at present
- DOC – continuing on boardwalk refurbishing after stacking cutting edges
- Normally non-elven parks' maintenance workers decorated entrances to City Hall with holiday decor

- 🎵 *Santa Claus is coming to town* 🎵 (Possible sightings of Kriss Kringle at The Draw, snooping around the grassy knoll...Staff later dispatched to remove reindeer dung from trail.)

Planning/Building

- Respond to questions re: site plan review in COR TWO Retail Area
- Review Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) opportunities
- Review Tax Forfeit parcels
- Preparation for Metropolitan Council Community Development Committee

Police

- **Sit/Stay.** Officers were dispatched to a call of a 5 year old boy who had a dog choke collar stuck on his neck. The boy had slid the collar over his head but was unable to get it off. Officers were forced to use a bolt cutter to remove the collar. The boy was told he should not ever put anything like this over his head again.
- **Sisterly Love.** Officers received a call of a two car PD accident on Hwy #10. One of the drivers involved stated that she did not have her driver's license with her and verbally identified herself to the officer. The officer ran a check on the driver and was not positive that the picture provided by the State was who he was dealing with. The officer then ran the vehicle registration and recognized the name of the owner as a person who was a suspect of a shoplifting incident at a grocery store last week. The driver denied being the owner. The officer was able to view the picture of the shoplifting suspect and believed it was the driver of the vehicle. In a statement, the officer was able to get the driver to admit that she used her sister's name and DOB and that she was the person that had shoplifted last week. She was booked into jail on charges of Gross Misdemeanor False Information to a Police Officer (name and DOB of another), Driving after Revocation and theft.
- **See, Police Really Don't Like Donuts.** An officer was on routine patrol when he observed a vehicle in Elmcrest Park after hours. The officer stopped the vehicle and the driver indicated that he was just cutting through the park. The officer observed snow dripping from the wheel wells and grass mixed with the snow. The officer checked the soccer fields and found numerous 360 degree circles that had been recently made. When confronted, the driver admitted to doing the "donuts". The City will not know until spring how much damage was done to the park. The juvenile driver was charged at that time.
- **More Burglars Apprehended!** On 11-22-12 at 0338 hrs, officers received a call of a burglary in progress. A Ramsey resident reported seeing someone crawling under the garage door of the house across the street from his. The male was then seen getting into a pickup truck and leaving. An officer was in the area at call time and stopped the suspect vehicle a block away from the residence. The two occupants of the truck were taken into custody and transported back to the scene. Officers were able to match shoe prints in the garage to the passenger of the truck. One of the suspected admitted that they had been in four residences that morning and had been in other homes in previous weeks. Several night time thefts have been reported in recent weeks. Investigators will be working on those cases to attach property to the suspects. The suspects were booked on 1st degree burglary charges.

Public Works

- First minor snow event of the year! We had one truck out Thanksgiving night working on salting arterial roads and four trucks out Friday plowing off arterial roads and salting. We received four calls for slippery intersections from this minor event. Staff finished installing the garage door we salvaged from an earlier demolition project and the pigeons are now looking for new homes for the winter. We have our road grader and one large plow truck out for warranty work/ repairs. Not the perfect time of year for that to happen, but the weather looks good, so it shouldn't be a problem.


Utilities

- Rebuilt a Fluoride injection pump for well #3. After several years of pumping this type of chemical, the rubber diaphragm starts to leak and then the pump will lose its prime.
- Started to locate several water service curb stops at vacant or foreclosed properties. Door hangers have been left and letters have been sent to all addresses and if there is no response, we will shut off the water service in the yard to each site. We do this to help prevent water damage to the houses when the pipes freeze and burst
- Continue to exchange water meters for the water meter exchange program, we started this program in 2008 and to date we have exchanged or updated 3,966 water meters in Ramsey. There are 29 left for this five year program and they should all be completed by December 31st. Several of these are in vacant homes where the water is off, but as they are sold we then have access to the homes at which time we make the needed upgrades

Save the Date:

- **Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Toys for Joy Luncheon** – December 11, 2012 at Greenhaven in Anoka. If you desire more details please contact Jo or visit the Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce Web Page. If you would like to attend, please let Jo know and she will RSVP for you.
- **Annual City of Ramsey Holiday Party**– To be held on Friday, January 4, 2012. Stay tuned for details.
- **Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce Casino Royale Gala Dinner Fundraiser** – February 22, 2013 – Greenhaven. More details will follow as the event gets closer.

Best regards,



/kas

Kurtis G. Ulrich
City Administrator

Attachments: Minnesota Transportation Alliance New Review, November 20, 2012

Subject: FW: Transportation Alliance News Review Nov 20, 2012

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

Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 6:12:49 PM

Subject: Transportation Alliance News Review Nov 20, 2012



Check out our new
video – *Planning
Ahead:*
[www.transportation
alliance.com](http://www.transportationalliance.com)
Spread the link!



Minnesota Transportation Alliance

News Review

November 20, 2012

National

[MAP-21 and Transportation Fiscal Cliff](#) *Sacramento Bee*

In coordination with the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), transportation expert Jack Schenendorf explores the benefits of the recently signed, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), its shortcomings, and what is at stake for transportation in the coming years. Schenendorf notes: "Since MAP-21 does not address the long-term financial viability of the Highway Trust Fund, transportation will face its own 'fiscal cliff' in the next Congress."

This study, outlining the path forward for infrastructure investment, will be distributed to Members of Congress, Administration Transportation officials and other transportation stakeholders in the coming days. To see the full study, please click [here](#).

[NTSB Releases its 2013 Most Wanted List](#) *Thomas Net*

National Transportation Safety Board today released its 2013 Most Wanted List, with six of the ten issues focusing on highway travel where most transportation fatalities take place and includes the number one killer on the list: substance-impaired driving.

The NTSB's 2013 Most Wanted List of transportation priorities includes:

- Improve Safety of Airport Surface Operations
- **Preserve the Integrity of Transportation Infrastructure**
- Enhance Pipeline Safety
- Implement Positive Train Control Systems
- Eliminate Substance-Impaired Driving
- Improve the Safety of Bus Operations
- Eliminate Distraction in Transportation
- Improve Fire Safety in Transportation
- Improve General Aviation Safety
- Mandate Motor Vehicle Collision Avoidance Technologies

State

[Road, Transit Supporters Hope for New Revenue](#) *Finance & Commerce*

Minnesotans may pay more to fuel up, cross bridges and register their vehicles if a set of recommendations going to Gov. Mark Dayton later this week finds support in the DFL-controlled Legislature.

The recommendations come from the state's [Transportation Finance Advisory Committee](#), which has spent the last several months looking at ways to pay for transportation and transit during the next 20 years.

State officials think the highway system could be short as much as \$12 billion in that period and that transit in the metropolitan area could face a funding gap of nearly \$6 billion.

[Minnesota House Names Committee Chairs](#) *Minn Post*

Rep. Ron Erhardt, a former Republican who lost in 2008 after voting to override former Gov. Tim Pawlenty's veto of a gas tax increase, will take over the Transportation Policy Committee as a Democrat this session

Transportation Finance — State Rep. Frank Hornstein

•Transportation Policy — Rep. Ron Erhardt

Local/Regional

[Cayuga Project Team Taking Shape](#) *Finance and Commerce*

The construction team is taking shape for the Interstate-35E Cayuga project, a colossal three-year effort to improve safety and traffic flow on a busy stretch of I-35E in the East Metro.

Funding sources include federal highway money and the state's [Chapter 152 program](#). Approved in 2008, the Chapter 152 program raised the state's gas tax to provide new revenue for roads, bridges, and transit over 10 years.

Margaret Donahoe, executive director of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, said it's good to see projects like this one moving forward as part of an effort to reduce congestion and add capacity in the metro area.

"I think the important thing is that because of Chapter 152 we are able to get those kinds of projects done," she said.

[MnDOT Will Pick Contractors Brains for Highway 101 Job](#) *Finance and Commerce*

Minnesota Department of Transportation officials want to hear from contractors who might bid for the estimated \$42 million [Highway 101 Minnesota River flood mitigation project](#).

On Nov. 20, MnDOT's Eden Prairie resident office will host a "constructability review" of the project, which calls for a 3,000-foot bridge over the flood plain between the existing Highway 101 Minnesota River bridge in Shakopee and County Road 61 in Chanhassen.

The constructability review will allow contractors to meet individually with MnDOT officials and offer ideas about the project, which will upgrade a stretch of highway that has been prone to flooding.

[St. Paul Union Depot Reopens as Transit Hub](#) *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

After two years and \$243 million in historically accurate improvements, the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul will reopen as a transit hub for commuters for the first time in more than 40 years. An all-day public celebration featuring Winter Carnival royalty, the rededication of a Snoopy statue, building tours and a free family movie takes place on Dec. 8.

This is the first time that the 1920s-era facility will be fully open to the public since the last train left the station in 1971.

[Sabo Bridge Reopens](#) *Star Tribune*

The Sabo Bridge over Hiawatha Avenue reopened to bikers and pedestrians on Monday after the completion of work to buttress the support cables that hold up the bridge.

The structural modifications involved beefing up plates on the bridge's tower that anchor the cables. The retrofitted plates replace those that broke last February, releasing two of the suspension bridge's cables

[Bottineau Boulevard Improvements On the Way](#) *Finance and Commerce*

Hennepin County officials, who hope to gradually rebuild the corridor between Minneapolis and Osseo, are finalizing plans to widen and improve a one-mile section between Crystal's Bass Lake Road and 63rd Avenue in Brooklyn Park.

The work is designed not just to accommodate motorists, but also to support the planned [Bottineau Transitway](#), a 13-mile line light rail transit line that would connect downtown Minneapolis and Brooklyn Park. Even though no funding commitments are in place for the \$1 billion line, the hope is to run the LRT tracks parallel to a freight rail line west of Bottineau Boulevard and to add stations at 63rd Avenue and Bass Lake Road.

Other States

[Irrked at Road Funding Impasse GOP Senator Backs Fuel Sales Tax](#) *Washington Post*

A senior Senate Republican is challenging his own party's anti-tax conservatives in Virginia's General Assembly, proposing a sales tax on fuels offset by reduced income tax rates to generate hundreds of millions of dollars for transportation.

Sen. John Watkins of Powhatan told top elected officials from eastern Virginia's largest localities that his legislation would generate \$773 million in its first year to ease Virginia's backlog in maintaining and repairing highways.

[Caution Ahead State Might Push Boost in Transportation Fees](#) *Gazette Extra*

Get ready for a late-winter or spring public relations blitz to try and convince you to pay more to maintain Wisconsin transportation systems, including local roads and aging miles of Interstate. Wisconsin Department of Transportation officials, transportation-group advocates and some legislators agree on what's at stake: If more transportation cash isn't forthcoming, major highways will not be rebuilt, pavement will wear out quicker than it can be maintained, and traffic congestion will worsen.

In January, the Finance & Policy Commission will make recommendations to Gov. Scott Walker, who can follow them or come up with his own ideas when he gives lawmakers his proposed 2013-15 budget early next year. Two years ago, Walker proposed using sales tax money to help cover the transportation funding gap.

[Alameda County Transportation Tax Measure Just Missed](#) *KTVU*

Nearly two weeks after the November election, Measure B1 has missed the required two-thirds passage by several hundred votes, or about 0.14 percent, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters announced Monday.

The measure, which would have raised Alameda County's transportation sales tax to a full 1 cent, garnered 350,899 votes, or 66.53 percent, short of two-thirds of the 527,403 people who cast ballots on Nov. 6, county officials reported.

[Pennsylvania Transportation Funding Plans](#)

Efforts to pay for Pennsylvania's long-term highway and infrastructure needs hit speed bump after speed bump in 2012. But both Gov. Tom Corbett and a senior state lawmaker say they want to smooth the path to a long-term solution in 2013.

In a speech to the Pennsylvania Press Club on Monday, the Republican governor answered with a quick "Yes" when he was asked whether he planned to come up with a way to pay for an estimated \$2.5 billion in road and bridge repairs. But he declined to discuss specifics

An August 2011 report by an administration task force recommended lifting a cap on the state's wholesale gasoline tax and imposing inflationary increases on motor vehicle registration and licensing fees to address a backlog of road repairs and to repair bridges that rank among the worst in the country.

"It's a sign to the business community that government isn't a willing partner," said Tony Iannelli, president and CEO of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. "Inadequate infrastructure causes delays and transportation is the key to success."

[FL and CA DOT Projects Named Best in USA](#) *Thomas Net*

Two high-profile transportation projects took home the top honors in the 5th annual America's Transportation Award competition. The awards were announced Sunday during the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials annual meeting in Pittsburgh.

The Florida Department of Transportation claimed the People's Choice Award for its A. Max Brewer Bridge Replacement project. A record 712,000 online votes were cast for the top 10 projects selected by a panel of transportation judges.

The California Department of Transportation earned the judges' Grand Prize award for its I-405/Sepulveda Pass—Mulholland Bridge Demolition project (better known as "Carmageddon").

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