



## ANOKA COUNTY

### Regional Economic Development

#### 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

##### **HOSTED EVENTS:**

- Anoka County Business Summit – June 2023
  - o 100 business and community leaders attended. Guests learned about county-level business support programs, business collaboration efforts in Anoka County, and tools to increase digital presence and sales.
- 3M Open – July 2023
  - o Hospitality tent at tournament. Hosted 140 real estate brokers, investors, developers and major industry leaders to promote Anoka County opportunities.
- Anoka County Real Estate Summit – December 2023
  - o 125 real estate brokers, investors, developers and supporting industry leaders. Presentations on Anoka County opportunities, State of the Market, systemic challenges and opportunities for businesses, resurgence of retail, and innovation in housing developments.
- Three “ACRED Partner Meetings” – held every four months. These meetings are gatherings by economic and community development professionals of Anoka County municipalities, regional economic development partners like GreaterMSP and MN DEED, and industry partners Connexus Energy and MetroNorth Chamber.

##### **BUSINESS SUPPORT, ATTRACTION AND PRESENTATIONS:**

- Event sponsor and exhibitor at four Minnesota Real Estate Journal events. Additionally, speaker panelist at two of those events.
- Exhibitor at MNCAR Expo to promote Anoka County opportunities. 750+ real estate focused industry leaders in attendance.
- List city-owned and FSBO development properties on MNCAR, including multiple properties owned by the City of Ramsey. Direct interested parties to contact city economic development staff, and forward inquiries to city staff that come through the MNCAR system.
- Showcase available Anoka County sites and buildings through our website [www.AnokaCountySuccess.org](http://www.AnokaCountySuccess.org).
- 50+ targeted “broker blasts” distributed to local economic development staff. These are wide-spread inquiries from real estate professionals representing businesses that are looking to add locations or relocate, with Anoka County within their search parameters. Support local staff in responses as requested.
- Additional 37 direct business inquiries, including code-name projects from GreaterMSP and MN DEED. Two code-name project “wins”.
- Dozens of presentations to local business groups, including chambers of commerce, city business appreciation events, municipal bodies, and service-based organizations (e.g. Rotary Club, etc.).

**PREDEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM:**

- Created and administered the “Anoka County Predevelopment Grant Program”, which provided grants to support predevelopment work on key sites that have economic importance to a community. Project examples include soil investigation or work, environmental studies, ALTA survey, redevelopment planning or industry-specific needs studies.
  - o 13 grants were awarded, covering eight cities. A total of \$158,000 was awarded.
  - o The City of Ramsey was awarded three grants of \$15,000 each (total of \$45,000) to support soil stabilization work on three development parcels in the COR.

**REGIONALISM:**

- Broadband expansion. Provided support to both private-led and public-led expansion efforts to bring broadband access to underserved areas.
- Anoka County Housing Study participation. County-wide study commissioned by AC HRA, including key metrics to help support economic development decision-making.
- Consulted on various regional transportation improvement projects, including infrastructure expansion and TOD opportunities.
- Supported city-led “needs studies” for targeted industries or redevelopment opportunities.
- Assisted municipalities with navigating Anoka County departments with complex development projects.
- Hosted informational webinar on the Foreign Trade Zone program, in collaboration with all seven metro county economic development teams and MN DEED.
- Promotion of the regionally-significant “Minnesota Technology Corridor”, a collaboration between Connexus Energy and multiple communities in Anoka County and Washington County along the I-35 corridor.