

**City of Ramsey
Weekly Update
June 6, 2013**

1. **June 6, 2013**

Weekly Update

1.

Meeting Date: 06/06/2013

Information

Weekly Update

June 6, 2013

Attachments

Weekly Update

Form Review

Form Started By: Kathy Schmitz

Started On: 06/06/2013 05:10 PM

Final Approval Date: 06/06/2013

WEEKLY UPDATE

Administrator's Report



June 6, 2013

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

5:30 p.m. – City Council Work Session – Lake Itasca Room

7:00 p.m. – City Council – Council Chambers

Immediately Following City Council – HRA – Council Chambers

Thursday, June 13, 2013

6:30 a.m. – Park and Recreation Commission – Alpine Park (6600 Alpine Drive NW)

Preview of Next Week

City Council Work Session (5:30 p.m. – LIR)

- Authorize County HRA to Perform Economic Development Activities and Requesting/Allocating Funding from Anoka County Housing and Redevelopment Authority toward the Purchase of the Property at 6710 Highway 10 NW
- Review Status and Direction of Elmcrest Park's Community Building Planning
- FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: Receive Update on Housing Assistance Policy Progress by Ad-Hoc Planning Commission Sub-Committee

City Council (7:00 p.m. – CC)

- 15153 Nowthen Blvd Property Development: Consider Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application
- Adopt Ordinances #13-12, #13-13 and #13-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF RAMSEY TO SELL/CONVEY SURPLUS CITY OWNED LAND
- Consideration of authorizing advertisement for bids to pave wear course in Ramsey Town Center 8th, 9th, and 10th Additions.
- Approve Tinklenberg Group Proposal for Additional Professional Services
- Ramsey Rail Station Safety Railing

HRA (Immediately following CC – CC)

- Approve Purchase Agreement for North Commons COR III
- Purchase / Exchange of Property Outlot A RTC 8th Addition (This discussion may be closed to the public)
- Approve First Amendment to the Real Estate Contract Between the Ramsey HRA and McDonalds USA, LLC.
- Adopt Resolution #HRA-13-06-107 Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract for COR TWO (Sunwood Retail) Stage 1 Improvements

Park and Recreation Commission (6:30 p.m. – Alpine Park)

- Consider Volunteer Landscape Improvements for Fox Park
- Commission/Staff Input
 - ARAA's Proposal to Contribute Batting Cages for Alpine Park
 - Status of 2013 Parks Capital Improvements
 - Upcoming Planning for the Proposed Lake and Public Space Within The COR
 - Review May 18 Volunteer Tree Planting at North Commons
 - Update on The Draw Summer Event Series
 - Adjourn to Inspect Alpine Park

Council Update

MnDOT Highway 10 Mill and Overlay Improvement Project – The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) plans to complete a pavement mill and overlay project on Highway 10 this summer between Fair oak Avenue in Anoka and Hanson Boulevard in Coon Rapids. The work will consist of milling the pavement surface and overlaying the underlying pavement section with new pavement, along with improvements to the storm sewer system and adjacent interchange ramps and bridges. In addition, approximately 750 feet of Trunk Highway 47 (Ferry Street) will also be reconstructed where it crosses the BNSF railroad tracks. Work is anticipated to begin in late July, following the Anoka County Fair, and end in September. MnDOT will be holding a public open house on this project on Wednesday, June 19th, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Coon Rapids High School Cafeteria at 2340 Northdale Boulevard NW. Part of the detour route for the work to be completed on the west end of the project may extend into the city of Ramsey. The city is therefore planning to help advertise the open house on the electronic COR reader board and the city's website.

Safety Camp. Safety camp is June 25-26 at Lord of Life Church in Ramsey. Council is invited to attend the Award Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 6/26. Please let Chandra Kreyer know if you are planning to attend.

Community Development/Development Services

- The Community Development Department has provided an update to current development projects and draft policies as part of the Development Update. ***Attached to the Weekly Update is the Development Update.***

Fire

- The Joint Fire Services Study Group will be meeting on Thursday of this week to review the initial consultants report.
- Notable Responses:
 - 5/31- Assist P.D with a reported missing person. 75yr old female with dementia and Alzheimer's wandered away from home. Through unified command, set up search sectors and found her sitting safely in an SUV a short distance from home.

- 5/31- P.I. accident in the 15000 block of Armstrong Blvd. Unit arrived to find a 2 vehicle accident in northbound lane. Crew assisted with patient care and traffic control.
- 6/5- Kitchen fire in the 7400 block of Bunker Lake Blvd. Unit arrived to find fire sprinkler activated and extinguished fire. Crews checked for extension.

IT

- The IT department is currently exploring the benefits and drawbacks to upgrading our current version of Laserfiche to one of the newer versions available. The current version is v.8.1, and the upgrade options are versions 8.2, 8.3 and version 9. Upgrades could be rolled out over a stretch of time because older versions of Laserfiche would still communicate with the updated server version.
- Tomorrow Electro Watchman technicians will be out assisting the IT department with an upgrade on our WinPack server. For those who don't know, our WinPack server controls all the door locks and contains records for the employee ID badges we use. Currently, this system is running an outdated version of the software, and is also running on a computer that has seen better days. We plan on installing the new software on one of our existing servers. This will allow us to create a daily backup of the software and further utilize the existing equipment we have.

Police

- **Finger Lick'en Good.** On Wednesday evening, officers received a call of a fire alarm sounding at the 7400 block of Bunker Lake Blvd. Upon arrival, officers found water flowing out of the front door of the townhome. The fire department arrived and was able to shut off the water flow. A male who lived at the residence indicated that he was cooking chicken in grease on the stove. The grease flared up and he used water to try to put it out, setting off the sprinkler system. As an officer was talking to the male party, he observed what appeared to be marijuana floating in the water and drug paraphernalia in plain view. As officers walked through the residence, they discovered a marijuana grow operation in the upstairs rooms. Two people were taken into custody, 69 marijuana pots were seized, over 350 grams of packaged marijuana, a large quantity of jewelry, and over \$6,000 in cash were also confiscated.
- **Jolly Jumper.** The owner of a company that rents inflatables reported that a giant inflatable slide was stolen from a yard in Ramsey. As the officer was taking the report, the owner of the residence where the inflatable was stolen from arrived and stated that the slide had been picked up already. The employees then observed a similar inflatable slide at the neighbor's residence. They made contact with the company listed on that slide and learned that the employee stopped at the wrong house to pick up their slide. Arrangements were made to get the slides exchanged.
- **Wolf Sighting.** An officer received a call of a possible wolf in the front yard of a residence. The caller indicated that it had not moved in some time. The officer arrived and located a yard ornament.

Public Works

- PW has received several requests this week for barricades, signs and cones for athletic tournaments and 5K runs, so it really must be summer time. The PW department as a whole continues to work on our core maintenance functions. The utility department is starting their sanitary sewer cleaning program. Annually they clean 1/3 of our system and televisive 1/10. This program ensures that our system is working properly and detects any potential problems early. The park department is in full summer mode with mowing, field prep, trash pickup, irrigation, and landscape maintenance. The street department continues to work on potholes, turf establishment, and ROW maintenance.

Save the Date:

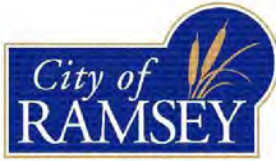
- **LMC Annual Conference and Marketplace.** The League of Minnesota Cities 2013 LMC Annual Conference and Marketplace is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19 through Friday, June 21. Please let Jo know if you would like to attend and if you plan to attend the preconference workshops as well and she will take care of the registration. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a Flyer for the LMC Annual Conference and Marketplace.*
- **Anoka County "Library Express"** is scheduled to have its ribbon-cutting & Open House on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 prior to the Council meeting. The facility is located in the Mississippi River conference room on the first floor of City Hall.
- **2nd Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser.** Saturday, August 17, 2013, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Super Bowl, 6720 Riverdale Drive NW, Ramsey. All proceeds go to the Ramsey Police Explorer POST 3819. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Kristin Camacho, 763-576-4301 or kcamacho@ci.ramsey.mn.us. *Attached to the Weekly Update is a Flyer for the 2nd Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser.*

Best regards,



Kurt Ulrich
City Administrator

Attachments: Development Update
Flyer for the LMC Annual Conference and Marketplace
Flyer for the 2nd Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser
Finance & Commerce: Momentum Building for Highway 10 Improvements
Anoka County Press Release: Cities and Elementary School Honored for Recycling Efforts



City of Ramsey Development Update

June 6, 2013

Report Background

The following report is updated weekly.

Seasons of Ramsey [Updated]

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Seasons of Ramsey is a 50 unit rental townhome development located in the Town Center Gardens plat at the northeast intersection of Bunker Lake Boulevard and Town Center Drive (also known as Center Street). The Planning Commission reviewed the Sketch Plan of the Plat on December 6, 2012. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Plat and reviewed the Site Plan on January 31, 2013. The City Council approved the Preliminary Plat, Final Plat, Site Plan, and associated requests of February 12, 2013. The Developer has submitted an Application for Building Permit.

The Developer was able to successfully close on the Property on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. The Developer anticipates to complete the entire project by December 31, 2013. The City is awaiting a request from the contractor to issue the Building Permit. Leasing information is available at www.essenceproperties.com, 320-255-9910, or info@essenceproperties.com.

Work has commenced and continues on the project. Staff will provide updates as needed.

The Developer has requested minor revisions to the approved exterior materials of the units. A case has been prepared for the June 11, 2013 City Council Meeting. [Updated June 6, 2013]

McDonalds (Sunwood Retail in The COR) [Updated]

Primary Reviewer: Chris Anderson (canderson@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-433-9905)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Site Plan Review for McDonalds on January 3, 2013. The site is located along the re-aligned Sunwood Drive at Armstrong Boulevard, located just north of Northstar Marketplace. The City Council approved the site plan and associated requests on January 22, 2013. The project is now eligible to submit a Building Permit. The City has received an Application for Building Permit.

The HRA approved Plans and Specifications and authorized Staff to advertise for bids for the Stage I Improvements as directed by the HRA for the May 14, 2013 HRA meeting. Initial Building Permit Plan Review has been completed, subject to revisions as requested by the City's Technical Review Staff. Staff also continues work with McDonald's to complete pre-development activities and review the plan sheets submitted for Building Permit review.

The next step in the process is to award bids on the Stage I Improvements, after the posting period is complete. A case to consider accepting bids awarding and awarding a contract is scheduled for the Tuesday, June 11, 2013 HRA Meeting. Construction would be anticipated to start this summer on the Stage I Improvements, with construction of the McDonald's building to follow. [Updated June 6, 2013]

Northgate Performing Arts Center [Updated]

Primary Reviewer: Consulting Planner (Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Site Plan Review and Conditional Use Permit for Northgate Performing Arts Center located at 7295 Sunwood Drive NW (northeast intersection of Sunwood Drive and Peridot Street NW on October 4, 2012. The City Council approved the request on October 23, 2012.

Construction has officially commenced on the facility. [Updated June 6, 2013]

Super America (Sunwood Retail in The COR) *[No Update]*

Primary Reviewer: Chris Anderson (canderson@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-433-9905)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Site Plan Review for Super America located in the Sunwood Retail Center of The COR, along the realigned Sunwood Drive on October 4, 2012. The City Council approved the request on October 16, 2012.

The City is awaiting said submittal of the Building Permit. [Updated March 14, 2013]

North Commons (COR THREE) *[No Update]*

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed a Request for Minor Plat Review of COR THREE, a seventeen (17) lot single-family development located north of Bunker Lake Boulevard in The COR on June 19, 2012. The City Council approved the request on July 10, 2012.

Preliminary grading and utility work commenced at the end of 2012. The Plat will need to be recorded prior to any Building Permit issuance.

On May 28, 2013, the HRA amended the scope of the project to focus on four (4) of the seventeen (17) lots that are located abutting North Commons (park). The remaining thirteen (13) lots that were approved along Bunker Lake Boulevard could be re-evaluated in the future as market conditions improve. [Updated March 30, 2013]

Residence at The COR *[No Update]*

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed the request for Site Plan Review of Residence at The COR, a 230 unit apartment development along Sunwood Drive next to the Ramsey Municipal Center in 2011. The City Council approved the request in November, 2011. The project is currently under construction. The Developer anticipates the opening of a leasing office on a temporary basis in the coming weeks. The Developer desires to open a portion of the project (approximately 50 units) in early May, at which time an existing unit will take the place as the leasing office until the actual leasing/management office is complete. For more information, visit www.corapts.com or call 763-208-5931.

A temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued on approximately 50 units. The Developer anticipates opening the remainder in two (2) phases, with Phase II desired opening in late June. [Updated May 30, 2013]

Stoney River *[No Update]*

Primary Reviewer: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission reviewed the request for Site Plan Review of Stoney River, a 72 unit assisted living and memory care development at the northwest intersection of Nowthen Boulevard and Saint Francis Boulevard in August, 2011. The site is adjacent to the Lord of Life Lutheran Church Campus. The City Council approved the request in August, 2011.

The City has reviewed the Building Permit, and is awaiting final revisions as requested. According to Anoka County Property Records, the site is now owned by First Phoenix Ramsey, LLC. The Developer has stated they anticipate to close on the financing package sometime on in mid-April and has now agreed to submit the required financial surety in the form of the City's standard Letter of Credit.

Staff did receive the required Plumbing Plan Review from the State of Minnesota. Staff is still awaiting revised plan sheets, which are assumed to be under development to complete the Building Permit Review. Staff is also awaiting the required Letter of Credit. [Updated April 25, 2013]

Mary T, Inc. Housing [No Update]

Primary Reviewer: Consulting Planner (Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The City has requested Planning Commission review of a concept plan for housing for disabled veterans on a parcel located within The COR.

The Planning Commission held a work shop to receive a presentation from Mary T., Inc. on Thursday, March 14, 2013. The Developer must now submit the required land use applications. Staff anticipates said applications in the spring of 2013. The Developer has stated they desire to start construction in 2013.

Staff has received notification that the Developer is now exploring multiple options for sites within Ramsey, other than the site originally identified. Staff will be meeting with the Developer in mid-May to discuss potential options. [Updated April 25, 2013]

Housing Assistance Policy [No Update]

Primary Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The City Council has directed Staff to complete a Housing Assistance Policy. The intent of the policy is to provide a framework for which to review requests for housing assistance and provide a mechanism to review proposals for compatibility with the City's housing goals. The Policy was forwarded to the Planning Commission for development. The Planning Commission has established an ad-hoc sub-committee to assist in the development of the policy.

The Housing Sub-Committee has met on two (2) occasions to date. Current accomplishments include completion of an Interim Policy Statement (until the final policy is adopted), agreement on the framework of the policy, and establishment of housing-type priorities. All drafts must still be approved by the City Council. Staff would like to provide a status update with the City Council in June. [Updated May 30, 2013]

167th Avenue Retail Node [Updated]

Primary Contact: Tim Gladhill (tgladhill@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-576-4308)

The Planning Commission and EDA have both discussed the status of the retail node located at the intersection of 167th Avenue and Saint Francis Boulevard (TH 47). The City had previously been asked to review two (2) potential users at 6001 167th Ave NW (indoor shooting range and clothing recycling warehouse distribution. Per EDA discussion, Staff will be setting up stakeholder meetings to discuss a comprehensive approach with all property owners of the node in regards to future land uses as well as mechanisms to achieve desired future land uses. A more detailed summary will be provided following the outcomes of these stakeholder meetings.

Staff has scheduled a Stakeholder/Property Owner Meeting with owners of commercial/retail property in the area for Wednesday, June 5, 2013. The intent of the meeting is to outline options (land use and economic development related) for Property Owners and discuss a unified vision for the future of the current retail node. Staff will provide an update to the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council following the Stakeholder Meeting.

Staff held a Stakeholder Meeting on June 5, 2013. Staff will forward feedback from said meeting in the near future. [Updated June 6, 2013]

Former Municipal Center Future Land Uses [Updated]

Primary Contact: Patrick Brama (pbrama@ci.ramsey.mn.us; 763-433-9903)

In 2006, the City relocated the Ramsey Municipal Center from 15153 Nowthen Blvd NW to 7550 Sunwood Dr NW. The former location still operates as Fire Station #2. The City has been exploring options for future use of this campus and relocation of Fire Station #2. To assist in the analysis of acceptable land uses for this campus for future development, an Open House has been scheduled for Thursday, April 18th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers (7550 Sunwood Dr NW). The Open House will explore options for single-family and data center users. Multiple smaller group stations, with full size maps and ability for written comments, will be available from 6:00 to

7:00 p.m. A brief presentation will be presented, with ability for large group comment, from 7:00 to 7:30 (or until comments are complete). Small group stations will re-convene following the presentation and comment period.

The Open House was held as scheduled despite weather concerns. Staff continues to compile results and comments from that Open House and presented preliminary findings to the City Council on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. Based on the results of that open house, Staff will presenting the detailed results to the Planning Commission, EDA, and City Council in May prior to taking any further steps. It is at this stage that Staff will discuss future direction, if any direction is desired at this time.

Staff has updated the Planning Commission (5/2/13) and the EDA (5/16/13) on the status of the project. Staff will be presenting a case to discuss possible next steps, tentatively scheduled for the June 11, 2013 City Council Meeting. Staff has completed the case to consider submitting an application for Comprehensive Plan Amendment. A detailed timeline is included with the case to City Council. [Updated June 6, 2013]

June Planning Commission Cases

The following cases will be forwarded to the June Planning Commission (details are included in the technical reports to the Planning Commission [www.cityoframsey.com/agendas-minutes]):

1. Consider Request for Site Plan Review and Variance to Front (Side-Corner) Yard Setback for an Expansion Located at 6815 McKinley St NW; Case of Cullinan Rigging
2. Consider Request for Conditional Use Permit to Allow Two (2) Horses on 2.5 Acres Located at 8010 167th Ln NW; Case of Linda Eidem
3. Consider Request for Conditional Use Permit for Motor Vehicle Sales 7820 Riverdale Dr NW; Case of Bethel Properties
4. Consider Request for Conditional use Permit for Oversizing of Accessory Structure Size; Case of Mike and Diane Dahlberg

July Planning Commission Date

The regularly scheduled Planning Commission for July would normally be July 4, 2013. As City Offices are closed that day, the meeting has been tentatively re-scheduled for July 18, 2013.

Detailed Report Information

For more information regarding the project listed above, please contact the Tim Gladhill at 763-576-4308 or visit www.cityoframsey.com/planning-division.



Tim Gladhill, Development Services Manager

Kathy Schmitz

From: Kathy Schmitz
Sent: Wednesday, May 01, 2013 8:24 AM
To: Kathy Schmitz
Subject: FW: Sneak Peek: 2013 LMC Annual Conference and Marketplace Agenda

Begin forwarded message:

From: League of Minnesota Cities <members@lmc.org>
Date: February 6, 2013, 8:57:21 AM CST
To: Sarah <sstrommen@ci.ramsey.mn.us>
Subject: Sneak Peek: 2013 LMC Annual Conference and Marketplace Agenda
Reply-To: League of Minnesota Cities <members@lmc.org>

A first look at what's in store for you in St. Paul this June!

Email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)



Just Announced! Centennial Year Annual Conference Agenda

It's official! The League of Minnesota Cities is turning 100 years old, and we couldn't have done it without you.

So join us in St. Paul in June! This year's annual conference program both builds on the rich history of the last 100 years and focuses on new ideas that will help cities succeed well into the future.

Participate in this two-day event to:

- Enhance your interpersonal and leadership skills
- Hear about legislative outcomes and impacts
- Be inspired during keynote sessions
- Learn about new ways to do the day-to-day work of cities

You'll also have the opportunity to network with your colleagues from around the state—as well as city vendors and League staff.

Don't miss this once-in-a-century celebration!

www.lmc.org/13AC1

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Thanks to our **Business Leadership Council**, who help make this event possible!

League of Minnesota Cities
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Saint Paul, MN 55103-2044

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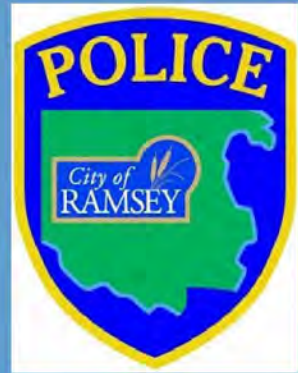
[unsubscribe from this list](#)

2nd Annual Police Explorer Bowling Fundraiser!

**Saturday 8/17/2013
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

Super Bowl
6720 Riverdale Dr. NW
Ramsey, MN 55303

All proceeds go to the
Ramsey Police Explorer POST 3819



Come join us for 2 hours of unlimited bowling + shoes for only \$15.00 per ticket!

Each ticket will also get you 1 entry into our raffle for fun prizes! We will be selling \$1.00 raffle tickets the day of the event!

For more information or to purchase your bowling ticket please contact:

Kristin Camacho
763-576-4304

Kcamacho@ci.ramsey.mn.us



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MINNESOTA LAWYER

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FINANCE & COMMERCE

Momentum building for Highway 10 improvements

Posted: 12:12 pm Mon, June 3, 2013

By Drew Kerr [Finance and Commerce](#)

Tags: [Amy Klobuchar](#), [Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce](#), [Anoka Enterprise Park](#), [Doug Fischer](#), [Jim Deal](#), [Matt Kuker](#), [Metropolitan Council](#), [Peter Turok](#), [PSD LLC](#), [Sarah Strommen](#), [Tim Cruikshank](#)

12:12 pm Mon, June 3, 2013



A freight train travels by the intersection of Highway 10 and Armstrong Boulevard in Ramsey. Because of safety concerns, officials are promoting an overpass that would allow traffic to cross over the freight rail line. (Staff photo: Bill Klotz)

Ramsey developers Jim Deal and Matt Kuker own 50 acres south of Highway 10, where they say a large company would like to locate a 180,000-square-foot regional headquarters and distribution center.

But standing in the way is the Highway 10 and Armstrong Boulevard intersection, an at-grade crossing east of the property that sees vehicles frequently stack up while freight trains lumber by.

Traffic concerns are similarly blocking development on a nearby site north of Highway 10, which has drawn the attention of large retailers, according to Deal and Kuker, a father-son team behind PSD LLC.

As their difficulties persist, the developers have become leading advocates for a \$35 million overpass that would replace the signalized intersection with on- and off-ramps and a bridge over the freight rail tracks, providing the relief they say is needed to put their empty land to use.

“We have a big-box store that’s told me to call them as soon as the Armstrong project is announced,” Kuker said.

No funding for the project has been locked in yet, but local officials are hoping that call can be made sooner rather than later.

After more than a decade campaigning for interchanges at Armstrong Boulevard and four other Highway 10 intersections, officials think they are making the kind of headway needed to begin construction.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., visited Ramsey on Friday to hear from business owners supporting the improvements. The visit came after officials from Ramsey, the city of Anoka and Anoka County traveled to Washington, D.C., earlier this month to make their case.

Besides Armstrong Boulevard, officials are pushing for interchanges at Ramsey and Sunfish Lake boulevards in Ramsey, and at Thurston and Fairoak avenues in Anoka.

Those projects carry a combined cost of \$265 million and are similarly rooted in public safety and traffic concerns. Their cost is higher because they involve shifting Highway 10 west and include additional right of way acquisition.

Once finished, the interchanges would allow the four-lane expressway to be widened to six or eight lanes, elevating it to freeway status and continuing improvements that have already been made in Blaine and Coon Rapids. Highway 10 narrows to four lanes beginning at West Main Street in Anoka.

Local officials are drawing attention to their hopes as they look to win state and federal funding and begin construction on Armstrong Boulevard as soon as 2014. A bid to win state bonding failed during the last session, but state and federal grants that could provide up to \$17 million are pending.

Ramsey Mayor Sarah Strommen, who began working on the issue as a city council member in 2002, said there is a sense that after years of delay the logjam is about to break.

“This is the most momentum I’ve seen during my tenure working on this,” she said.

Armstrong Boulevard is at the top of the priority list because of public safety concerns — emergency vehicles are commonly blocked by passing trains — and growth projections.

An average of 6,600 vehicles per day pass through the intersection now, but that number is expected to triple over the next 20 years as development continues. Ramsey’s population is expected to grow from 28,100 today to 42,500 people by 2030, according to Metropolitan Council estimates.

Across the four-mile section of Highway 10 that officials hope to upgrade, traffic is expected to increase from an average of 36,000 to 39,000 vehicles a day to as many as 48,500 vehicles a day by 2030.

Anoka County Engineer Doug Fischer said that is a “huge amount of traffic” trying to get through signalized interchanges and that traffic has already begun to back up more than two miles during peak periods.

“It’s very difficult to have a queue that’s two miles long when the signals are only a mile apart,” he said.

Tim Cruikshank, Anoka city administrator, said such backups are problematic at Thurston Avenue because it serves as a key entry to the 260-acre [Anoka Enterprise Park](#), north of Highway 10 and Thurston Avenue.

The business park is home to more than 50 businesses, but there are 15 acres of developable property and potential for existing buildings to expand.

“We know that difficulty getting on and off Highway 10 impacts those businesses,” he said.

Peter Turok, president of the [Anoka Area Chamber of Commerce](#), has spent 26 years trying to bring new business to the area and said drawing interest in such a climate has been a challenge.

Turok declined to cite specific examples but said he has seen many cases where business owners have “come, looked, scratched their heads and left” because of Highway 10’s perceived inadequacy.

“The standing joke around here is that if you want someone to come look, don’t have them come at rush hour,” he said. “It hurts you.”

With the improvements, though, Turok said he expects businesses to take a fresh look at the corridor.

“I bet it would be immediate, if not very close to immediate,” he said.



This entry was posted on Monday, June 3rd, 2013 at 12:12 pm and is filed under [Regional Planning & Transit](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.



COUNTY OF ANOKA

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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

June 6, 2013

MARTHA WEAVER

Public Information Manager

Direct #763-323-5744

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

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cities and Elementary School Honored for Recycling Efforts

Anoka County residents recycled nearly 34,000 tons of materials in 2012, exceeding their goal by 14 percent.

Of the county's 21 municipalities, 13 met or exceeded their 2012 recycling goals: Andover, Bethel, Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Columbus, Coon Rapids, Ham Lake, Hilltop, Lino Lakes, Oak Grove, Ramsey, and St. Francis. Their achievements were recognized recently by the Anoka County Solid Waste Abatement Advisory Team, which advises the Anoka County board on issues related to recycling and solid waste management.

"It's remarkable to look at the recycling totals countywide in 1988, when we were just getting started, and compare it with where we are today," said Anoka County Commissioner Jim Kordiak, who chairs the county's Waste Management and Energy Committee. "We've gone from 4,734 tons of recycled materials back then to today's impressive total. It has taken a lot of hard work and persistence to convey the message that it is well worth our time and efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle as many materials as we can."

The City of East Bethel received special recognition for having the most improved municipal recycling program in Anoka County, increasing recycling totals from 158.32 pounds per

-more-

Cities and Elementary School Honored for Recycling Efforts – Add 1

city resident in 2011 to 176.61 pounds per resident in 2012. The city's recycling center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, the city holds special spring and fall recycling events and a once-a-month recycling drop-off event for appliances, auto batteries, computers/electronics/TVs, and tires.

The City of Andover was cited for having the most prolific municipal recycling program in Anoka County. Andover has consistently met its recycling goals every year since 1988. In 2012, Andover residents recycled more than 4,781 tons of materials. Its recycling rate of more than 312 pounds per resident per year for all materials is the highest of any Anoka County municipality. Andover promotes recycling through the city newsletter and website, cable TV, ads in the local newspaper and movie theatre, and flyers. In 2012, more than 411 tons of material was collected at the city's drop-off recycling center and at spring and fall recycling events.

North Park Elementary School in Fridley was honored for enhancing its recycling efforts and establishing a composting program. At a sorting table in the school lunchroom, students separate compostable materials, recyclables, reusable items, and garbage. Compostable material, such as food waste and non-recyclable paper, is placed in a special dumpster where it is picked up once a week and delivered to a commercial composting facility. The sorting table is also used in the evenings at special events where students and staff supervise the separation of materials. Thanks to the efforts of students and staff, the number of lunchroom garbage barrels has decreased from 18 per day to less than one! The school sent more than 12 tons of organic material to the composting facility and recycled more than 11 tons of cardboard, paper, cans, and bottles.

Do you know someone who is extraordinarily committed to recycling? Nominate them for Anoka County's "Recycling Champion" recognition by calling Anoka County Integrated Waste Management at 763-323-5730 or emailing recycle@co.anoka.mn.us.

Cities and Elementary School Honored for Recycling Efforts – Add 2

CUTLINES



Photo 1 – Andover Recycling Award

The City of Andover was recognized recently by Anoka County for having the most prolific municipal recycling program. From left: Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad and Andover Recycling Coordinator Cindy DeRuyter.



Photo 2 – East Bethel Recycling Award

The City of East Bethel was recognized recently by Anoka County for having the most improved municipal recycling program. From left: Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad, East Bethel Recycling Coordinator Carrie Frost; Judy Ricke, Cedar/East Bethel Lions/Lioness Club; and Dallas Jelmsberg, East Bethel Bandits Baseball Team. (Volunteers from the Lions/Lioness Club and baseball team assist with special recycling events.)

Cities and Elementary School Honored for Recycling Efforts – Add 3



Photo 3 – North Park Elementary School Recycling Award

North Park Elementary School in Fridley was recognized recently for enhancing its recycling efforts and implementing an organics composting program. From left: Anoka County Commissioner Jim Kordiak; North Park Elementary School Principal Jeff Cacek; Chris Nelson, North Park Elementary head custodian; Stan Mraz, North Park Elementary science specialist; and Rick Hirstein, Allied Waste Services.

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