

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

FINAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024

1:30 PM

Chair: Kevin Anderson, District 7

ViceChair: Marion Greene, District 3

Members: Jeff Lunde, District 1

Irene Fernando, District 2

Angela Conley, District 4

Debbie Goettel, District 5

Vacant, District 6

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting

1.A. February 27, 2024 Public Works Committee Minutes

2. New Business

Routine Items

2.A. [24-0103](#)

Neg Agmt PR00005972 with Three Rivers Park District for a project to improve habitat and water quality, from date of execution through 12/31/25, NTE \$12,600

2.B. [24-0104](#)

Amd 6 to Agmt A111206 with The NetWork for Better Futures to recycle appliances, ext period to 04/30/29, incr NTE by \$450,000, total NTE \$1,302,000

2.C. [24-0105](#)

Amd 1 to Agmt PR00004488 with City of Minneapolis for organics processing, ext to 03/31/25 and incr rate by up to 3% annually, est annual expenditure \$181,500

2.D. [24-0106](#)

Amd 1 to Agmt PW 25-34-22 with City of Maple Grove for CSAH 101 rehabilitation, incr NTE \$1,200,000 (county bonds); transfer from CP 2183500 to CP 2174900; incr budget for CP 2174900

2.E. [24-0107](#)

Neg Agmt PW 15-40-24 with MnDOT and City of Hopkins for signal and accessibility upgrades on CSAH 3 at Trunk Highway 169 (CP 2183500); est county cost \$460,000 county bonds and \$60,584 property tax

2.F. [24-0108](#)

Support City of Bloomington's applications for Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program

Items for Discussion and Action

2.G. [24-0109](#)

Neg grant agmts for aquatic invasive species prevention projects, various periods, total combined NTE \$158,788

2.H. [24-0110](#)

Neg grant agmts for Good Steward natural resource projects, various periods, total combined NTE \$146,969; Amd 1 to PR00005065 with Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, incr NTE to \$19,722

HENNEPIN COUNTY

300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN
55487-0240

MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

TMP-0908

Item Description:

February 27, 2024 Public Works Committee Minutes

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024
1:30 PM

Chair: Kevin Anderson, District 7
ViceChair: Marion Greene, District 3
Members: Jeff Lunde, District 1
Irene Fernando, District 2
Angela Conley, District 4
Debbie Goettel, District 5
Vacant, District 6

Commissioner Kevin Anderson, Chair, called the meeting of the Public Works Committee for Tuesday, February 27, 2024 to order at 2:12 p.m.

Present: Kevin Anderson, Irene Fernando, Angela Conley, Debbie Goettel and Jeff Lunde

Absent: Marion Greene

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting

1.A. January 30, 2024 Minutes

APPROVE

Commissioner Irene Fernando moved, seconded by Commissioner Angela Conley, to approve the Minutes.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

Absent: Commissioner Greene

2. New Business

Routine Items

2.A. [24-0071](#)

Agmt PW 59-40-23 with MnDOT for reimbursement of road life consumed by Trunk Highway 101 detour through Shorewood, Excelsior, Chanhassen, and Eden Prairie (est recv \$1,169)

CONSENT

Commissioner Jeff Lunde moved, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Goettel, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

Absent: Commissioner Greene

2.B. [24-0072](#)

Agmts PW 13-27-24 with Excelsior and PW 14-40-24 with MnDOT (1055913) for sponsorship of federal and state grants totaling \$337,000; establish budget of \$337,000 for CP 2230800; amend 2023 Prioritized Bridge Replacement List

CONSENT

Commissioner Jeff Lunde moved, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Goettel, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

Absent: Commissioner Greene

2.C. [24-0073](#)

Various agmts related to Minnetonka Boulevard (CSAH 5) and West Lake Street (CSAH 25) Reconstruction Project; transfer funds (CP 2201100 to CP 2168100); amend budget (est county cost: \$7 million federal funds, \$8,411,802 state aid, \$500,000 property tax; est recv: \$6,713,700)

CONSENT

Commissioner Jeff Lunde moved, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Goettel, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

Absent: Commissioner Greene

2.D. [24-0074](#)

Authorization to submit a grant application under USDOT’s Bridge Investment Program for Hennepin Avenue Bridges Reconditioning Project, County Project (CP) 2164000

CONSENT

Commissioner Jeff Lunde moved, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Goettel, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

Absent: Commissioner Greene

2.E. [24-0075](#)

Agmt CON000000001096 with the U.S. DOA to accept grant for the removal and replacement of trees on behalf of residents with lower incomes, 01/01/24-06/01/29, (recv \$10,000,000; supp app of \$2,000,000 to 2024 Environment and Energy budget)

CONSENT

Commissioner Jeff Lunde moved, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Goettel, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

Absent: Commissioner Greene

There being no further business, the Public Works Committee for Tuesday, February 27, 2023 was declared adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Maria Rose
Clerk to the County Board

Board Action Request

24-0103

Item Description:

Neg Agmt PR00005972 with Three Rivers Park District for a project to improve habitat and water quality, from date of execution through 12/31/25, NTE \$12,600

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate Agreement PR00005972 with Three Rivers Park District to design a habitat and water quality improvement project during the period beginning on the date of execution through December 31, 2025, with the amount not to exceed \$12,600; and that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the County Administrator be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; that the County Administrator be authorized to approve one 12-month extension of the agreement; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

Background:

Hennepin County co-holds a conservation easement over parts of Kingswood Park, which is in Minnetrista and owned by the Three Rivers Park District. Environment and Energy staff and Park District staff work together to complete projects in areas where the Park District and county have shared natural resource management responsibilities and goals are aligned. The county's Climate Action Plan includes a strategy to plan for and mitigate anticipated ecosystem impacts to increase the resilience of the built environment and protect natural resources.

The county and park district will share in the cost of developing a final project design for a water quality and habitat improvement project. The project will stabilize and repair an eroding ravine. A culvert under a gravel road immediately upstream of the ravine deposits stormwater runoff, sand, and sediment near the top of the ravine. Although the erosion is relatively moderate now, as storm flows increase due to climate change, the water quality of the 7-acre pond immediately downstream of the ravine will be affected. The pond contains a tamarack bog, an unusual plant community in Hennepin County, and currently has excellent water quality. By stabilizing this area now, the downstream water quality can be protected, and the costs of a repair will be minor, compared to a project to fix a more severe problem in the future.

This contract will compensate Three Rivers Park District for half the cost of finalizing project designs and securing permits. Three Rivers Park District covered the costs of initial feasibility studies and will apply for state grant funding to support project implementation costs. The county will seek to allocate some funds from Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund grants toward project implementation. The City of Minnetrista and the Pioneer-Sarah Watershed Management Commission have also been engaged in the project.

Current Request:

Approve Agreement PR00005972 with Three Rivers Park District to complete final designs for a water quality and habitat improvement project at Kingswood Park in Minnetrista, during the period beginning on the date of execution through December 31, 2025, with the amount not-to-exceed \$12,600. The request also authorizes the County Administrator to approve one 12-month extension of the agreement.

Impact/Outcomes:

24-0103

This agreement will advance a project to improve water quality and habitat at Kingswood Park and advances coordination of natural resources protection between the county and Three Rivers Park District. This project increases the county's resilience to our changing climate.

Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0104

Item Description:

Amd 6 to Agmt A111206 with The NetWork for Better Futures to recycle appliances, ext period to 04/30/29, incr NTE by \$450,000, total NTE \$1,302,000

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Amendment 6 to Agreement A111206 with The NetWork for Better Futures dba Better Futures Minnesota to recycle appliances, extending the contract period from April 30, 2024 through April 30, 2029, and increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$450,000 to a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,302,000 be approved; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the amendment on the behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

Background:

Minnesota Statutes section 115A.9561 prohibits the disposal of major appliances in municipal solid waste and requires each county to ensure that households have the opportunity to recycle major appliances. The county provides opportunities for households to recycle appliances at the drop-off facilities located in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington.

The NetWork for Better Futures, dba Better Futures Minnesota (Better Futures), has been providing appliance recycling services for the county since 2011 under Agreement A111206, as amended (Resolutions 11-0411, 13-0355, 15-0399, 17-0425, and 21-0354). Better Futures removes hazardous materials, such as refrigerants and mercury thermometers and switches, before the appliances are recycled. The agreement requires Better Futures to submit reports to the county on its recycling activities and comply with appliance recycler standards established in Minnesota Rules 7027.1150.

Better Futures is a social enterprise that provides job training and support services for primarily African American men with histories of incarceration, substance abuse, mental illness, unemployment, and unstable housing. The organization not only focuses on providing short term work, access to job training and job placement but also on community building and renewal, promoting a sense of belonging, volunteer service, and reengagement with family and friends to combat the often-overlooked isolation faced by program participants.

Better Futures reports that its participant recidivism rate in 2022 was 8%, compared to the national rate of 25% for individuals who return to prison within their first year of being released. Further, the average annual cost of incarcerating an individual in Minnesota is over \$62,800 per year, compared to the average annual cost of \$18,626 for each Better Futures participant. Better Futures has calculated a social return on investment of \$3.61 for every dollar invested in its program model.

Current Request:

This request is to approve Amendment 6 to Agreement A111206 with Better Futures to extend the contract period to April 30, 2029, and increase the not-to-exceed amount by \$450,000 to a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,302,000.

Impact/Outcomes:

Amendment 6 to Agreement A111206 with Better Futures will provide appliance recycling services for the county. In 2022 and 2023, Better Futures recycled and removed hazardous materials from 15,698 appliances that the county received at its Brooklyn Park transfer station. Removing hazardous chemicals, such as refrigerants and mercury switches, from appliances prior to recycling prevents these materials from polluting the environment.

Approval of this agreement will support the county's climate, zero-waste, and disparity reduction goals by diverting waste and providing employment opportunities for chronically unemployed men.

Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

Board Action Request

24-0105

Item Description:

Amd 1 to Agmt PR00004488 with City of Minneapolis for organics processing, ext to 03/31/25 and incr rate by up to 3% annually, est annual expenditure \$181,500

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Amendment 1 to Agreement PR00004488 with the City of Minneapolis for organics processing, extending the term to March 31, 2025, and increasing the rate by up to 3% annually, with an estimated annual expenditure amount of \$181,500, be approved; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

Background:

Hennepin County's Solid Waste Management Plan, the Zero Waste Plan, and the Plan to Reinvent the Solid Waste System prioritizes organics recycling as a strategy to help achieve its 75% recycling rate goal by 2030. Recycling organics is the biggest opportunity to make progress toward zero waste because almost one-third of our trash is organic material. Organics include food scraps, food-soiled paper, and certified compostable plastic bags and foodware.

Diverting organic material from the trash is one of the foundational strategies in the county's Climate Action Plan. Keeping organics out of the trash helps reduce methane emissions from landfills. In the first 20 years after its release, methane is 84 times more potent of a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Due to rapid emissions reductions associated with reducing methane, climate experts have identified reducing methane from landfills as a priority in combating climate change. In addition, the Climate Action Plan calls for the use of compost as a soil amendment to increase carbon sequestration.

As an incentive to recycle organics, Hennepin County collects organics at the Brooklyn Park Transfer Station and charges a tipping fee of \$35 per ton. Almost 40% of all the organics collected in Hennepin County flow through the transfer station. However, the City of Minneapolis cannot deliver the 6,000 tons of organics collected in its residential recycling program to the county's transfer station due to space constraints. The space at the transfer station for organics is near capacity and has a layout that causes operational challenges.

Instead, the City of Minneapolis uses a different facility for organics processing services and currently pays a rate of \$79.68 per ton, which is \$44.68 per ton higher than the county's \$35 per ton fee. Beginning April 1, 2024, the organics processing rate paid by the City of Minneapolis will increase to \$82.07 per ton, which is \$47.07 per ton higher than the county's \$35 per ton fee. Agreement PR00004488 provides a mechanism for the county to pay the City of Minneapolis a per-ton payment for organics delivered to other facilities to ensure that the City of Minneapolis pays a competitive rate that is consistent with what other cities pay.

Minneapolis has been a leader in adopting the best practices needed to increase access to organics recycling, grow participation rates, and maximize the recovery of organics. Minneapolis has signed up more than 50% of households for organics recycling (over 56,000 households) and diverts more than every other city program combined.

Current Request:

This request seeks approval of Amendment 1 to Agreement PR00004488 with the City of Minneapolis for organics processing, extending the term to March 31, 2025 and allowing payments to increase annually up to 3%, with an estimated annual expenditure amount of \$181,500.

Impact/Outcomes:

This agreement will provide a per-ton organics rate for Minneapolis that is consistent with the rate other cities pay for organics disposal. The agreement will allow the city to keep the cost of residential organics reasonable and redirect resources toward efforts to increase participation and divert even more organics from the trash. Organics recycling is a crucial strategy for making progress toward the county's zero waste goals and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and their impact on climate change.

This action supports the county's disparity reduction efforts by reducing disparities associated with the solid waste system and the impacts of climate change.

Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0106

Item Description:

Amd 1 to Agmt PW 25-34-22 with City of Maple Grove for CSAH 101 rehabilitation, incr NTE \$1,200,000 (county bonds); transfer from CP 2183500 to CP 2174900; incr budget for CP 2174900

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to execute Amendment 1 to Agreement PW 25-34-22 with the City of Maple Grove for cost participation and maintenance responsibilities for County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 101 (Troy Lane) between 73rd Avenue to 83rd Avenue, county project (CP) 2174900, increasing the county cost participation by \$200,000 to a new not to exceed of \$1,200,000; that upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the amendment on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that \$200,000 in county bonds be transferred from CP 2183500 - Cost Participation and Partnerships to CP 2174900 - CSAH 101 - Participate in Maple Grove rehab from 73rd Avenue to 83rd Avenue, increasing the total budget for CP 2174900 from \$1,000,000 to \$1,200,000 as part of the 2024 Capital Budget; and that the Controller be authorized to transfer and disburse funds as directed.

Background:

The City of Maple Grove, in partnership with the county, led a roadway project along Troy Lane with improvements to accessibility, multiuse trails, drainage, retaining walls, and pavement condition.

Project construction began in 2022 with substantial completion in 2023. During construction, unforeseen site conditions increased county project costs. Amendment 1 to Agreement PW 25-34-22 will increase the county cost participation by \$200,000, to a new not to exceed amount of \$1,200,000.

County funding for the additional cost participation is available in CP 2174900 with the transfer of \$200,000 from CP 2183500.

Current Request:

This request seeks authorization to execute Amendment 1 to Agreement PW 25-34-22 with the City of Maple Grove for cost participation and maintenance responsibilities for Troy Lane rehabilitation, CP 2174900, at a county cost not to exceed \$1,200,000.

Impacts/Outcomes:

This action supports the county's Mobility 2040 goals, climate action and disparity reduction efforts by improving accessibility, mobility, and safety for people walking and biking and extends the life of county assets.

Budget table 1: 2174900 CSAH 101 - Participate in MG rehab fr 73rd Ave to 83rd Ave

REVENUE	Budget to Date	Current Request	Future CIP Requests	Total
Bonds - GO Roads	1,000,000	200,000		1,200,000
Total	\$1,000,000	\$200,000		\$1,200,000
EXPENSE	Budget to Date	Current Request	Future CIP Requests	Total
Construction	1,000,000	\$200,000		1,200,000
Total	\$1,000,000	\$200,000		\$1,200,000

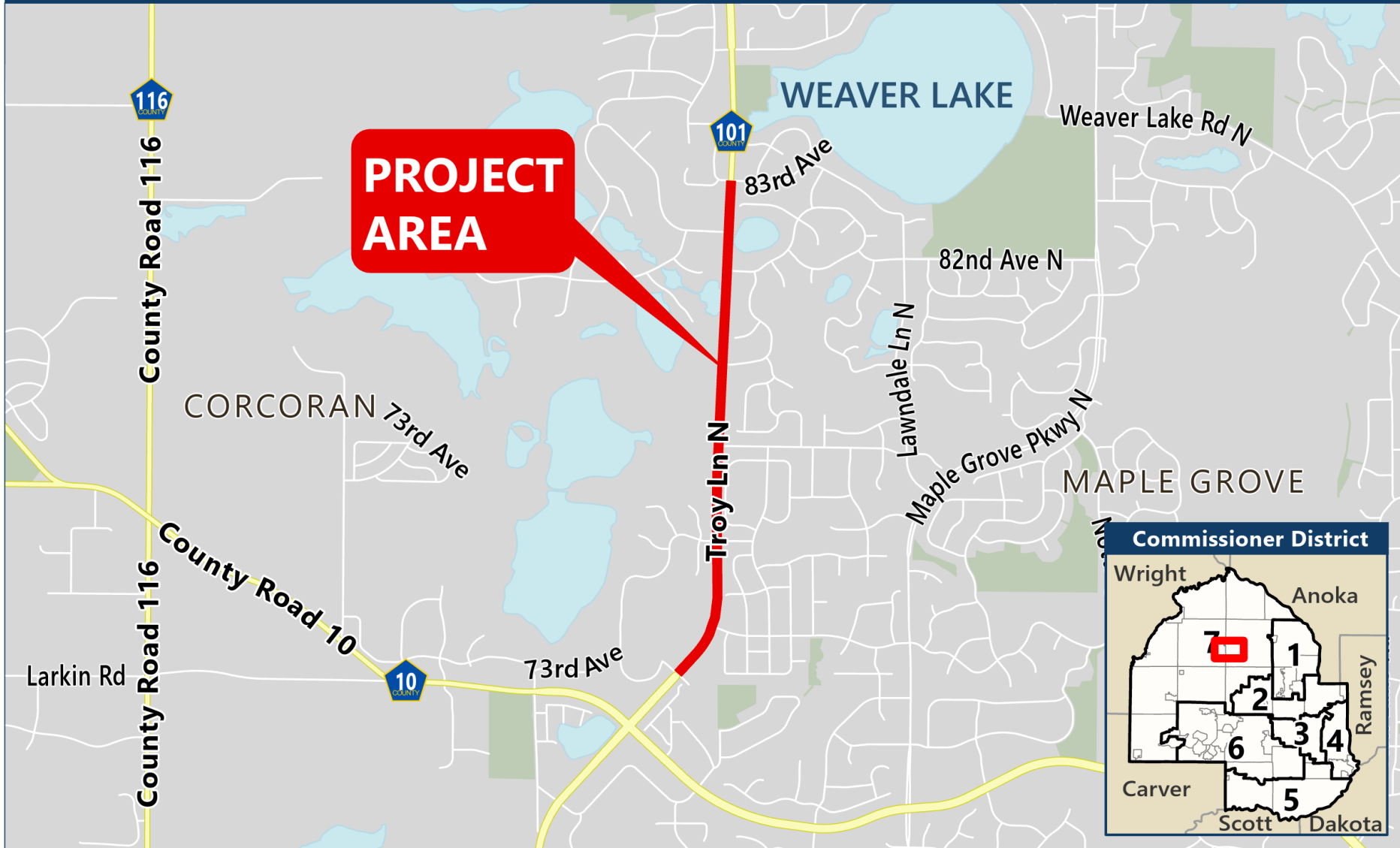
Budget table 2: CP 2183500 - Cost Participation and Partnerships 2024

REVENUE	Budget to Date	Current Request	Future CIP Requests	Total
Property Tax	2,425,000			2,425,000
County Bonds	7,510,000	(200,000)		7,310,000
State Aid Regular	3,225,000			3,225,000
Bloomington	30,000			30,000
Brooklyn Park	45,000			45,000
Corcoran	15,000			15,000
Dayton	30,000			30,000
Edina	30,000			30,000
Medina	15,000			15,000
Minnetonka	60,000			60,000
New Hope	52,500			52,500
Plymouth	20,598			20,598
Total	\$13,458,098	(\$200,000)		\$13,258,098
EXPENSE	Budget to Date	Current Request	Future CIP Requests	Total
Construction	13,458,098	(200,000)		13,258,098
Total	\$13,458,098	(\$200,000)		\$13,258,098

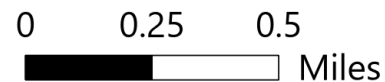
Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

CP 2174900

CSAH 101 (Troy Ln) Roadway Rehabilitation in Maple Grove | Amendment 1 to PW 25-34-22



BAR map date:
2/20/2024



MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0107

Item Description:

Neg Agmt PW 15-40-24 with MnDOT and City of Hopkins for signal and accessibility upgrades on CSAH 3 at Trunk Highway 169 (CP 2183500); est county cost \$460,000 county bonds and \$60,584 property tax

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate Agreement PW 15-40-24 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the City of Hopkins for signal replacement and pedestrian ramp upgrades on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 3 (Excelsior Boulevard) at Trunk Highway (TH) 169, county project (CP) 2183500, at an estimated county cost of \$520,584; that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

Background:

MnDOT, in collaboration with the City of Hopkins and the county, is leading a project to improve safety at the east and west ramps of TH 169 at Excelsior Boulevard. The project, scheduled to begin construction in spring 2024, includes traffic signal replacements, pedestrian crossing enhancements, accessibility upgrades, and improvements to pavement, grading and drainage.

This agreement identifies MnDOT as the lead agency to design and deliver the project and assigns maintenance responsibilities after project completion. The county's cost participation is estimated at \$520,584, with funding available in CP 2183500 Cost Participation and Partnerships and expenses tracked in its associated sub-project CP 2183519.

Current Request:

This request seeks authorization to negotiate Agreement PW 15-40-24 with MnDOT and the City of Hopkins for signal replacement and pedestrian ramp upgrades on Excelsior Boulevard at TH 169, at an estimated county cost of \$520,584, CP 2183500.

Impacts/Outcomes:

These improvements will support the county's Mobility 2040 goals, climate action and disparity reduction efforts by improving accessibility, mobility, and safety for multimodal transportation.

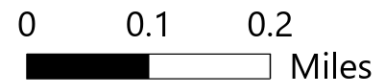
Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

CP 2183519 | PW 15-40-24

CSAH 3 (Excelsior Blvd) Traffic Signal Replacement Project at TH 169 in the City of Hopkins



BAR map date:
1/31/2024



MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0108

Item Description:

Support City of Bloomington's applications for Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program

WHEREAS:

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has given notice that funding through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Program is available; and

WHEREAS, a county board resolution is needed as part of the application to satisfy SRTS Infrastructure Program eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has requested county support for its 2023 SRTS Infrastructure Program applications.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Hennepin County supports applications for the following projects submitted by the City of Bloomington as part of the 2023 SRTS Infrastructure Program Grant Solicitation:

- County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 34 (Normandale Boulevard) Multimodal Improvements Project between CSAH 1 (Old Shakopee Road) and 94th Street
- Bloomington Schools Districtwide School Zone Speed Limit Project, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that sponsorship and acceptance of grant funding for the abovementioned projects by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners does not imply a continued commitment by the county for these projects when grant funds are no longer available.

Background:

MnDOT's SRTS Infrastructure Program provides assistance in capital investments for safe and appealing nonmotorized transportation to and from schools. The Program provides funding assistance to schools, townships, cities, counties, and federally recognized Indian tribes for projects that enable students to walk and bike to and from schools.

The 2023 SRTS Infrastructure Program Grant Solicitation includes \$10.9 million in general funds made available through the 2023 Legislative Session for projects to be constructed in 2024 or 2025. The maximum project award is \$1 million, with no local match required. MnDOT evaluates applications based on the following criteria: eligibility, project scope, safety, risk mitigation, local SRTS planning efforts, and equity considerations.

Upon release of the 2023 SRTS Infrastructure Program Grant Solicitation, the City of Bloomington requested county support for two applications to be submitted by the city. Applications were due on February 2, 2024, and awards are anticipated to be announced by May 2024. If successful in securing SRTS Infrastructure Program funds, the city will be responsible for leading the projects.

Current Request:

24-0108

This request seeks to provide support to the City of Bloomington for two grant applications for the 2023 SRTS Infrastructure Program:

- CSAH 34 Multimodal Improvements Project between CSAH 1 and 94th Street
- Bloomington Schools Districtwide School Zone Speed Limit Project. The project would include the evaluation of school sites, analysis, preparation of plans, construction, and sign installation.

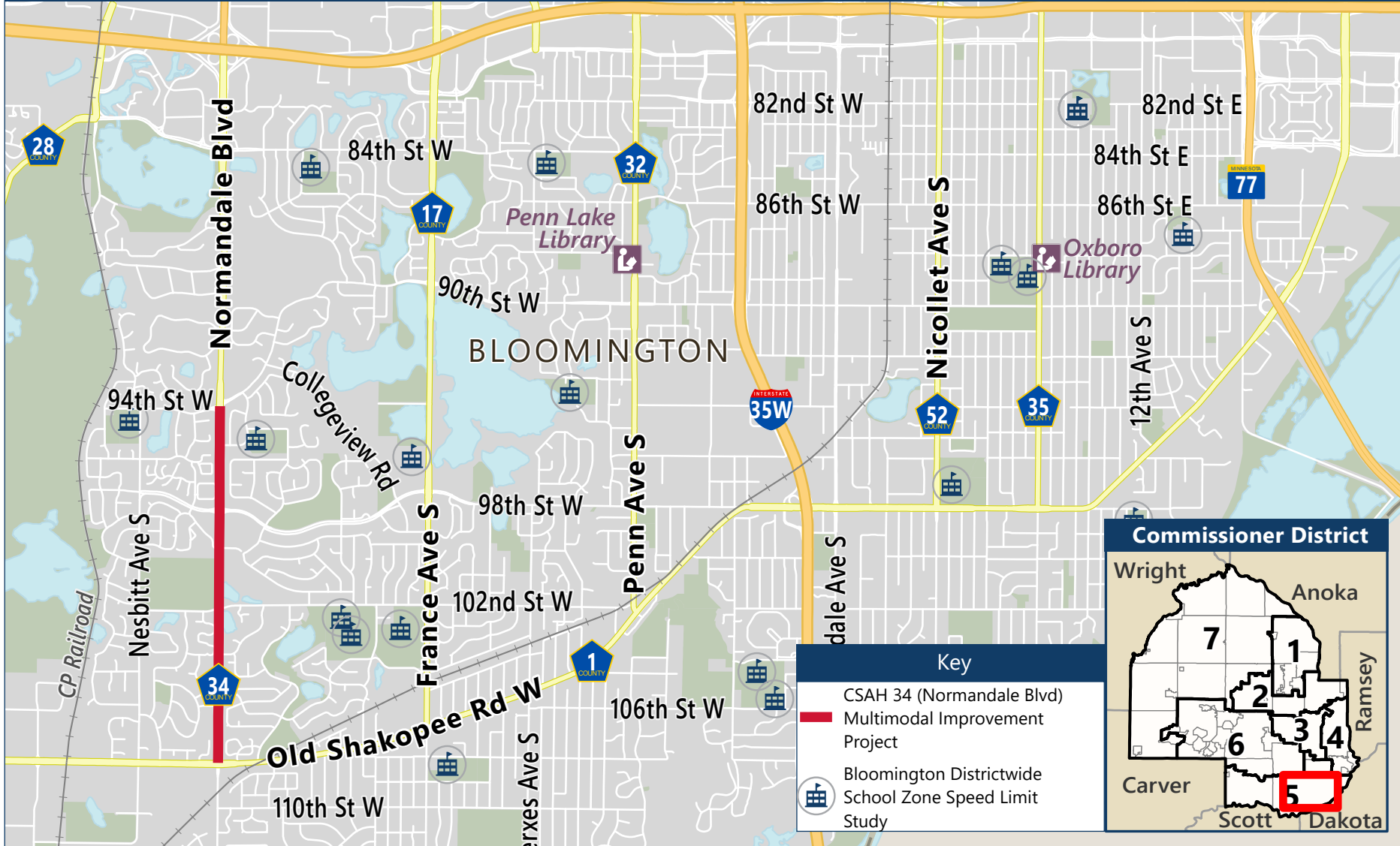
Impacts/Outcomes:

Approval of this request will provide support for two City of Bloomington grant applications through the 2023 SRTS Infrastructure Program for projects that will create safe routes to walk and bike to and from school.

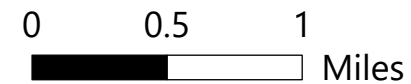
Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

2023 SRTS Infrastructure Program Applications

Project Locations



BAR map date:
1/30/2024



MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0109

Item Description:

Neg grant agmts for aquatic invasive species prevention projects, various periods, total combined NTE \$158,788

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate the following grant agreements to provide funding for aquatic invasive species prevention projects during a one-year period beginning on the date of execution:

- PR00006008 with Bolton and Menk Inc., with the amount not to exceed \$17,950;
- PR00006007 with Bolton and Menk Inc., with the amount not to exceed \$18,348;
- PR00005999 with Waterfront Restoration, LLC, with the amount not to exceed \$30,000;
- PR00006003 with Friends of the Mississippi, with the amount not to exceed \$15,410;
- PR00006000 with Lake Minnetonka Association, with the amount not to exceed \$7,000;
- PR00006001 with WaterGuards LLC, with the amount not to exceed \$23,400;
- PR00006004 with Wildlife Forever, with the amount not to exceed \$11,000;
- PR00006005 with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, with the amount not to exceed \$15,000;
- PR00006002 with Fish Lake Area Residents Association, with the amount not to exceed \$7,000;
- PR00006006 with Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, with the amount not to exceed \$13,680; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the County Administrator be authorized to sign the agreements on behalf of the county; that the County Administrator be authorized to approve one 12-month extension of the agreements; that costs incurred by the grantees after the board approval date be eligible for reimbursement upon execution of the agreements; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

Background:

Aquatic invasive species (AIS), such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil, threaten natural resources and can cause economic, environmental, and human health risks. Lakes and other water resources throughout the county have been negatively affected by AIS or are highly vulnerable to the introduction of new AIS. Preventing the introduction of new infestations is the foremost strategy because often no remedy is available and effective after AIS becomes established in a water body.

The State of Minnesota started allocating funding to counties in 2014 to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of AIS. Counties may use the funding for their own projects and programs or may provide funding to other entities in the county.

The Hennepin County Board designated oversight of the AIS Prevention Aid program to the County Administrator and delegated to the County Administrator the responsibility to prepare and implement guidelines for use of aid received for the prevention of AIS (Resolution 14-0438). Since 2014, the county has received a total of \$2,985,856 in AIS Prevention funding.

In the fall 2023, the county released its ninth request for project proposals that prevent the introduction or limit the spread of AIS. Local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and academic institutions were eligible to apply.

The request for proposals was promoted through city, watersheds, and other natural resource partners, email lists, and the Environment and Energy Department's e-newsletter Green Notes. The county received 16 project proposals requesting a total of \$303,377.

The requests were reviewed and recommended by a six-member committee consisting of both internal and external staff and AIS professionals, including one member from the University of Minnesota Invasive Species Research Center. The grant applications recommended for awards were projects that focus on preventing the spread of AIS with reasonable and measurable outcomes. Successful applicants clearly described the need for the funding and demonstrated the capacity and commitment to implement the proposed projects and comply with grant administration requirements.

In addition to making grant awards through the annual request for proposals, funding is also used to:

- Support AIS inspection programs operated by Three Rivers Park District, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the Christmas Lake Association (the only lake association in the county that operates a watercraft inspection program);
- Work with partners to install infrastructure at public water access points that encourage AIS prevention behaviors; and
- Undertake additional projects as necessary to ensure that programming is comprehensive in addressing all important AIS transmission pathways.

Current Request: This request is to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate ten agreements to provide funding for aquatic invasive species prevention projects with the following organizations:

- Bolton and Menk, Inc.
 - \$17,950. This project will focus on AIS survey training, technical assistance, and early detection work. This empowers lake groups and residents throughout the county with training to conduct their own lake surveys alongside a professional limnologist.
 - \$18,348. This project addresses risks from pets and plants that are invasive and harmful to ecosystems when released into our lakes. They will work with fourth and fifth grade students including the creation of a 10-minute video.
- Waterfront Restoration LLC - \$30,000. This project will provide Watercraft Ambassadors at up to six high risk county public accesses. The Ambassadors will educate and teach boaters with all interactions focusing on promoting correct boater self-inspection.
- Friends of the Mississippi River - \$15,410. This project is part of its Environmental Stewardship Institute, a youth development program that offers education and career exploration for students of color. The youth will develop and disseminate outreach materials to approximately 500 residents about the threat of invasive species and the importance of limiting the spread of invasive carp.
- Lake Minnetonka Association - \$7,000. The Lake Minnetonka Association will oversee the survey of a two-acre or larger area around 16 public and private accesses on Lake Minnetonka, focusing on any early detection of starry stonewort.
- WaterGuards, LLC - \$23,400. This is a watercraft inspection program spread throughout the county

that also focuses on education and encouraging boaters to take the right actions to prevent AIS. These inspections are randomly conducted from Fishing Opener to Labor Day and focus on accesses without a watercraft inspection program or at times when inspectors are not typically present.

- Wildlife Forever - \$11,000. This project will join the nationwide Clean Drain Dry initiative and the Minnetonka Power Squadron, a boating club focused on improving boater safety, on Lake Minnetonka. Signage, posters, graphics, and branded materials will be distributed at the Power Squadron HQ and website along with local events including the Minneapolis Aquatennial, MN Wakesurf Championship, and Spirit of the Lakes fireworks and parade.
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board - \$15,000. This project will upgrade the AIS informational kiosk at Bde Maka Ska boat launch. Using lessons learned over a decade, the kiosk will be designed to enhance the engagement and education of AIS prevention of an anticipated 8,000 people annually.
- Fish Lake Area Residents Association - \$7,000. The applicant will provide watercraft inspections in May and September at the Fish Lake public access during periods when the existing programs have minimal coverage.
- Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission - \$13,680. Milfoil was identified for the first time in the fall of 2023 on Sweeney Lake in Golden Valley. This project aims to survey and eradicate milfoil before it becomes an established population.

The request is also for the approval to reimburse costs incurred by the grantees after the board approval date and upon execution of the grant agreements.

Impact/Outcomes:

The recommended projects will prevent and slow the spread of AIS by supporting early detection/rapid response, education, access re-design, and watercraft inspection with added focus on encouraging action when inspectors are not present. Some projects will develop education and outreach materials and implement them with a focus on reaching students of color.

The grantees will be required to collect data and submit final reports specific to project goals. This includes information such as the number of people reached, the number of watercraft inspected or decontaminated, pictures of the final products in use, or the conclusions for the specific project. The information and results from these projects will be used by county staff and shared with other water resource professionals to support and develop future AIS prevention work.

Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0110

Item Description:

Neg grant agmts for Good Steward natural resource projects, various periods, total combined NTE \$146,969; Amd 1 to PR00005065 with Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, incr NTE to \$19,722

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate the following grant agreements to provide funding for Good Steward natural resources projects during a two-year period beginning on the date of execution:

- PR00006028 with SN Botanical Services, LLC, with the amount not-to-exceed \$16,219
- PR00006030 with Xcel Energy, with the amount not-to-exceed \$6,200
- PR00006031 with Great River Greening, with the amount not-to-exceed \$25,000
- PR00006026 with Wado, LLC, with the amount not-to-exceed \$25,000
- PR00006029 with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, with the amount not-to-exceed \$15,000
- PR00006025 with Conservation Minnesota, with the amount not-to-exceed \$14,550
- PR00006027 with Aaron and Angelica Evens, with the amount not-to-exceed \$25,000
- PR00006032 with Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, with the amount not to exceed \$20,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the County Administrator be authorized to sign the agreements on behalf of the county; that costs incurred by the grantees after the board approval date be eligible for reimbursement upon execution of the agreements; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Amendment 1 to Agreement PR00005065 with the Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center, increasing the grant amount to \$19,722, be approved; that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the County Administrator be authorized to sign the Amendment on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

Background:

Natural Resources grants support Hennepin County residents with implementing conservation practices that preserve and restore critical habitats, reduce erosion, protect groundwater, and improve water quality. Eligible applicants include landowners, businesses, government agencies, and other organizations. Since 2016, the program has invested more than \$2 million across the county, leveraging more than \$13 million in other contributions from applicants and their partners.

Two types of grants are available through the Natural Resource grant program: Good Steward and Opportunity grants. Good Steward grants are primarily focused on supporting smaller project installations that provide significant community, water, and natural resource benefit. The grant reimburses up to 75% of project design and installation costs, while the applicants (and/or partners) contribute at least 25% of project costs which can be provided through cash or in-kind labor and support.

In 2023, the County solicited for and received applications for Good Steward grants. The solicitation occurred from September to mid-November. County staff marketed the opportunity through email lists, social media posts, and updates in Environment and Energy's e-newsletter Green Notes. Staff also hosted a workshop to discuss program and application specifics with potential applicants. The request for proposals generated 24 applications requesting \$397,304, which leverages a total of \$692,567 in projects across the county.

A review panel was convened to review each application based on the project scope and how well the project addresses several program requirements listed in the application and program guidelines. Guidelines include water quality and/or habitat improvement benefits, education and community outreach, project readiness, and community benefits to reduce racial disparities and/or address climate impacts. The panel included four staff from the county's Environment and Energy department and an external partner. The panel's recommendations for grant funding are below.

Current Request:

This request is to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate eight agreements to provide funding for natural resource Good Steward grant projects with the following organizations.

- SN Botanical Services, LLC (Minneapolis). The Corcoran Pollinator Project plans to install four boulevard/yard bioswales, grow native plants, and work with residents to establish more native plantings in the community. The projects will increase neighborhood biodiversity, improve water quality, and educate residents about the benefits of stormwater infrastructure and native plants.
- Xcel Energy (Bloomington) - In collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the city of Bloomington, Xcel Energy plans to convert 4 acres of turf grass into native prairie habitat under electric transmission lines, adding to 19 acres of restored prairie already installed in this transmission corridor since 2017.
- Great River Greening (Minneapolis) - In partnership with the Division of Indian Works, this project will improve stormwater management at the Division's building on Lake Street. The project includes installation of a rainwater and ceremonial garden, removal of invasive species, and installation of stormwater swales and a retaining wall.
- Wado, LLC (Minneapolis) - Wado LLC, owner of a commercial building in Minneapolis' Bryant neighborhood near George Floyd Square, will install a rain garden and rainwater capture cistern and work with a Dakota/Lakota artist to create a mural and select culturally relevant plants to educate community members.
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (St. Anthony) - The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board plans to create a native pollinator planting demonstration site, replacing 1.28 acres of mowed turf grass with native plantings at Francis A. Gross Golf Course.
- Conservation Minnesota (Minneapolis) - Conservation Minnesota plans to work with seven neighborhood associations around Minneapolis' Chain of Lakes to launch a multi-neighborhood Adopt-a-Drain initiative to reach 25% storm drain adoption in the Bde Maka Ska and Lake of the Isles communities.
- Aaron and Angelica Evens (Dayton) - Homeowners plan to address streambank erosion along the Crow River by restoring 78 linear feet of highly eroded streambank that has contributed approximately 150,000 cubic feet of sediment to the Crow River.
- Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (Minneapolis) - The Northside Residents Redevelopment

Council plans to convert existing concrete walkways to permeable pavement and work with volunteers to establish native prairie habitat around the walkways at its Demonstration Site for Healthy Urban Living.

The request is also for the approval to reimburse costs incurred by the grantees after the board approval date and upon execution of the grant agreements.

These agreements are funded by energy sales revenues received in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund.

Impact/Outcomes:

The Natural Resources grants will provide funds to protect water quality, enhance natural resources, and mitigate and adapt to climate change countywide. These grants will help implement stormwater best management practices, which slow the flow of water to allow it to filter through soil and filter out pollutants before it reaches the county's lakes, streams, and rivers.

Recommended projects will remove and replace impervious surfaces; increase pollinator habitat; capture stormwater on-site and infiltrate it through rain gardens, native plantings, and permeable pavement; prevent erosion through riverbank stabilization; increase storm drain adoption rates; and engage with communities through art and direct action.

Six of the eight projects are in communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change. Some of these projects include educational components that are both driven by, intended for, and accessible to the communities in which they are proposed.

Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval