



# Dakota County

## Physical Development Committee of the Whole

### Minutes

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Tuesday, April 15, 2025

9:30 AM

Conference Room 3A, Administration  
Center, Hastings

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(or following General Government and Policy)

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m. by Commissioner Holberg.

**Present**

- Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Commissioner Joe Atkins
- Commissioner Laurie Halverson
- Commissioner William Droste
- Commissioner Liz Workman
- Chairperson Mary Liz Holberg
- Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; Georg Fischer, Physical Development Division Director; Liz Hansen, Administrative Coordinator.

The audio recording of this meeting is available upon request.

#### 2. Audience

Commissioner Holberg asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to address the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda. No one came forward and no comments were submitted to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us.

#### 3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

##### 3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Laurie Halverson

Ayes: 7

#### 4. Consent Agenda

##### 4.1 Approval Of Minutes Of Meeting Held On March 18, 2025

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Laurie Halverson

Ayes: 7

**4.2** Authorization To Execute Joint Powers Agreements With Independent School District 199, And Inver Hills Community College For Interpretive And Wayfinding Installations And Programming Implementation Along Unity Trail

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Laurie Halverson

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Parks Visitor Services Plan directed staff to increase awareness of Dakota County Parks and its services across all communities, including current users, new users, and under-represented groups; and

WHEREAS, the Unity Trail project includes the construction of seven interpretive and wayfinding nodes along a five-mile loop to create connections between the Mississippi Regional Greenway and important Community Centers; and

WHEREAS, the Unity Trail project will provide outreach programming at different locations to raise awareness of the Unity Trail and its themes and activate the Trail; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County and Inver Hills Community College are governmental units as that term is defined in Minn. Stat. § 471.59; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 471.59 authorizes State and local governmental units to jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties; and

WHEREAS, Inver Hills Community College has requested the County include as part of the Community Project certain interpretive signage and public art benches to be located along trail extensions from the Greenway on College property; and

WHEREAS, a joint powers agreement (JPA) with Inver Hills Community College to design and install interpretive signage and public art benches to be located along trail extensions from the Greenway on College property would enhance the trail by providing the public additional spaces for outdoor experiences and increased connections to the Unity Trail and the Mississippi River Greenway; and

WHEREAS, the County will be responsible for the design, solicitation, and purchasing of the wayfinding and interpretive signage for the Community Project using grant funding, and the College shall be responsible for designating appropriate locations for the installations, granting a license for the County to install, maintain, repair and replace the Community Project Improvements on College property, for a minimum period of ten years following installation of the Improvements, and provide basic maintenance for the Community Project Improvements and the Trails following installation; and

WHEREAS, Inver Hills Community College has requested the County make the Programs being offered at the Inver Glen Library available to its students due in part to the proximity of the Unity Trail to the College; and

WHEREAS, a JPA with Inver Hills Community College to provide student engagement programs consisting of various arts and cultural programs intended to engage students with themes relating to the Unity Trail would increase awareness and visitation of the Unity Trail; and

WHEREAS, the County and School District No. 199 are governmental units as that term is defined in Minn. Stat. § 471.59; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 471.59 authorizes local governmental units to jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties; and

WHEREAS, School District No. 199 has requested the County make the Programs offered at the Inver Glen Library available to Simley High School students due in part to the proximity of the Unity Trail to the school; and

WHEREAS, a JPA with Independent School District No. 199 to provide youth engagement programs consisting of various arts and cultural programs intended to engage youth with themes relating to the Unity Trail would increase awareness and visitation of the Unity Trail; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds to complete the project, the total of cash contributions include grant revenue of \$160,000; Dakota County cash match contribution of \$70,000; City of Inver Grove Heights cash contribution of \$15,000; and \$20,000 of State Health Improvement Partnership dollars to support the bike programming as authorized by Resolution No. 22-170 (April 19, 2022).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director, or their designee, to execute a joint powers agreement with Inver Hills Community College for the design and installation of wayfinding signage upon execution by both of the parties that shall continue in effect through June 30, 2026 or until completion by the parties of their respective obligations under this Agreement, whichever occurs first, unless earlier terminated by law or according to the provisions of this Agreement, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director or their designee to execute a joint powers agreement with Inver Hills Community College to provide a student engagement program that consists of various arts and cultural programs intended to engage students with themes relating to the Unity Trail

that shall be effective upon execution by both of the parties and shall continue in effect through June 30, 2026, or until completion by the parties of their respective obligations under this Agreement, whichever occurs first, unless earlier terminated by law or according to the provisions of this Agreement, as substantially presented to the Physical Development Committee of the Whole on March 18, 2025 and subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director to execute a joint powers agreement with School District No. 199 for the Unity Trail Youth Engagement Program that shall be effective upon execution by both of the parties and shall continue in effect through June 30, 2026, or until completion by the parties of their respective obligations under this Agreement, whichever occurs first, unless earlier terminated by law or according to the provisions of this Agreement, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 4/22/2025.

Ayes: 6

Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Nay: 1

Chairperson Holberg

- 4.3** Authorization To Award Bid And Execute Contract With Schumacher Excavating Inc. And Amend 2025 Adopted Budget For State-Funded Township Bridge Replacement Projects, Existing Bridge L3285 Located In Hampton and Douglas Townships, And Existing Bridge L3249 Located in Marshan Township, County Projects 97-144 And 97-164

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Laurie Halverson

WHEREAS, to provide a safe and efficient transportation system, Dakota County is proceeding with the County Projects (CP) 97-144 and 97-164; and

WHEREAS, CP 97-144 construction includes the replacement of structurally deficient township bridge L3285 located on Inga Avenue in Hampton and Douglas Townships; and

WHEREAS, CP 97-164 construction includes the replacement of structurally deficient township bridge L3249 located on 205th Street East in Marshan Township; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County is the lead agency for CP 97-144 and CP 97-164, with construction scheduled to begin in summer 2025 following authorization of a budget amendment and execution of a construction contract; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Capital Improvement Program Adopted Budget requires amendment for CP 97-144 and 97-164 to continue with the construction contract with Schumacher Excavating Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 CIP budget includes \$200,000 for CP 97-144 construction; and

WHEREAS, a budget amendment of \$359,176.05 is requested to cover engineering design, construction administration, and construction costs for CP 97-144; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist in the State-funded town bridge account (SAAS Acc. 75 and 76), State grant (SAAS Acc. 379 by MnDOT grant agreement number 1057925), and Township cost-shares to cover the engineering design, construction administration, and construction costs for CP 97-144; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 CIP budget includes \$200,000 for CP 97-164 construction; and

WHEREAS, a budget amendment of \$138,710.30 is requested to cover engineering design, construction administration, and construction costs for CP 97-164; and

WHEREAS, sufficient funds exist in the State-funded town bridge account (SAAS Acc. 75), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant (contract no. DCA22093), and Township cost-shares to cover engineering design, construction administration, and construction costs for CP 97-164; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 24-125 (March 12, 2024), County staff executed an agreement with the DNR (DCA22093 to encumber 25% of construction costs) for CP 97-164; and

WHEREAS, MN State administrative rule 8820.1500 allows ninety-five percent (95%) of the Town Bridge Account funds be released as soon as possible after the District State Aid Engineer (DSAE) receives initial State Aid pay request; and

WHEREAS, State grant (SAAS Acc. 379 by MnDOT grant agreement number 1057925) is reimbursable at the time of pay request by the contractor; and

WHEREAS, no County funds are allocated to CP 97-144 and CP 97-164.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes its Transportation Director to execute a contract with Schumacher Excavating Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$439,176.05 for CP 97-144, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes its Transportation Director to execute a contract with Schumacher Excavating Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$262,710.30 for CP 97-164, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2025 Capital Improvement Program budget is hereby amended to include additional funds for County Project 97-144 as follows:

<u>Expense</u>	
County Project 97-144	\$ 359,176.05
Total Expense	\$ 359,176.05
 <u>Revenue</u>	
2023 LBRP Funds (SAAS Acct 379) - Construction	\$ 181,812.77
Regular Town Bridge Funds (SAAS Acct 76) - Construction	\$ 47,363.28
Local Town Funds - Construction	\$ 10,000.00
Special Town Bridge Funds (SAAS Acct 75) - Engineering	\$ 110,000.00
Local Town Funds - Engineering	\$ 10,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 359,176.05

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2025 Capital Improvement Program budget is hereby amended to include additional funds for County Project 97-164 as follows:

<u>Expense</u>	
County Project 97-164	\$ 138,710.30
Total Expense	\$ 138,710.30
 <u>Revenue</u>	
Regular Town Bridge Fund (SAAS Acct 76) - Construction	\$ 27,032.72
Local Town Funds - Construction	\$ 10,000.00
DNR Grant - Construction	\$ 65,677.58
Regular Town Bridge Funds (SAAS Acct 76) - Engineering	\$ 26,000.00
Local Town Funds - Engineering	\$ 10,000.00
Total	\$138,710.30

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 4/22/2025.

Ayes: 7

**5. Regular Agenda**

- 5.1** Authorization To Release Draft 2050 Vision Plan for Parks, Greenways, And Natural Systems For Public Review

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Joe Atkins

Lil Leatham, Principal Planner, presented the 2050 Vision Plan for public review regarding parks, greenways, and natural resources. Parks Director Niki Geisler participated in the discussion.

The commissioners emphasized the need for standardized wayfinding for trails in Dakota County. Staff members noted that enhancements to trail marking, including pilot projects, are underway.

The commissioners praised the public engagement process and recognized the diversity among park users. They requested that the Dakota County Disability Advisory Council review the plan and suggested developing a user-friendly greenway app for greenway navigation. The Board also clarified that staffing models should be explored for a future discussion with the Board.

The item concluded with a reminder about an Earth Day event in Lakeville on April 26, encouraging staff to engage the public in reviewing the plan at this event.

WHEREAS, the Draft 2050 Vision Plan for Parks, Greenways, And Natural Systems (Vision Plan) has been prepared for public review; and

WHEREAS, the plan frames work and investment in Dakota County's parks, greenways, and natural systems for the next 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the updated vision is *Nature Protected, Community Reflected, All Are Connected*; and

WHEREAS, the vision is supported by goals and strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Physical Development Committee of the Whole has reviewed and provided feedback on much of the Vision Plan content in March, April, May, and October of 2024, and in January 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Planning Commission reviewed the draft Vision Plan on March 27, 2025, and recommended release for public review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes that the Draft 2050 Vision Plan for Parks, Greenways, And Natural Systems 2050 be released for a public review period of April 22 - May 20, 2025.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 4/22/2025.

Ayes: 7

- 5.2** Authorization For Contract Amendment Three With Short-Elliott-Hendrickson, Inc. To Provide Additional Design For Greenway Trail And Memorial Nodes And Construction Administration For Veterans Memorial Greenway In Cities Of Inver Grove Heights And Eagan, County Project P00147

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mike Slavik

Tony Wotzka, Parks Greenways Manager presented this topic and responded to questions. Niki Geisler, Parks Director also spoke to this item.

Staff provided a summary of the three phases of this project and the need for additional design and construction observation and administration for this project.

Staff also provided an overview of the project budget, including the external funds that have been secured for the project. The overall budget is now at \$28,350,000 with over \$15,950,000 of external funding secured from State and Federal Sources, and another \$3M pending in a 2025 state request. A total of \$12.4M in local match (Dakota County Environmental Legacy Fund and Park Fund) is included in the budget at this time. Total project costs are estimated between \$24,494,495 and \$27,490,485, depending on whether or not the enhanced nodes are constructed for phase II and III (estimated \$3.4M). The budget exceeds the estimated project cost because the local budgeted funds for the project were not reduced, as external funds were secured.

Previous Board discussions had indicated that the enhanced nodes may be constructed through collaborations with local civic organizations.

As the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) discussions approach in July, an update on construction management costs and the rationale for external consultants is needed, alongside the long-term priorities for the county's greenway system. Staff are to provide context on budget challenges and potential solutions.

WHEREAS, to provide a safe and efficient transportation system, Dakota County is proceeding with the Veterans Memorial Greenway County Project (P00147); and

WHEREAS, the Veterans Memorial Greenway project is for preliminary and final engineering, railroad coordination, and public engagement services in the cities of Inver Grove Heights and Eagan; and

WHEREAS, the County is the lead agency for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the County utilized public engagement for this project, including public open houses, project websites, and project mailings; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 20-430 (September 1, 2020), the County executed a contract with Short-Elliott-Hendrickson, Inc. for preliminary and final

design engineering consulting services; and

WHEREAS, County staff recognizes and recommends that the proposed additional tasks are necessary to complete the project successfully; and

WHEREAS, staff negotiated an amount of \$1,755,000 with Short-Elliott-Hendrickson, Inc., to complete the work; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Parks Capital Improvement Program Budget includes sufficient funding for the Veterans Memorial Greenway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Physical Development Director, or designee, to execute an amendment to the contract with Short-Elliott-Hendrickson, Inc., for additional services necessary for the Veterans Memorial Greenway in an amount not to exceed \$1,855,000, resulting in a total amended contract not to exceed \$4,249,796 including a \$100,000 contingency, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 4/22/2025.

Ayes: 6

Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Commissioner Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Nay: 1

Chairperson Holberg

## 6. Physical Development Director's Report

Georg Fischer, Physical Development Director, provided the Committee with a written Division update.

## 7. Future Agenda Items

Chair, Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg, asked the Committee if anyone had a topic they would like to hear more about at an upcoming Physical Development Committee of the Whole. No Commissioners requested topics for future meetings at this time.

## 8. Adjournment

### 8.1 Adjournment

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: William Droste

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner William Droste, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Hansen  
Administrative Coordinator

DRAFT