

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
Request for County Board Action/Agenda Item Cover Sheet



To: Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Date: 7-3-13

Via: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

From: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

Title of Item:

Transportation & Infrastructure

Requested Meeting Date: 7-9-13 Estimated Presentation Time: _____

Presenter: John Welle, County Engineer

Type of Action Requested (check all that apply)

- For info only, no action requested
- For discussion with possible action
- Let/Award Bid or Quote (attach copy of basic bid/quote specs or summary of complex specs, each bid/quote received & bid/quote comparison)
- Approve/adopt proposal by motion
- Authorize filling vacant staff position
- Request to schedule public hearing or sale
- Request by member of the public to be heard
- Item should be addressed in closed session under MN Statute _____
- Approve under Consent Agenda
- Adopt Ordinance Revision
- Approve/adopt proposal by resolution (attach draft resolution)
- Other (please list) _____

Fiscal Impact (check all that apply)

- Is this item in the current approved budget? Yes _____ No _____ (attach explanation)
- What type of expenditure is this? Operating Capital Other (attach explanation)
- Revenue line account # that funds this item is: _____
- Expenditure line account # for this item is: _____

Staffing Impact (Any yes answer requires a review by Human Resources Manager before going to the board)

- Duties of a department employee(s) may be materially affected. Yes No
- Applicable job description(s) may require revision. Yes No
- Item may impact a bargaining unit agreement or county work policy. Yes No
- Item may change the department's authorized staffing level. Yes No



Supporting Attachment(s)

- Memorandum Summary of Item
- Copy of applicable county policy and/or ordinance (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable state/federal statute/regulation (excerpts acceptable)
- Copy of applicable contract and/or agreement
- Original bid spec or quote request (excluding complex construction projects)
- Bids/quotes received (excluding complex construction projects, provide comparison worksheet)
- Bid/quote comparison worksheet
- Draft County Board resolution
- Plat approval check-list and supporting documents
- Copy of previous minutes related to this issue
- Other supporting document(s) (please list) AMC's Transportation & Infrastructure Summary Page

Provide (1) copy of supporting documentation NO LATER THAN Wednesday at Noon to make the Board's agenda for the following Tuesday. (If your packet contains colored copies, please provide (4) paper copies of supporting documentation as we do not have a color printer or copier.) Items WILL NOT be placed on the Board agenda unless complete documentation is provided for the Board packets.

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W. Room 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276
Fax: 218-927-7374

TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Patrick Wussow, Aitkin County Administrator

RE: Transportation & Infrastructural Funding Alternatives

DATE: July 3, 2013

John Welle, County Engineer and I felt it was important to conduct additional discussions related to wheelage tax and ½% sales tax as provided in the attached document. The significant concern centers around the fact that if a wheelage tax is to be implemented the County Board must take action prior to August 1, 2013.

Additional information will be discussed at the meeting. At this time we have not identified any specific projects for public discussion.

Transportation & Infrastructure

For additional information on this section, please contact Abbey Bryduck, Policy Analyst, at 651-789-4339 or abryduck@mncounties.org

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Governance Bill

Wheelage Tax Expansion

All 87 counties are now authorized to levy, by board resolution, a \$10 per vehicle wheelage tax. Previously, only the seven counties in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area were authorized to levy this tax at \$5 per vehicle. The new legislation increases the amount to \$10 – an automatic change in those 5 counties that currently levy the tax – with the ability to impose a rate of up to \$20 per vehicle in 2018 and subsequent years. The wheelage tax does not apply to all vehicles registered in a county, exceptions include vehicles that are not renewed annually (i.e. collector vehicles), trailers and semitrailers, motorcycles and tax exempt vehicles. Funds from the tax must be deposited in the county's road and bridge fund and can only be used for "highway purposes" as defined by Article 14 of the Minnesota Constitution. Counties have the option of collecting the tax themselves or delegating that to the registrar of motor vehicles to be collected as part of the tab renewal process. All of the counties that are currently collecting a wheelage tax have asked the state to do the collection and payments are issued to the counties on a monthly basis. If a county wishes to implement the tax for 2014 and have the state do the collection, they must notify the state by August 1 of this year.

Removal of Referendum Requirement for Local Transportation Sales Tax

Greater Minnesota counties can now enact up to a ½-cent sales tax for transportation by board action, without holding a referendum. The language was also changed on the use of the funds so that the funds may be used for both capital and operating costs for transit as well as capital costs related to the Safe Routes to School program.

Status: *Signed into law; Chapter 117*

Transportation Finance Bill

After many stops and starts, the Transportation Omnibus Finance Bill passed without a gas tax increase or a metro transit sales tax. The bill included two priority items from the AMC Transportation Governance bill described above, as well as the following items:

- **Corridors of Commerce Program:** While no ongoing funding is included, the Corridors of Commerce program is established in law and \$300 million in trunk highway bonds are authorized for the program. The bond authorization is not effective until July 1, 2014. This program is designed to fund to state highway projects that improve commerce in the state. MnDOT is directed to establish a process for project selection that involves accepting recommendations on potential projects from area transportation partnerships and other interested stakeholders in each MnDOT district. Potential projects would be classified as Capacity Development – two-lane segments in corridors with 4-lane segments, or Freight Improvement.