ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-2847

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 | 2:30 PM | Itasca County Boardroom

FINAL

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Cory Smith	District #1	Present	2:30 PM
Terry Snyder	District #2	Present	2:30 PM
John Johnson	District #3	Present	2:30 PM
Larry Hopkins	District #4	Present	2:30 PM
Casey Venema	District #5	Present	2:30 PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To: Add additional information to Item #6.8 (Itasca County Comprehensive Trail Study Project Presentation), add Item #6.10 (Budget Committee Consideration), Item #6.11 (Letter of Opposition -Trail Bill), and Item #6.12 (Letter of Support-Grant Opportunity) and approve the agenda as Amended.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve minutes of the Tuesday, March 17, 2026, Regular Session.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 17, 2026, Regular Session.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Approve Consent Agenda as Presented.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

1. Authorize the Board Chair to sign Letter of Support for Hope House.

2. Approve Agreement between Itasca County and General waste regarding fees payable to Itasca County, as set forth under MN Statute 115A.923 Subd 1.
3. Approve 1 - year extension with Victory Automotive Services (formerly Jacks Auto) for Oil Changes and name change of business.
4. Approve tobacco license for CRTLR Management, LLC dba Frontier Sports located at 48919 State Highway 38, Marcell, MN 56657.
5. Accept the Minutes of the March 12, 2026, HHS Advisory Committee Meeting.
6. Adopt the 2026 Five-Year Plan for Highway Improvement Projects and authorize the expenditure of unorganized township funds on projects listed in the plan.
7. Adopt the Resolution Re: US Highway 2 Recreational Trail Integration Project (2027) Local Trail Connections Grant Program Application and authorize necessary signatures.
8. Adopt the Resolution Re: Moody's Creek Bridge Replacement and Trail Relocation Project Local Trail Connections Grant Application and authorize necessary signatures.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Legislative Conference Call

   Held a Legislative Conference Call with MN Senator, Keri Heintzeman.

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

2. Employee Recognition

   The following employees were recognized:

   Thank you to Brandon Nelson in the Transportation Department, celebrating 5 years of service to Itasca County.

   Thank you to Jonathan Prica in the Transportation Department, celebrating 10 years of service to Itasca County.

   Thank you to John Linder, in the Sheriff's Department, celebrating 20 years of service to Itasca County.

   Congratulations to Quinn Hagen, who transferred from Eligibility Specialist to Accounting Technician in the Health and Human Services Department effective March 15, 2026.

3. Commissioner Warrants

   Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of March 25, 2026, in the amount of $198,831.10.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

4. ICHHS Warrants

   Motion To: Approve ICHHS Warrants for March 2026, in the amount of $1,069,332.21

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

5. Approval to Post Positions

Motion To: Approve posting two Corrections Officers, Sheriff's Department

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

6. County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division.

Health Plan Director, Sarah Anderson, provided an update on 2025 Compliance Program Report.

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

7. Financial Unit Update.

HHS Director Eric Villeneuve, Business Division Manager Christine Krebs, and Financial Assistance Supervisor Mary Chambers provided an update on the Financial Unit.

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

8. Itasca County Comprehensive Trail Study Project Update Presentation

Forest Recreation Specialist, Sara Thompson, and Plum Catalyst, Justin Johnson provided update/presentation for the Comprehensive Trail study project.

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

9. Introduction of the new CEO of IEDC

Kyle Erickson, new President and CEO of IEDC introduced himself to the Board.

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

10. Budget Committee Consideration

Board Chair Smith discussed the formation of a Budget Committee to review scheduled Budget to actual reports and meet with Department Heads to discuss any variances, current or potential.

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

11. Approve Letter of Opposition; Trail Bill

Motion To: Approved Letter of Opposition for Trail Bill and authorized Board Chair signature.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

12. Approve Letter of Support -Grant Opportunity

Motion To: Approved Letters of Support from Itasca County and Grand Village and authorized necessary signatures regarding a grant opportunity surrounding Itasca County's Expanded Organics Management Infrastructure.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

County Administrator, Brett Skyles, provided an Administrator Update, including a letter of support on behalf of the YMCA for Congressionally directed spending.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Hopkins reported on attending Coffee w/ Commissioners and the Grand Village Board meeting.

Commissioner Johnson reported on a meeting with the City of Grand Rapids and DemCon regarding compost/recycling grant.

Commissioner Snyder reported on hosting Coffee w/ Commissioners, attending a meeting with CEO of Bigfork Hospital and the Grand Village Board.

Commissioner Smith reported on attending Mississippi Headwaters Board meeting, Coffee w/ Commissioners and Grand Village Board.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hopkins provided comment regarding encouraging all to reach out to Senators/Representatives on the importance of current issues to us all.

Commissioner Johnson provided comment regarding County Rd 61 from Hwy 38 to Coleraine which will be closed approx. 3 weeks and to plan accordingly when driving, MN Association of Economic Development; potentially joining this organization, attending a 6 week Cohort on Leading Economic Transition, and the diversity and importance of outdoor recreation in Northern MN.

Commissioner Snyder questioned whether or not advancement was made legislatively on accepting Biomass as Carbon Neutral or not.

X. CLOSED SESSIONS

XI. ADJOURN

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:58 PM.

ATTEST

Cory Smith
Chair of the County Board

Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

RESOLUTION 2026-20

RE: US HIGHWAY 2 RECREATIONAL TRAIL INTEGRATION PROJECT (2027)

LOCAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Itasca County recognizes the importance of recreational trails to the local economy and supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Local Trail Connections Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, Itasca County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation are collaborating to incorporate a seasonal, multi-use recreational trail corridor into the planned 2027 US Highway 2 reconstruction project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 10-foot-wide trail corridor is intended to accommodate seasonal snowmobile use during winter months and other recreational trail uses during non-winter months, including walking, bicycling, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the project will enhance regional connectivity, improve public safety, and support year-round recreational and transportation opportunities within the City of Warba and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, a Local Trail Connections Grant Program grant is available to fund seventy-five (75) percent of the cost of the project under this grant, and

WHEREAS, Itasca County and the Greenway Snowmobile Club recognize the twenty-five (25) percent match requirement for the Local Trail Connections Grant Program, and are actively seeking matching funds, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if Itasca County is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Itasca County agrees to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project and Itasca County will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant has read the Conflict-of-Interest Policy contained in the Local Trail Connections Program Grant Manual and certifies it will report any actual, potential, or organizational conflicts of interest upon discovery to the state related to the application or grant award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Itasca County hereby assures that the recreational trail corridor will be maintained for a period of no less than 20 years as required by the Local Trail Connections Grant

Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Itasca County Auditor, 123 NE 4th St. Grand Rapids, MN 55744, be named as the fiscal agent for this grant.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Itasca) ss.
Office of County Administrator)

I, BRETT SKYLES, Administrator of the County of Itasca, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in this office on March 24, 2026 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Administrator

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

RESOLUTION 2026-21

RE: MOODY'S CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND TRAIL RELOCATION PROJECT LOCAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Itasca County recognizes the importance of ATV and snowmobile trails to the local economy and supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Local Trail Connections Program Grant, and

WHEREAS, Itasca County, the Rapids Riders ATV Club, and the Itasca Driftskippers Snowmobile Club are looking at rerouting the ATV/Snowmobile trail and constructing a new bridge over Moody Creek on trails in southern Itasca County, and

WHEREAS, a Local Trail Connections Program grant is available to fund seventy-five (75) percent of the cost of the project under this grant, and

WHEREAS, Itasca County and the associated clubs recognize the twenty-five (25) percent match requirement for the Local Trail Connections Program grant, and is working to secure or has secured matching funds for the project, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, if Itasca County is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Itasca County agrees to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project and Itasca County will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant has read the Conflict-of-Interest Policy contained in the Local Trail Connections Program Grant Manual and certifies it will report any actual, potential, or organizational conflicts of interest upon discovery to the state related to the application or grant award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Itasca County hereby assures the UPM/Blandin ATV/OHM Trail and Cook Lake Snowmobile will be maintained for a period of no less than 20 years as required by the Local Trail Connections Grant Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Itasca County Auditor, 123 NE 4th St. Grand Rapids, MN 55744, be named as the fiscal agent for this grant

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Itasca) ss.
Office of County Administrator)

I, BRETT SKYLES, Administrator of the County of Itasca, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in this office on March 24, 2026 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Administrator

MEETING INFORMATION SHEET
MARCH 24, 2026

PULL: None

ADDITIONS:
1. Item # 6.10 (Budget Committee Consideration) – REGULAR AGENDA
2. Item #6.11 (Letter of Opposition - Trail Bill) – REGULAR AGENDA
3. Item #6.12 (Letter of Support – Grant Opportunity) – REGULAR AGENDA

CHANGES:
1. Item #6.9 (Introduction of New CEO of ARDC) – Correction is CEO of IEDC

INFORMATIONAL:
1. Item # 6.8 (Itasca County Comprehensive Trail Study Project Presentation) – REGULAR AGENDA – will be visible on monitors

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-2847

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 | 2:30 PM | Itasca County Boardroom

DRAFT

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Cory Smith	District #1	Present	2:30 PM
Terry Snyder	District #2	Present	2:30 PM
John Johnson	District #3	Present	2:30 PM
Larry Hopkins	District #4	Present	2:30 PM
Casey Venema	District #5	Present	2:30 PM

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion To: Approve the Agenda as presented.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion To: Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 10, 2026, County Board Regular Session.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

1. Approve the minutes of the Tuesday, March 10, 2026 Regular Session.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion To: Add additional information to Item #5.5 (Professional Services Contract-Kismet Consulting), add Item #5.6 (Letter of Support-Essentia Health), pull Item #5.4 (2026 Five-Year Plan for Highway Improvement Projects) and approve the Consent agenda, as amended.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

1. Accept the resignation of Greg Miller from the Bowstring Airport Commission, effective March 11, 2026.
2. Schedule a Public Hearing Re: Off Sale Intoxicating Liquor License for CRTLR Management, LLC located at 48919 State Highway 38, Marcell, MN 56657 on April 7, 2026, at 2:30 pm during regular board meeting.
3. Approve the new 3-year Microsoft Enterprise Agreement for all Microsoft software and applications.
5. Approve the professional services contract for Kismet Consulting, Inc. for planning and design services in the amount of $31,500 for the US Highway 2 Recreational Trail Integration project, and authorize necessary signatures.
6. Approve Board Chair signature on Letter of Support for FY27 Community Project Funding-Essentia Health Deer River.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Legislative Conference Call
   Not able to connect with a Representative.
2. Commissioner Warrants
   Motion To: Approve Commissioner Warrants with a check date of March 18, 2026, in the amount of $1,015,090.27.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

3. Posting of the Home and Community Based Specialist within the Public Health Division of Health and Human Services.
   Motion To: Approve posting a Home and Community Based Specialist within the Public Health Division of Health and Human Services.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

4. Presentation of the 2025 Body-Worn Camera Audit Report
   Sheriff Joe Dasovich provided a 2025 Body-Worn Camera Audit Report.

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

5. Out-of-State Travel Authorization-All Rise (Rise26) Conference
   Motion To: Approve out-of-state travel for four employees of the Itasca County Sheriff's Office to attend the All Rise (RISE26) Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, July 20–23, 2026.

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

VII. ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Hopkins reported on attending a Splithand Township meeting and a Risk Commission meeting.

Commissioner Johnson reported on attending a Blandin Foundation meeting and also met with IRRR.

Commissioner Snyder reported on attending a Camp Hiawatha Breakfast meeting and jail tour, Trails Task Force meeting, and a Bigfork City Safety issue meeting,

Commissioner Venema reported on attending a Park & Rec meeting, Trails Study Group, Library Board meeting in Nashwauk, and a Western Mine Planning meeting..

Commissioner Smith reported on attending Alvwood Township and Third River Township meetings.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnson provided comment regarding a beneficial meeting Re: Warba Bridge project and finished his 6-week Cohort Re: Leading Economic Transitions.

Commissioner Snyder provided comment regarding Coffee with Commissioners on March 18, 2026, at the Bigfork Town Hall at 6:00 p.m.

X. CLOSED SESSIONS

XI. ADJOURN

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:51 PM.

ATTEST

Cory Smith Chair of the County Board	Brett Skyles Clerk of the County Board

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-319

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services **TIME REQUESTED:**
PRESENTER:

AGENDA ITEM:
Letter of Support - Hope House

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Authorize the Board Chair to sign Letter of Support for Hope House.

BACKGROUND:
The Board previously signed a letter of support for this same grant in 2021. Hope House plans to submit this proposal by the end of next week, March 27th.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. Letter of Support-Hope House

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse
Administrative Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218-)327-2848

To: Daniela White
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Behavioral Health Division

RE: Hope House of Itasca County
Letter of Support for Women's Recovery Services

Date: March 24, 2026

Dear Ms. White,

On behalf of the Itasca County Board of Commissioners, I am pleased to offer our support for Hope House's proposal in response to the Minnesota Department of Human Services Women's Recovery Services Request for Proposals.

Itasca County faces significant and ongoing need for accessible, comprehensive substance use disorder services for pregnant and parenting women. As a rural county of approximately 45,000 residents, geographic distance, transportation barriers, and limited provider capacity create substantial challenges for women seeking timely and appropriate care. These barriers disproportionately impact low-income families and those involved in child welfare or experiencing co-occurring mental health conditions.

Local data highlights the urgency of this need. Opioid overdose death rates in the region remain comparable to state averages, and women represent a significant portion of substance-related emergency department visits. In addition, historically high opioid prescribing rates and co-occurring issues such as trauma, domestic violence, and housing instability contribute to increased risk for poor outcomes among mothers and children. These factors underscore the importance of expanding gender-specific, family-centered treatment models in our community.

Hope House is a trusted provider with deep roots in our region and a demonstrated commitment to trauma-informed, recovery-oriented care.

We strongly support Hope House's emphasis on addressing disparities and serving underserved populations across northern Minnesota, including rural and isolated communities. Their integration of clinical treatment with wraparound supports—such as parenting education, childcare, transportation, and coordinated healthcare—reflects best practices and responds directly to local needs.

Itasca County is committed to continued partnership with Hope House to support referrals, service integration, and improved outcomes for women and families. Thank you for your consideration of Hope House's proposal to provide Recovery Services for Women.

Sincerely,

Cory Smith, Chair
Itasca County Board of Commissioners

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-320

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services **TIME REQUESTED:**
PRESENTER:

AGENDA ITEM:
Approve Agreement between Itasca County and General waste regarding fees payable to Itasca County, as set forth under MN Statute 115A.923 Subd 1.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Approve Agreement between Itasca County and General waste regarding fees payable to Itasca County, as set forth under MN Statute 115A.923 Subd 1.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes and/or Pending

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. SOLID WASTE FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

SOLID WASTE FEE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE COUNTY OF ITASCA,
MINNESOTA, AND
GENERAL WASTE & RECYCLING, LLC
FOR THE GENERAL WASTE LANDFILL IN KEEWATIN, MINNESOTA

RECITALS

WHEREAS, General Waste & Recycling, LLC ("General Waste") is the owner and operator of the General Waste Landfill located at 35005 County Road 571, Keewatin, Minnesota ("the Landfill");

WHEREAS, the Landfill currently accepts industrial and demolition waste and construction debris for disposal or processing and will be accepting mixed municipal solid waste (MMSW), as defined under Minn. Stat. § 115A.03, subd. 21, beginning in 2026;

WHEREAS, the Landfill is permitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to accept industrial and demolition waste and construction debris and, beginning in 2026, MMSW; and

WHEREAS, the County of Itasca ("the County") is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the County will be the recipient of the solid waste fees paid by General Waste for MMSW accepted at the Landfill.

AGREEMENT

THEREFORE, General Waste and the County agree as follows:

1) The County enters into this Agreement pursuant to the powers granted to it by Minn. Stat. chs. 115A, 371, 375, and 473, by its adopted Ordinances, and by its County Board of Commissioners, as applicable and relevant.

2) General Waste enters into this Agreement pursuant to the powers granted to it by Minn. Stat. ch. 302A and by authorization of its Board of Directors.

3) General Waste, once the Landfill begins accepting MMSW, shall pay the County solid waste fees for the MMSW, as set forth under Minn. Stat. § 115A.923, subd. 1.

4) Sand, clay, earthen material, and other similar materials that are approved by the MPCA permit and used for cover material or for the construction of roads or berms within the Landfill shall be exempt from the above solid waste fees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, General Waste and the County have executed this Agreement on the dates indicated below.

COUNTY OF ITASCA	**GENERAL WASTE AND RECYCLING, LLC:**
By:_____	By: Bill Keegan, P.E. _____
Its: Board Chair	Its: President
Dated: _____	Dated: _____

Attest: _____

Dated: _____

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-321

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services **TIME REQUESTED:**
PRESENTER:

AGENDA ITEM:
Approve Name Change and 1-year extension with Victory Automotive Services (formerly Jacks Auto) for Oil Changes on County Vehicles.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Approve 1 - year extension with Victory Automotive Services (formerly Jacks Auto) for Oil Changes and name change of business.

BACKGROUND:
Victory Automotive purchased Jack's Auto Service.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. Name Change and Extension of Oil Change

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse
Administrative Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218-)327-2848

Notification of Contract Award – Oil Change/Lube Service

Date: March 17, 2026

To: Victory Automotive Services (formerly known as Jack's Auto Service)

Attn: Mike Thompson

Contract Period: August 1, 2026 through July 31, 2027

You are hereby notified that your quote, in response to our Request for Bids which opened in January 2023 and closed on March 15, 2023, is accepted. This contract award is for Oil Change/Lubrication, **Packages #1, #2, and #3** services for Itasca County vehicles and incorporates the terms, conditions, and specifications of the RFQ and the prices quoted. Prices quoted will remain firm for the entire contract period.

The following documents are incorporated herein by reference and constitute the entire contract between you, Jack's Auto Service, and Itasca County: (1) this Notification of Contract Award, (2) the Request for Quote along with any specifications and attachments; (3) your quote; and (4) RBA indicating Board approved action on May 23, 2023 awarding the contract, approving a waiver of insurance requirements, and authorizing the necessary signatures to said contract. In the event of a conflict in language among any of these documents, the terms and conditions set forth and/or referenced in this Notification and any later executed documents shall prevail over conflicting terms and conditions contained in the earlier documents, in their original form or as amended.
We also request that a copy of the Certificate of Liability Insurance be provided to Itasca County listing Itasca County as the Certificate Holder as per the RFQ specifications. This can be faxed to 218.327.2848 or e-mailed to sara.gross@co.itasca.mn.us.

Cancellation: This contract may be cancelled in whole or in part for any reason by the County or the vendor upon thirty (30) days' notice in writing prior to the effective date of the cancellation.

VENDOR

Date: March 17th 2026

By: Michael Thompson

Title: Mbr

COUNTY OF ITASCA

Date: 3.24.2026

By: _____

Title: Board Chair

ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse
Administrative Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848

Vendor: Victory Automotive Service
403 NW 3rd Ave
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Please respond by: April 15, 2026
Contract Name: Oil Change

Attn: Mike Thompson

Commodity: Oil Changes-County Vehicles

Request Date: March 17, 2026

As per our recent conversation, authorization was given to extend this contract for one year. Please indicate below your agreement to extend the contract period from **August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027**.

MT We agree to extend the contract as indicated at the prices of the present contract.

Please provide an updated copy of your Certificate of Insurance via fax @ 218.327.2848 or via email to sara.gross@co.itasca.mn.us

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Firm Name: Victory Automotive Service

Date: 3-17-26

By: Michael Thompson

Phone: 218-326-9855

Title: Location Manager

Please keep a copy for yourself and send a signed copy back to Itasca County.

If you have questions, contact Sara Gross, Administrative Services Assistant, at 218.327.7362 or the email listed above.

****Victory Automotive Service is formerly known as Jacks Auto Service****

Equal Opportunity Employer

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-315

DEPARTMENT: Auditor / Treasurer
TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes
PRESENTER: Austin Rohling

AGENDA ITEM:
Approve tobacco license for CRTLR Management, LLC dba Frontier Sports located at 48919 State Highway 38, Marcell, MN 56657.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Approve tobacco license for CRTLR Management, LLC dba Frontier Sports located at 48919 State Highway 38, Marcell, MN 56657.

BACKGROUND:
CRTLR Management, LLC is acquiring Frontier Sports from Prestige Worldwide 99 on April 6, 2026, and is owned by Rodney and Catharine Ernhart who currently own Little Turtle Lake Store in Talmoon.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-316

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services
TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes
PRESENTER: Eric Villeneuve

AGENDA ITEM:
Accept the Minutes of the March 12, 2026 HHS Advisory Committee Meeting.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Accept the Minutes of the March 12, 2026 HHS Advisory Committee Meeting.

BACKGROUND:
Informational.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. ICHHSAC Meeting Minutes 03-12-2026
2. Virtual Webinar for MH Court 3-2026
3. MH Court Handbook 3-2026

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HHSAC)
Thursday, March 12, 2026
Virtual Teams Meeting / Itasca Resource Center / Room 122

Members Present:	**Chris Jenkins**	**Sarah Anderson**
	Dave Holmbeck	**Kevin Glass**
	Trinnitie Hyovalti	**Lester Kachinske**
	Lloyd Adams	**Paul Lussenhop**
	Brent Robertson	
Members Absent:	**Brandi Worrath**	**Angie Baratto - E**
	Roxan Hawkins	**Cheryl Lemler - E**
	Nick Adams - E	
Others Present:	**Eric Villeneuve**	**Sam Vork**
	Brenda Oberg	

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Chair Lester Kachinske at 12:15 pm.

Approval of January 8, 2026, Minutes:
A motion was made to approve January 8, 2026, minutes. Motion carried.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda:
There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Eric Villeneuve, Director:

Public Health Update: Public Health Nurse Sam Vork provided an update on current Public Health activities. Upcoming changes to the WIC food program will affect infants, mothers, and children up to age 5. These updates include offering fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables starting at 6 months in place of some jarred foods, adding canned fish/tuna, and several other adjustments designed to improve the nutritional value of the WIC food package and expand food choices.

WIC is also conducting blood pressure checks for prenatal and postpartum clients. In addition, the Maternal Child Home Visit Program is offering a *Bump to Baby* program, which includes blood pressure screenings to help identify potential pre-eclampsia. Local clinics are actively sending referrals for this program as well.

IMCare & Legislative Update:
Eric and Sarah updated regarding Governor Walz press conference this week announcing a proposal to transform Minnesota's Human Services System, outlining a major structural overhaul of the state's administration of human services. The proposal would streamline Minnesota's service model, moving away from the complex, layered administrative managed by a patchwork of counties, Managed Care Organizations, and state agencies to a single, centralized entity. The proposal would also modernize Medicaid administration, consolidate administration functions, and initiate independent reviews to strengthen program integrity and improve how services are delivered to Minnesotans. Under the Governor's proposal, Minnesota would transition from the MCO model and establish a single statewide Administrative Service Organization (ASO) responsible for administrative duties such as claim processing, financial transactions, and provider services. The proposal also calls for shifting the Medicaid eligibility determination process for health care and long-term services from counties to the state, streamlining eligibility processes, and improving oversight. It also proposed to reform waiver case management provided to people with disabilities and older adults and lastly to dedicate funding for a study to provide future recommendations on roles and responsibilities in administering human services programs across all levels of government. More to come on this proposal….

Mental Health Court Update:
The mental health court is up and running as of the end of February. The Itasca County Mental Heath Court is a pre and post-adjudication program for offenders based on a voluntary screening for participants that meet eligibility criteria and are appropriate for participation by the Mental Health Court team. This five-phase program consists of intensive supervision by the Mental Health Court team, frequent appearances before the MHC Judge and appropriate treatment planning. In addition, participants will be required to participate in a mental health assessment and follow all recommendations. (See participant handbook attached to these minutes for further details.) There will be a Free Virtual Webinar on Thursday, March 26th from 12:00-1:00pm. (See attached flyer with QR code to register.)

HHSAC Subcommittee Reports:

AMHAC: Trinnite Hyvolati, along with her meeting co-host Brent Robertson, provided an update from the Local Advisory Council. They had an excellent turn-out at their last meeting with 35 attendees. Pride will be the guest speaker at their next meeting. Their meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 11:00am, with lunch following. All are welcome to attend.

ICCOA: Lloyd reported no updates from the Committee on Aging. He noted that the AARP Tax Aide program is having a strong year, having assisted approximately 304

clients so far. Lloyd has been involved with the program for 16 years. He will also be leading a virtual Tai Chi for Seniors class beginning at the end of April.

Provider Updates:

Northland Counseling – Chris stated they hope to have their "Just-in-time" scheduling model for prescribers up and live on May 1st. This model should dramatically reduce no-show rates, by minimizing the impact of long appointment lead times and preventing scheduling conflicts.

Elder Circle – No update provided.

First Call for Help – No update provided.

Adjournment:
There being no further business to come before the Advisory Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm. Motion passed.

Free Virtual WEBINAR

MENTAL HEALTH COURT - FIRST LOOK

Grand Rapids Area NAMI invites you to a discussion about the inception to launch of Itasca County's Mental Health Court (1 of 5 in the state) and the positive change it can present. Bring your questions!

Speakers:

- Ashley Mohler, MS Ed, LPCC
- Shannon Bruley, B.S. ICHHS Social Worker

MARCH 26TH

12:00-1:00 PM



REGISTER HERE

NAMI
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Grand Rapids Area

Itasca County
Mental Health Court
Minnesota Ninth Judicial District

Participant Handbook

Itasca County Minnesota

MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

supported in part by Blandin Foundation ™

Updated February 2026

Termination from the Program

This is a voluntary program. The Judge and MHC team can terminate participants from the program for non-compliance. The Judge and MHC team will make all decisions jointly regarding termination. If terminated from the program, the original sentence may be imposed.

Confidentiality

State law requires that your identity and privacy be protected. The Itasca County Mental Health Court team has developed policies and procedures that guard your privacy. To participate in this program, you will be required to sign Release of Information forms for treatment providers and a Consent of Disclosure of Confidential Information form. This disclosure of information is for the sole purpose of reports concerning your Itasca County Mental Health Court case.

Conclusion

The Mental Health Court Program has been developed to help achieve stability in the lives of participants through assistance with mental health, chemical use problems, and basic living needs. This program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and return participants to the community as productive and responsible citizens.

Graduation Requirements

Participants who graduate have successfully completed all MHC phases and program requirements, court-ordered treatment, and probation terms.

To graduate from the MHC, you will be required to complete a graduation application. The graduation application is designed to help you reflect on your progress within treatment court, and your plans to maintain stability in your life after you depart from MHC.

- Symbolic Rewards
- Tangible Rewards/Prizes
- Reduced Community Restrictions
- Reduced Supervision Restrictions

Service Adjustments

The Mental Health Court program will use service adjustments to support participants. Service Adjustments are changes to case plans, supervision, and treatment programming. Services Adjustments are not punishments but are tools to help participants achieve their goals.

Examples of Service Adjustments:

- Letters of Apology
- Essay Assignments
- Activity Logs
- Journaling
- Life Skills Assignments
- Increasing Supervision
- Updated Assessments
- Changes in Treatment Delivery
- New or Updated Service Referrals

Sanctions

The Mental Health Court program will use sanctions for non-compliance with program rules. Multiple minor violations may result in increasingly stronger consequences.

Examples of Sanctions:

- Verbal Admonishments and Warnings from the Judge
- Community Service Work
- Electronic Surveillance/Home Detention/Jail Time
- Program Termination

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to improve public safety and support stability by connecting individuals facing mental health and addiction challenges to court-supervised treatment. We collaborate with community resources to help participants meet treatment goals, reduce recidivism, and encourage more responsible behavior through greater self-sufficiency and an improved quality of life.

Welcome

Welcome to the Itasca County Mental Health Court Program. This handbook is designed to answer questions, address concerns, and provide overall information about the Mental Health Court (MHC) Program. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given to you by the Judge, probation officer, mental health case manager and comply with the treatment plan developed with you by all approved treatment providers. This handbook will detail the expectations of a Mental Health Court participant and review general program information. It is intended to be a guide for Mental Health Court participants within Itasca County. However, some guidelines may vary for specific participants at the discretion of the Mental Health Court team. All participants are encouraged to share this handbook with family and friends.

The Judge, MHC team, treatment providers, and community resources are present to guide and assist you, but the final responsibility rests with you.

Important Contact Information:

Probation: Grant Paulson (O) 218-327-7419 (C) 218-360-4893
Tina Longoria (O) 218-322-2920 (C) 218-910-6816
UA Line: **(218) 327-2816**
Coordinator:
Case manager: Shannon Bruley (O) 218-327-6706 (C) 218-398-2373
Assistant County Attorney: Cassidy Villeneuve (O) 218-327-2867
Defense Attorney: Karl Sundquist (C) 218-290-1663

You are responsible for all that you consume, including over-the-counter medications which may cause urinalysis sample conflicts. This may be considered a rule violation. The team can take action to make sure a participant is following the medication policy. For example, the team may require participants to give all medications to their agent or case manager for review or pill counts.

Phases

The Itasca County Mental Health Court is a five-phased, highly structured program. Length of time varies depending upon your individual progress.

Each phase consists of specific goals and milestones for transition into the next phase. Phase advancement will be the result of you meeting your goals as determined by your case plan, specific phase requirements and other responsibilities as discussed with your treatment team. If the MHC team sees no progress and/or motivation to change, phase advancement could be delayed.

The phase advancement application is to be filled out completely and submitted to the team at least 1 week prior. The MHC team will review your status and your case plan determination for phase advancement based on your performance.

Incentives

Incentives are individualized and used to reward positive behavior changes and the completion of program requirements. The type of incentive will vary depending on the behavior that is being recognized. The Mental Health Court Judge will acknowledge your achievements during court review hearings. We will also recognize and provide incentives for your accomplishments above and beyond program requirements.

Examples of Incentives:

- Verbal Praise
- Recognition in Court
- Certificate of Achievement

Drug/Alcohol Testing Rules

1. Abstain from the use of alcohol and mood-altering substances not prescribed by a physician. Any prescription medication must be reported to the Mental Health Court team for review. Abuse or diversion of prescription medications could result in a service adjustment or sanction.

2. Submit to urinalysis, breath tests and/or mouth swabs as requested or directed. Altered and/or diluted urine will be considered as a positive test. If you miss a test, it is considered a positive test.

3. Certain participants are subject to Color Code testing and are required to contact the UA line daily (including weekends) between **6am to 8am**.
   - Call **(218) 327-2816**
   - Text your probation agent with the color

Prescription Medication Policy

Participants must take prescription medications exactly as directed by their medical provider. Participants must report all medications to the program team. Any changes in the amount or type of medication must first be approved by the provider who prescribed it. If a provider decides to stop a medication, the participant must get and share a letter from the medical provider saying that the medication should be stopped. Participants will use the ICMHC Prescription Use Form and Medication Cards as directed.

Medical cannabis is a medicine that can be used for certain health problems. Because of this, it is treated like other medications; participants with a prescription for medical cannabis must follow the same rules. Only people with a medical condition that qualifies can be part of the medical cannabis program. Participants must show proof that they are registered to use medical cannabis and give receipts from an approved dispensary. The MHC team will make sure that the participant's use of medical cannabis follows state laws.

Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of the program are simple. We believe that if you follow them, you will succeed.

1. **Be Honest.** Although seemingly simple, this is often the most difficult principle to follow. The team expects you to be honest at all times, in all areas of your life.

2. **Take Ownership.** When you make a mistake, we expect you to acknowledge it and learn from it. Taking ownership also includes the positive things you are doing to succeed in the program. When you do something right, take pride in the fact that you are the one making the choices to succeed.

3. **Show Up.** It is vital that you show up on time for all your scheduled appointments required by the program. It will be your responsibility to monitor these appointments and make sure you show up, asking for assistance as needed.

About the Mental Health Court Program

The Itasca County Mental Health Court is a pre & post-adjudication program for offenders based on a voluntary screening for participants that meet eligibility criteria and are appropriate for participation by the Mental Health Court team. This five-phase program consists of intensive supervision by the Mental Health Court team, frequent appearances before the MHC Judge and appropriate treatment planning. In addition, participants will be required to participate in a mental health assessment and follow all recommendations.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to participate in the Mental Health Court program, an offender:

- Must have a serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI) and meet the statutory designation of SPMI for purposes of Adult Mental Health Case Management Services
- Maintain Itasca County residency
- Meet high-risk/high-need criteria as determined by the MHC Team
- Must be charged with a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor offense.
- Must be legally competent. If found incompetent on a Rule 20 assessment, the defendant is unable to proceed with Itasca County Mental Health Court program until competency is restored.

Note:

- The Prosecutor's Office has the authority to decline cases based on level of offense, criminal history, and/or concerns related to public safety.
- The Mental Health Court team may use discretion to determine a participant's appropriateness for the Mental Health Court program or standard probation if deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis.
- Defendants may not be sentenced to Mental Health Court for certain offenses. Mental Health Court will not be an option for sentencing or disposition for files where the Defendant has pled guilty to: Murder, Manslaughter, Aggravated Robbery, Felony Criminal Sexual offense, Felony Malicious punishment of a child, or Child Torture.

Guilty Plea and Sentencing

Under most circumstances, participants will be required to plead guilty and be sentenced before participating in the Mental Health Court Program. Participants will not be allowed to withdraw a guilty plea on the basis that they were terminated from the Mental Health Court Program.

Program Rules

Mental Health Court participants will be required to abide by the following rules:

1. Attend and actively participate in all court ordered treatment sessions/services and court hearings.
    - Unexcused or missed sessions may result in a sanction.
    - Failure to appear in court may result in a bench warrant being issued for your arrest.
2. All absences from court will need to be pre-approved by the MHC team.
3. Any change or discontinuation from treatment services must be discussed prior with the team.
4. Immediately notify probation if you have contact with law enforcement for any reason.
5. Out of county travel requests must be pre-approved by probation.
6. Maintain confidentiality of other Mental Health Court participants.
7. Be respectful of participants and team members. Violent, threatening or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated.
8. Maintain adherence of phase guidelines.

Courtroom Rules

1. Attend all scheduled Mental Health Court sessions and be on time. **Court is held on Fridays at 1pm.**
2. Dress appropriately for court. Clothing bearing violence, sexual, drug, or alcohol related themes is inappropriate. Hats shall not be worn in court. Sunglasses are not to be worn in court unless medically approved. Bulky jackets are not allowed to be worn in the courtroom.
3. Adhere to all courthouse policies.
4. No sleeping.
5. Refrain from side conversations with other participants or interrupting other participants or the Judge during hearings.
6. Respect the Judge and the courtroom environment.

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-188

DEPARTMENT: Transportation
PRESENTER: Ryan Sutherland

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM:
Adopt the 2026 Five-Year Plan for Highway Improvement Projects

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Adopt the 2026 Five-Year Plan for Highway Improvement Projects and authorize the expenditure of unorganized township funds on projects listed in the plan.

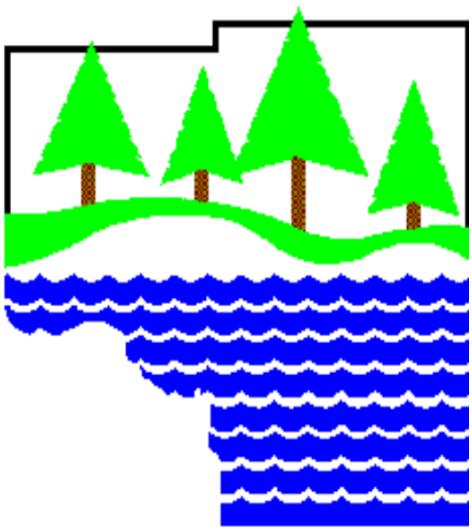
BACKGROUND:
An opportunity for public input concerning the Itasca County Five-Year Plan for Highway Improvement Projects was provided after the February 17, 2026, county board meeting. The opportunity for written comment was extended to March 3, 2026.

Two comments were received regarding the proposed construction on CR 540 and are included at the end of the plan. We are in the process of negotiation right of way and will address these issues with the property owners.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. 2026 5-Year Plan Final

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema



Itasca County

2026

5-Year Plan
For
Highway Improvement Projects

Itasca County Engineer
Karin Grandia
(218) 327-2853

March 24, 2026

Introduction

Itasca County annually reviews and updates the Five-Year Plan for Highway Improvement Projects. The annual review process allows the County Board and staff the opportunity to reassess the Highway Improvement Plan and to adjust due to changes in financial restrictions, highway conditions, public input, and goals and priorities.

The 2026 Five Year Plan is a flexible five-year action plan for bridge and highway projects. Only construction projects listed during the current year are funded.

- Notice -
Itasca County 5 Year Plan for Road and Bridge Construction Projects

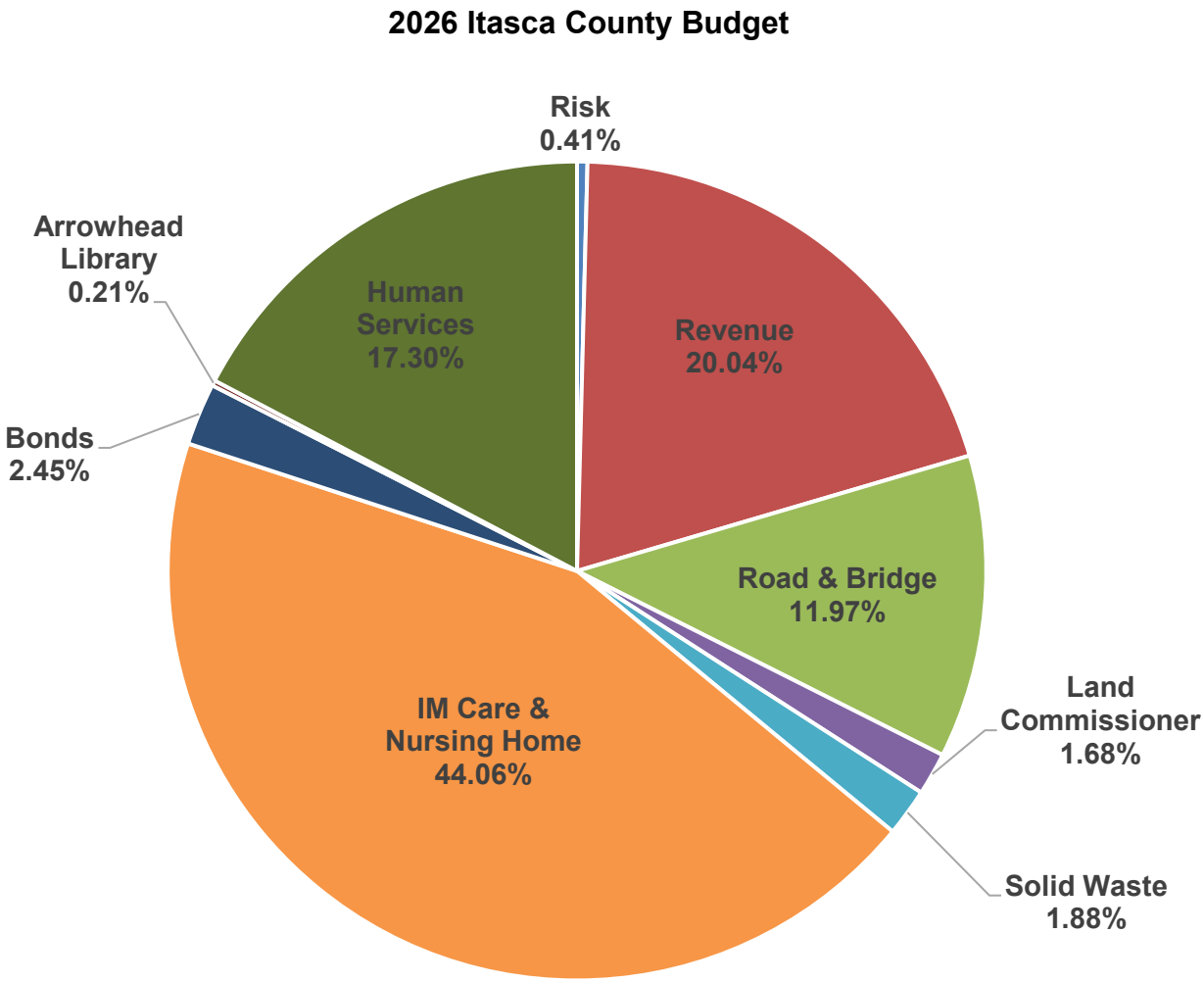
Public input concerning the Itasca County 5 Year Plan for Road and Bridge projects will be accepted at the regularly scheduled County Board Work Session on February 17, 2026, in the County Board Room of the Itasca County Courthouse. County Board members will be available to hear verbal input. Written comment will be accepted at the Transportation Department until March 3, 2026. A copy of the proposed plan and maps showing the projects and their locations is available for review at the Transportation Department in the County Courthouse and online on the Itasca County website under the Transportation Department tab.

Itasca County Transportation Department Overview

The County Transportation Department is responsible for maintaining approximately 1340 miles of roadway and 137 bridges. The department also can be directly or indirectly involved with the maintenance of roadways under the jurisdiction of the 16 cities, 39 organized townships, and the 38 unorganized townships in the county.

The County Engineer, through the staff, is responsible for the administration of both the highway maintenance division and the highway construction division. The maintenance division consists of approximately 74 employees divided between 4 maintenance districts and central purchasing and repair. These employees are responsible for graveling, grading, drainage, signing, snow removal, ice control, equipment repair and minor road improvements. The construction division consists of approximately 14 employees and is responsible for the design and construction administration of all contracted road and bridge improvement projects.

As is shown below, the Transportation Department accounts for approximately 11.97% of the proposed $187,568,229 - 2026 Itasca County Budget. In addition to the $22,451,917.01 administered by the Transportation Department as part of the Itasca County Budget, the construction division administers on average an additional $1,000,000 per year in federal construction dollars spent in Itasca County.



Road Jurisdiction

In Itasca County, there are generally three levels of road jurisdiction:

State - Consisting of Trunk Highways - Examples include TH 169, TH 2, TH 1 etc. These roads are generally higher volume highways, which provide primary transportation routes between cities and regions within the state.

County - Consisting of;

- County State Aid Highways (CSAH) - Examples include CSAH 7, CSAH 19, and CSAH 3 etc. These roads are generally roads which serve as local transportation routes between cities and regions within the county.
- County Municipal State Aid Highways - Consisting of Municipal State Aid Highways located within cities with populations less than 5000. Examples include CSAH 61 in Coleraine and CSAH 81 in Deer River
- County Roads - Examples include County Road 449, County Road 128, and County Road 539. These roads are generally lesser traveled and serve as access to local population areas. All county roads have 3-digit numbers.
- Unorganized Township Roads - These are generally local gravel roads located within an unorganized township. By state statute, the county is required to provide maintenance on these roads. These roads have 3-digit county road numbers.

Local - Consisting of:

- Municipal State Aid Streets - Consisting of Municipal State Aid Streets located within cities with populations greater than 5000.
- Local Municipal Streets - These are generally local streets serving municipal subdivisions.
- Organized Township Roads - These are local roads within organized townships. Examples include Southwood Road in Harris Township or Walker Road in Spang Township.
- Federal Forest Service Roads - These are local recreational or logging roads having forest service jurisdiction.
- Department of Natural Resources Roads – These are local recreational or logging roads having DNR jurisdiction.
- County Forest Access Roads - These roads are under the jurisdiction of the County Land Commissioner (Land Department). They are generally used for timber access and recreational uses. They may be gated or receive little or no maintenance.

Funding Sources

Funding Sources for Itasca County consist of a combination of Federal, State and Local Funds.

Federal Funds

- Federal Funds spent on road projects within Itasca County are originally allocated by Congress as part of a nationwide transportation bill. The source of the money is based on the federal portion of the gas tax. The majority of the funds that are allocated to Minnesota are spent on state administered trunk highway projects.

- Itasca County can and does receive federal funds. The county has historically used federal funds to supplement local funding for bridge projects, road projects or railroad crossing projects. In addition, since the Chippewa National Forest is located within the county, the county periodically receives a portion of the Federal Forest Highway Fund. These funds can only be spent on roads within the forest boundary. The projects are prioritized by the forest service and the county, and the projects are administrated by the county.

- Federal funds can only be spent on qualifying projects and generally require a substantial increase in project administration costs due to the increase in required federal documentation. The funds also generally require a minimum of 20% local match.

State Aid Funds

- The county receives a yearly allotment from the state to be spent on county state aid and municipal aid routes. The source of this allotment is primarily the state gas tax. These funds can only be spent on qualifying state aid routes and have historically been used for construction and maintenance. This allotment is approximately 50% of the funding for the transportation department.

Bridge Bonding

- Bridge Bonding funds are allocated by the Minnesota legislature every other year. The county can and does receive bridge bonding funds. These funds can be used on any eligible bridge in Itasca County on either a CSAH, a county road or a township bridge. State Bridge Bonding funds are allocated to the county as grants (no repayment by the county).

County Funds

- The County Board allocates a portion of its yearly budget to the transportation department for construction and maintenance of county roads. The funding primarily comes from local property taxes. These funds are generally spent on local road and maintenance projects. The amount available each year can vary greatly based on overall county budget needs.

- In 2014, the County Board implemented a wheelage tax on vehicles registered in Itasca County. This tax is estimated to generate approximately $430,000 per year. These funds are used to supplement the maintenance and construction on roads not qualifying for state aid funding.

Unorganized Township Funds

- The unorganized township fund receives monies from the road and bridge levy in each unorganized township. These funds are generally spent on local road and maintenance projects in unorganized township areas.

Typical Funding Amounts

Construction Funding

It is difficult to provide a 'Typical' funding year due to the variability of different funding sources. The following data is based on historical data and does not indicate future funding amounts.

Federal Funds

- On average, Itasca County receives over $1,000,000 per year in federal funds for road and bridge projects.

State Aid Funds

- Each year Itasca County receives approximately $13,200,000 of State Aid Funds. Of that amount, $11,600,000 is regular state aid and $1,600,000 is municipal state aid.
- The funding is split 60/40 so that approximately $7,900,000 is allocated for State Aid construction and $5,300,000 for maintenance.
- Approximately $965,000 is allocated for Municipal County State Aid construction and $640,000 is allocated for Municipal Maintenance.

Bridge Bonding

- State Bridge Bonding is a major source of funding for bridge construction projects and is allocated by the State Legislature. Over the past 5 years approximately $900,000 per year has been available for bridge and railroad crossing construction projects. These funds vary from year to year.

County Funds

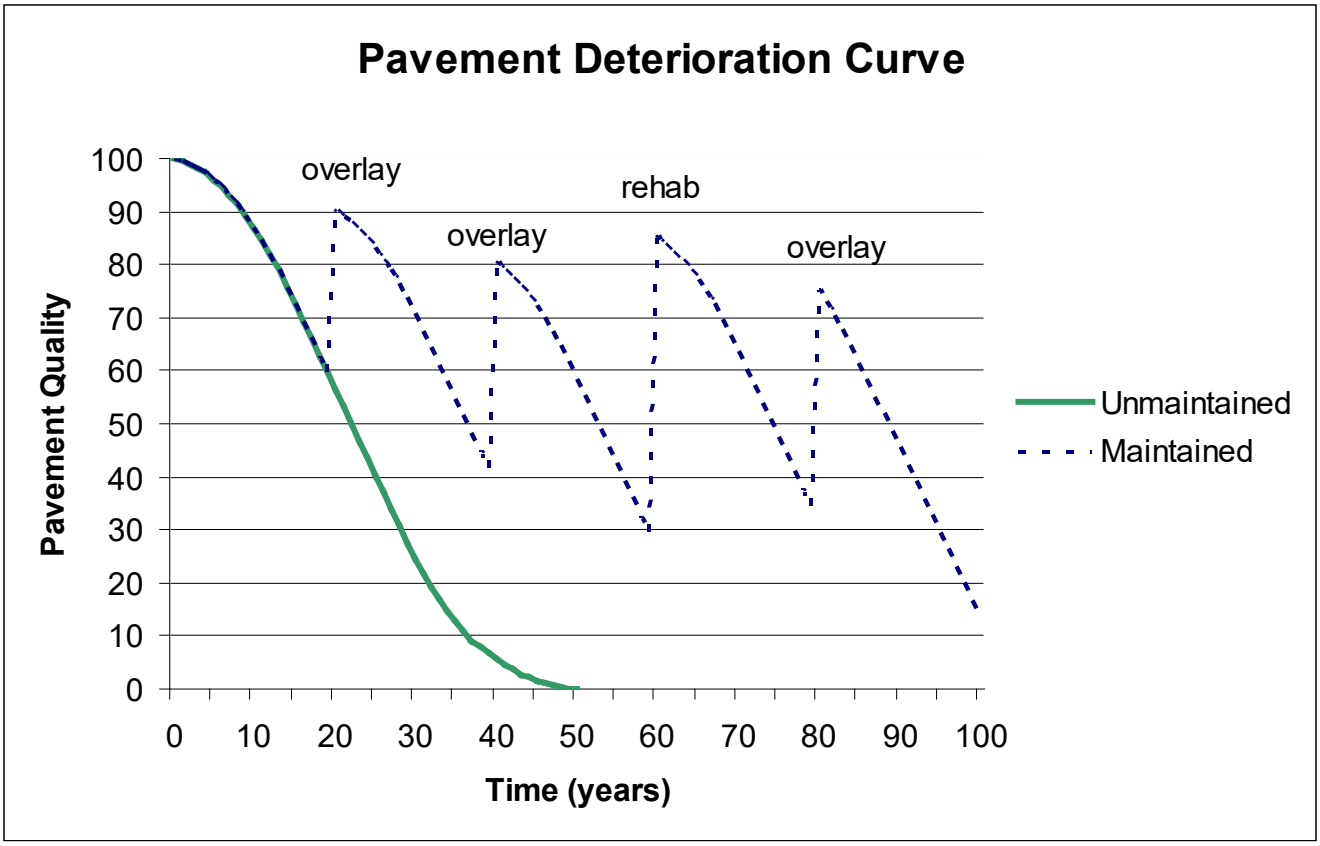
- County Construction funds are typically utilized to upgrade existing gravel County Roads to a bituminous surfaced road. These funds have not been available for many years due to budgeting constraints.
- County Preservation funds have been between $0 to $680,000 over the past 5 years and are supplemented with the monies collected from the wheelage tax, providing a total in 2026 of $1,000,000 for preservation. These funds are typically used on existing paved roads for contracted projects such as bituminous overlays, regrading and surfacing.
- The County averages $300,000 per year for gravel production which is used to surface existing County gravel roads.

Other Funding

- Itasca County has received funding for projects from other sources including Unorganized Township Funding, Town Bridge and Town Road accounts.

Protecting our Pavement Investment

Pavements tend to deteriorate over time due to traffic loads and environmental effects. A graph of the life cycle of a typical bituminous road is shown below where the pavement rating is a relative evaluation of the condition of the road.



The solid line indicates how a pavement would perform with no maintenance. The road is graded and paved at year 0 and is at its best condition (Pavement Quality Index, PQI =100). The pavement will deteriorate over time and after about 30 to 35 years the pavement would deteriorate to the point where vehicle travel would be dangerous at best (PQI = 20).

The dashed line indicates the maintenance strategy of most transportation departments. Periodic overlays and rehabilitation projects are performed to increase the PQI on an interval which attempts to maximize the pavement's ride quality. Every 50 years a rehabilitation project is performed, which replaces culverts and addresses minor grade or subgrade issues. Approximately every 100 years, the road will require a major regrade project.

How much does a paved road Cost?

This County will review construction standards and consider:

- Reconstruct the grade of the road every 100 years.
- Rehabilitate the road every 50 years.
- Perform surface treatment every 20 years.

The following costs are used for budgeting road improvement projects:

1. $ 1,150,000 per mile to reconstruct a road and surface with bituminous pavement.
2. $ 325,000 per mile to rehabilitate an existing bituminous road.
3. $ 130,000 per mile for surface treatment of an existing bituminous road.

The Cost cycle of 1 mile of road:

Year 1	Construct	@	$ 1,150,000
Year 20	Surface Treatment	@	$ 130,000
Year 40	Surface Treatment	@	$ 130,000
Year 60	Rehabilitation	@	$ 325,000
Year 80	Surface Treatment	@	$ 130,000
Total			$ 1,865,000

This equates to approximately **$18,650 per mile per year** to maintain a bituminous road.

There are:

1. 603 total miles of paved roads (County Jurisdiction)
2. 506 of paved CSAH mileage
3. 97 of paved County funded road mileage (3-digit roads)

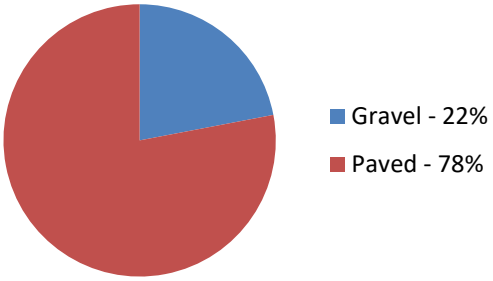
Therefore, to maintain our existing bituminous county roads we require the following yearly budget:

506 CSAH miles - $ 9.4 million (current allocation at $7.44 million)
97 County miles - $1.8 million (current allocation at $815,000)

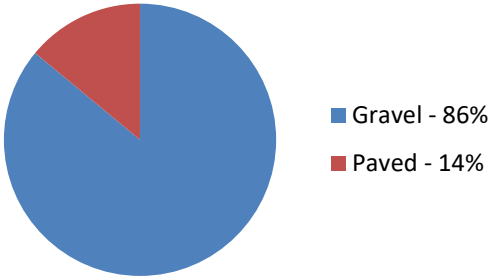
These figures do not include bridge projects, snow plowing, minor surface repairs or other incidental maintenance costs

Gravel vs. Paved

CSAH SYSTEM (649 MILES - TOTAL)



COUNTY SYSTEM (691 MILES - TOTAL)



Of the approximately 1340 miles of roads under Itasca County jurisdiction, approximately 48% are designated CSAH and 52% are designated County. In addition, approximately 45% of Itasca County Road miles are paved.

The average annual cost to maintain a bituminous road is approximately $18,650 per mile based on construction and surface resurfacing costs over the expected life of the road.

The annual cost to maintain a gravel road surface can vary greatly and is usually directly related to the traffic volume on the road. The following table indicates an estimate of the road surface maintenance costs required for gravel roads with three traffic volume levels.

Road ADT	100	200	300
Surface Maintenance Costs (Grader time)			
Grader minutes per mile	60 minutes @ $120.00/hr per mile	60 minutes @ $120.00/hr per mile	60 minutes @ $120.00/hr per mile
Number of grading passes per week	0.5	1	2
Grading weeks per year	26	26	26
Grading Cost per mile per year	$ 1,560	$ 6,240	$ 9,360
Resurfacing Costs (Gravel)			
Re-gravel interval	20 years	10 years	6 years
Cost per mile per year	$ 1,420	$ 2,840	$ 4,730
Chloride Costs			
Chloride Cost per mile per year	---	$2,200	$2,200
Total yearly cost per mile	**$ 3,144**	**$ 8,488**	**$ 13,720**

As can be seen, the maintenance costs rise with the increase in daily traffic volume. The surface costs for a gravel road begin to justify paving at an ADT level of around 300 vehicles per day, from a maintenance perspective.

The following table lists the number of miles of gravel and bituminous surfaced roads under county jurisdiction. As can be seen, the majority of roads over 300 ADT have bituminous surface

NOTES:
- ADT means the Average Annual Daily Traffic count which is an estimate of the number of vehicles per day, calculated on an annual average.
- The State Aid Funding rules discourage the use of State Aid funds for paving roads under an ADT of 150 vehicles per day.

SURFACE TYPE - CATEGORIZED BY TRAFFIC COUNT						
	Surface type	**0-100 ADT**	**100 -200 ADT**	**200 - 300 ADT**	**OVER 300 ADT**	**Total**
CSAH SYSTEM	**Paved (miles)**	**3**	**77**	**82**	**342**	**504**
	Gravel (miles)	**85**	**57**	**1**	**2**	**145**
COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM	**Paved (miles)**	**22**	**27**	**40**	**26**	**99**
	Gravel (miles)	**495**	**86**	**6**	**3**	**592**
	Total	**636**	**223**	**92**	**384**	**1,340**

System Preservation Priorities

The County Transportation Department uses a variety of indicators to prioritize construction and rehabilitation projects. Some of these are:

- Safety
- Preservation of existing pavement
- Availability of funding
- Traffic count
- Cost participation by others
- Project grouping
- Maintenance costs
- Pavement Quality Index
- Economic Development
- Public request

These factors are evaluated on potential projects to arrive with the County 5-year Plan which is reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

System Evaluation

Every two years Itasca County receives data from MnDOT on pavement quality. This data provides a relative ride and pavement condition rating to all paved State Aid and County Roads. This process provides a basis for potential future construction projects based on the condition of the existing road independent of other factors. The department then evaluates the individual projects as to a recommended type of construction project required to bring the roadway to an acceptable ride.

2026 - 5 Year Plan for Construction Projects

The following worksheets and maps detail the proposed 2026 - 5-year plan. It should be noted that this plan is subject to change based on available funding, project conflicts and engineering workload. Project cost and allotment estimates are preliminary and are used for planning purposes only. The detail sheets contain the following sections:

- 2026 through 2030 Highway Construction Project lists
- 2026 through 2030 Highway Construction Project Maps

Public Involvement

Public input concerning the Itasca County 5 Year Plan for Road and Bridge projects will be accepted at the regularly scheduled County Board Work Session on February 17, 2026, in the County Board Room of the Itasca County Courthouse. County Board members will be available to hear verbal input. Written comments will be accepted at the Transportation Department until March 3, 2026. A copy of the proposed plan and maps showing the projects and their locations is available for review at the Transportation Department in the County Courthouse and online at the Itasca County website under the Transportation Department tab.

Questions or comments can be addressed to:

Karin Grandia
Itasca County Engineer
123 4th Street NE
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-327-2853

Itasca County

2026 - 2030

Proposed Project Schedule for Highway Improvement Projects

Itasca County 5-year Plan

REVISED: 3/19/2026

		CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR		2026						
Road Number	**LOCATION (FROM - TO)**	**Length**	**Type of Work**	**Estimated Cost**	**State Aid Funding**	**Municpal State Aid Funding**	**County Preservation Funding**	**Other Funding**	**Other Funding Source**	**Plat Page**
CR 439	Bridge 7026 over Split Hand Creek	–	Bridge Replacement	$570,000			$70,000	$500,000	Bridge Bonding	12
CSAH 68	Bridge 7027 over Split Hand Creek	–	Bridge Replacement	$650,000	$375,000			$275,000	Bridge Bonding	12
CR 540	TH 65 to End	1.1	Reconstruction	$600,000				$600,000	LRIP & UT 1	50, 51
CSAH 43	TH 38 to Jaynes School Road	1.2	Bituminous Overlay	$225,000	$225,000					69
CSAH 79	CSAH 42 - TH 1	1.5	Bituminous Overlay	$200,000	$200,000					92
CSAH 42	TH 38 - CSAH 79	5.2	Bituminous Overlay	$700,000	$700,000					80, 81, 92
43, 252	TH 286 to CSAH 43 & TH 6 to CSAH 43 Bit.	8.0	Gravel Surfacing				$500,000			57, 68, 69
CSAH 52	CR 342 to Horsehead Lake Trail	4.3	Clear & Grub	$275,000	$275,000					71, 72
	County Wide Locations	–	Intersection Lighting	$353,300	$32,000			$321,300	HSIP	
	County Wide Locations	–	Intersection Signing	$199,080	$18,000			$181,080	HSIP	
	County Wide Locations	–	Pavement Striping	$230,000	$150,000			$80,000	Levy	
CSAH 74	Railroad Crossing	–	Railroad Crossing Replacement	$50,000	$50,000					19
	Various Roads		Rountine Maintenance: Crack Sealing & Pavement Patches	$200,000			$200,000			
TOTAL				$4,252,380	$2,025,000	$0	$770,000	$1,957,380		

PROJECTED STATE AID BALANCE

State Aid Balance End of 2025	-$2,300,000
State Aid Allotment for Year 2026	$6,800,000
Transfer from Municipal Construction	
Engineering	$400,000
State Aid Construction for Year 2026	$2,025,000
State Aid Balance End of 2026	$2,075,000

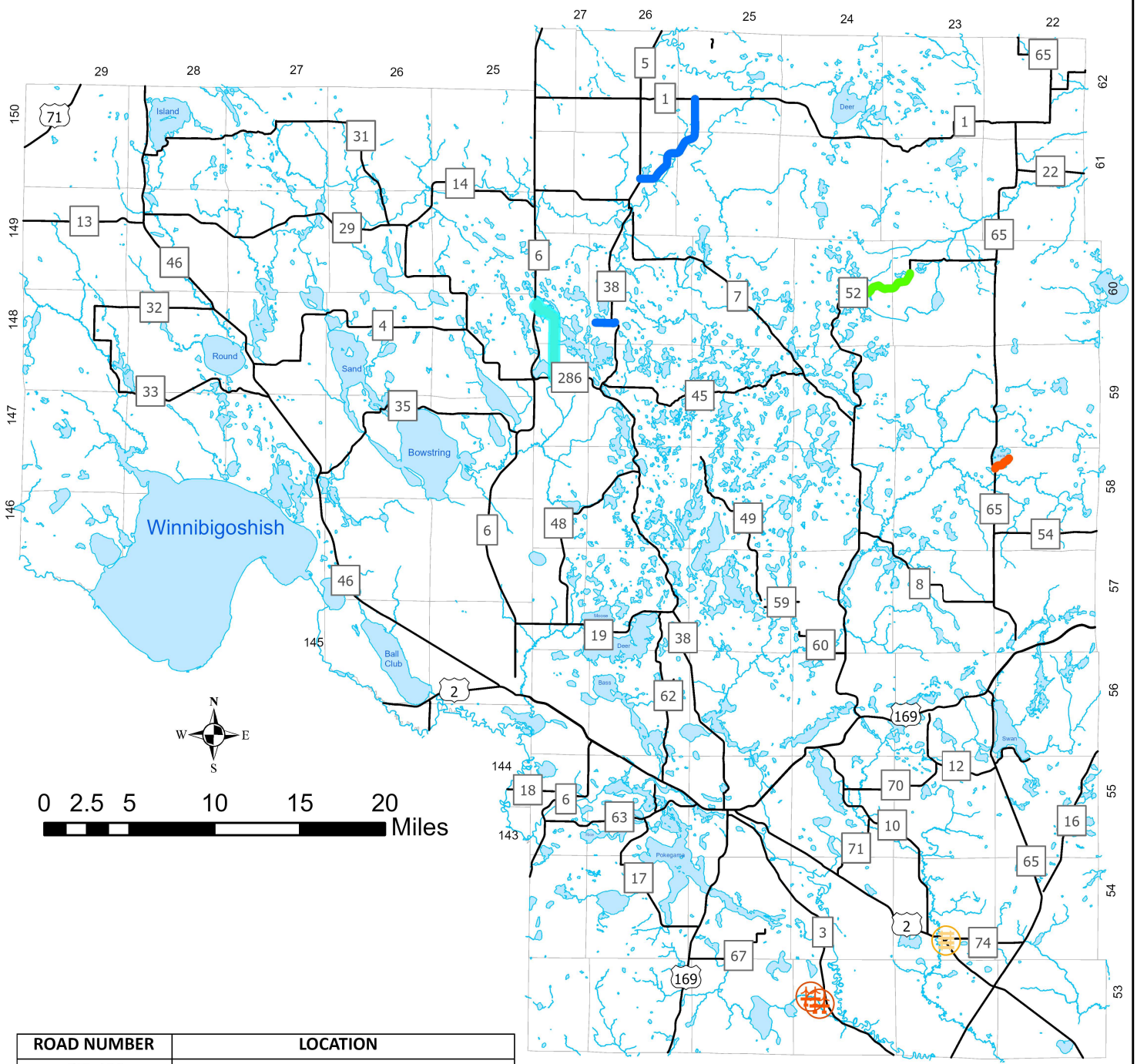
PROJECTED COUNTY PRESERVATION BALANCE

County Preservation Balance End of 2025	$635,000
County Preservation Allotment for Year 2026	$470,000
Wheelage Tax	$430,000
County Preservation Construction for Year 2026	$770,000
County Preservation Balance End of 2026	$765,000

PROJECTED MUNICIPAL STATE AID BALANCE

Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2025	$250,000
Municipal State Aid Allotment for Year 2026	$965,000
Transfer from Mun. Const. to State Aid Const.	
Municipal State Aid Construction for Year 2026	$0
Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2026	$1,215,000

ITASCA COUNTY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS 2026



ROAD NUMBER	LOCATION
CR 439	Bridge 7026 over Split Hand Creek
CSAH 68	Bridge 7027 over Split Hand Creek
CR 540	TH 65 to End
CSAH 43	TH 38 to Jaynes School Road
CSAH 79	CSAH 42 - TH 1
CSAH 42	TH 38 - CSAH 79
CSAH 43, CR 252	TH 286 to CSAH 43 & TH 6 to CSAH 43 Bi
CSAH 52	CR 342 to Horsehead Lake Trail
CSAH 74	Railroad Crossing

2026 Construction Projects

- Bridge Replacement
- Railroad Crossing Replacement
- Bituminous
- Clear & Grub
- Gravel Surfacing
- Reconstruction

Itasca County 5-year Plan

REVISED: 3/19/2026

		CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR	2027						
Road Number	LOCATION (FROM - TO)	Length	Type of Work	Estimated Cost	State Aid Funding	Municpal State Aid Funding	County Preservation Funding	Other Funding	Other Funding Source	Plat Page
CR 533	Bridge No. 92970	–	Bridge Replacement	$600,000			$200,000	$400,000	Bridge Bonding	93
CSAH 17	Bridge 7146	–	Bridge Replacement	$1,435,000	$900,000			$535,000	Bridge Bonding	16
CSAH 52	CR 342 to Horsehead Lake Trail	4.3	Reconstruction	$3,225,000	$3,225,000					71, 72
CSAH 7	Hwy 169 to CSAH 59	8.6	Bituminous Overlay	$1,200,000	$570,000			$630,000	Federal Swap	31, 39
CSAH 15	TH 169 to end	0.95	Bituminous Rehabilitation & ADA Updgrades	$400,000		$400,000				31
CSAH 75	CSAH 7 to park	1.5	Bituminous Overlay	$200,000	$200,000					70
CSAH 50	CSAH 49 to CSAH 7	7.5	Bituminous Overlay	$1,000,000	$1,000,000					48, 49
CSAH 23	TH 169 - Woodland Drive	3.3	Bituminous Overlay	$650,000	$650,000					22, 23
CSAH 63	CR 257 (east) to TH 2	5.2	Bituminous Overlay	$900,000	$180,000			$720,000	Federal Swap	22, 23
CSAH 76	CSAH 23 to CSAH 63	1.9	Bituminous Overlay	$250,000	$250,000					22, 23
CSAH 66	Southwood Road to CSAH 67	3.25	Bituminous Mill & Fill	$525,000	$525,000					17
CSAH 67	CSAH 66 to CSAH 3	3.4	Bituminous Overlay	$450,000	$450,000					17
CSAH 68	CSAH 67 to CR 427	5.4	Bituminous Overlay	$700,000	$700,000					11, 12, 17
CSAH 28	Cass Co Line to TH 6	0.6	Bituminous Overlay	$75,000	$75,000					21
CR 485	CSAH 97 to CSAH 97	1.65	Bituminous Mill & Fill	$350,000			$350,000			16,17
CSAH 97	Hwy 169 to CR 485	0.50	Bituminous Mill & Fill	$100,000	$100,000					17
CR 239	CSAH 17 to CSAH 17	4.6	Bituminous Overlay	$800,000			$400,000	$400,000	UT 4	16
	County Wide Locations	–	Pavement Striping	$230,000	$150,000			$80,000	Levy	
	Various Roads		Sealing & Pavement Patches	$200,000			$200,000			
TOTAL				$13,290,000	$8,975,000	$400,000	$1,150,000	$2,765,000		

PROJECTED STATE AID BALANCE

State Aid Balance End of 2026	$2,075,000
State Aid Allotment for Year 2027	$6,900,000
Transfer from Municipal Construction	
Engineering	$400,000
State Aid Construction for Year 2027	$8,975,000
State Aid Balance End of 2027	-$400,000

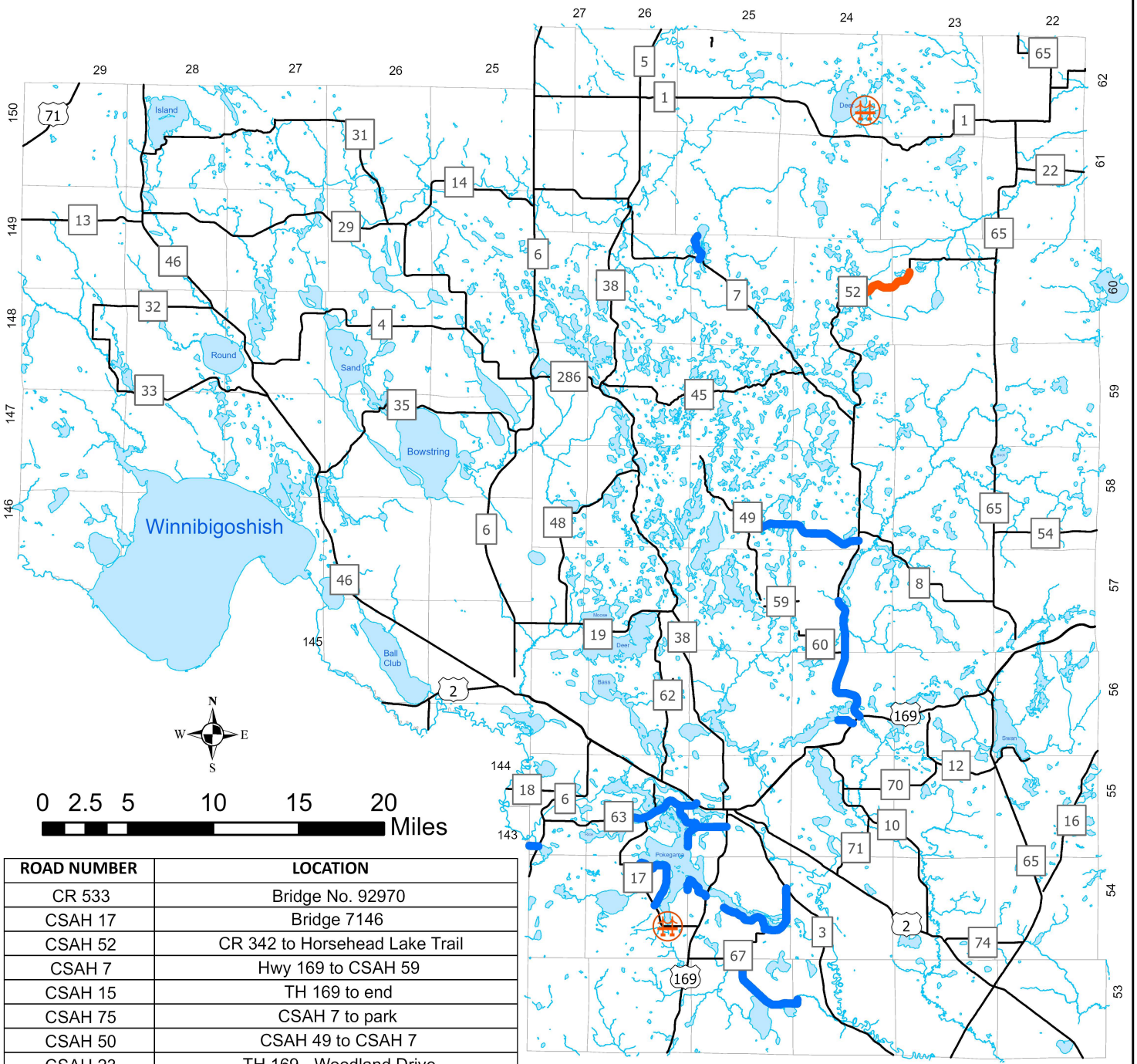
PROJECTED COUNTY PRESERVATION BALANCE

County Preservation Balance End of 2026	$765,000
County Preservation Allotment for Year 2027	$470,000
Wheelage Tax	$430,000
County Preservation Construction for Year 2027	$1,150,000
County Preservation Balance End of 2027	$515,000

PROJECTED MUNICIPAL STATE AID BALANCE

Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2026	$1,215,000
Municipal State Aid Allotment for Year 2027	$965,000
Transfer from Mun. Const. to State Aid Const.	
Municipal State Aid Construction for Year 2027	$400,000
Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2027	$1,780,000

ITASCA COUNTY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS 2027



ROAD NUMBER	LOCATION
CR 533	Bridge No. 92970
CSAH 17	Bridge 7146
CSAH 52	CR 342 to Horsehead Lake Trail
CSAH 7	Hwy 169 to CSAH 59
CSAH 15	TH 169 to end
CSAH 75	CSAH 7 to park
CSAH 50	CSAH 49 to CSAH 7
CSAH 23	TH 169 - Woodland Drive
CSAH 63	CR 257 (east) to TH 2
CSAH 76	CSAH 23 to CSAH 63
CSAH 66	Southwood Road to CSAH 67
CSAH 67	CSAH 66 to CSAH 3
CSAH 68	CSAH 67 to CR 427
CSAH 28	Cass Co Line to TH 6
CR 485	CSAH 97 to CSAH 97
CSAH 97	Hwy 169 to CR 485
CR 239	CSAH 17 to CSAH 17

Itasca County 5-year Plan

REVISED: 3/19/2026

		CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR		2028						
Road Number	LOCATION (FROM - TO)	Length	Type of Work	Estimated Cost	State Aid Funding	Municpal State Aid Funding	County Preservation Funding	Other Funding	Other Funding Source	Plat Page
CSAH 71	Bridge 31507 over Swan River	–	Bridge	$800,000	$160,000			$640,000	Federal	24
CSAH 55	TH 65 to CR 613	0.66	Bituminous Overlay	$80,000	$80,000					61, 62
CSAH 52	CSAH 7 to TH 65	20.3	Base & Bituminous/Bit Overlay	$4,900,000	$3,459,417			$1,440,583	Federal	60, 71, 72
CSAH 7	CR 339 to CR 341	6.4	Bituminous Overlay	$900,000	$900,000					59, 60
CSAH 4	TH 46 - CSAH 29	16.1	Bituminous Rehabilitation	$4,099,500	$2,537,500			$1,562,000	Federal	65, 66, 67
CR 533	TH 1 to end of pavement	2.2	Bituminous Overlay	$400,000			$400,000			93
CR 340	CSAH 52 to end of pavement	0.35	Bituminous Overlay	$75,000			$75,000			71
CR 551	TH 65 to end of pavement	3.3	Bituminous Overlay	$575,000				$575,000	State Park Road Acct	83, 84
CR 532	TH 65 to end of pavement	3.2	Bituminous Overlay	$575,000				$575,000	UT 1	50
CR 560	TH 65 to TH 65 West Shore	2.0	Bituminous Rehabilitation	$700,000			$700,000			32, 33
	County Wide Locations	–	Pavement Striping	$230,000	$150,000			$80,000	Levy	
	County Wide Locations	–	6" Centerline Striping	$259,000	$25,900			$233,100	HSIP	
	Various Roads		Rountine Maintenance: Crack Sealing & Pavement Patches	$200,000			$200,000			
TOTAL				$13,793,500	$7,312,817	$0	$1,375,000	$5,105,683		

PROJECTED STATE AID BALANCE

State Aid Balance End of 2027	-$400,000
State Aid Allotment for Year 2028	$6,900,000
Transfer from Municipal Construction	$0
Engineering	$400,000
State Aid Construction for Year 2028	$7,312,817
State Aid Balance End of 2028	-$1,212,817

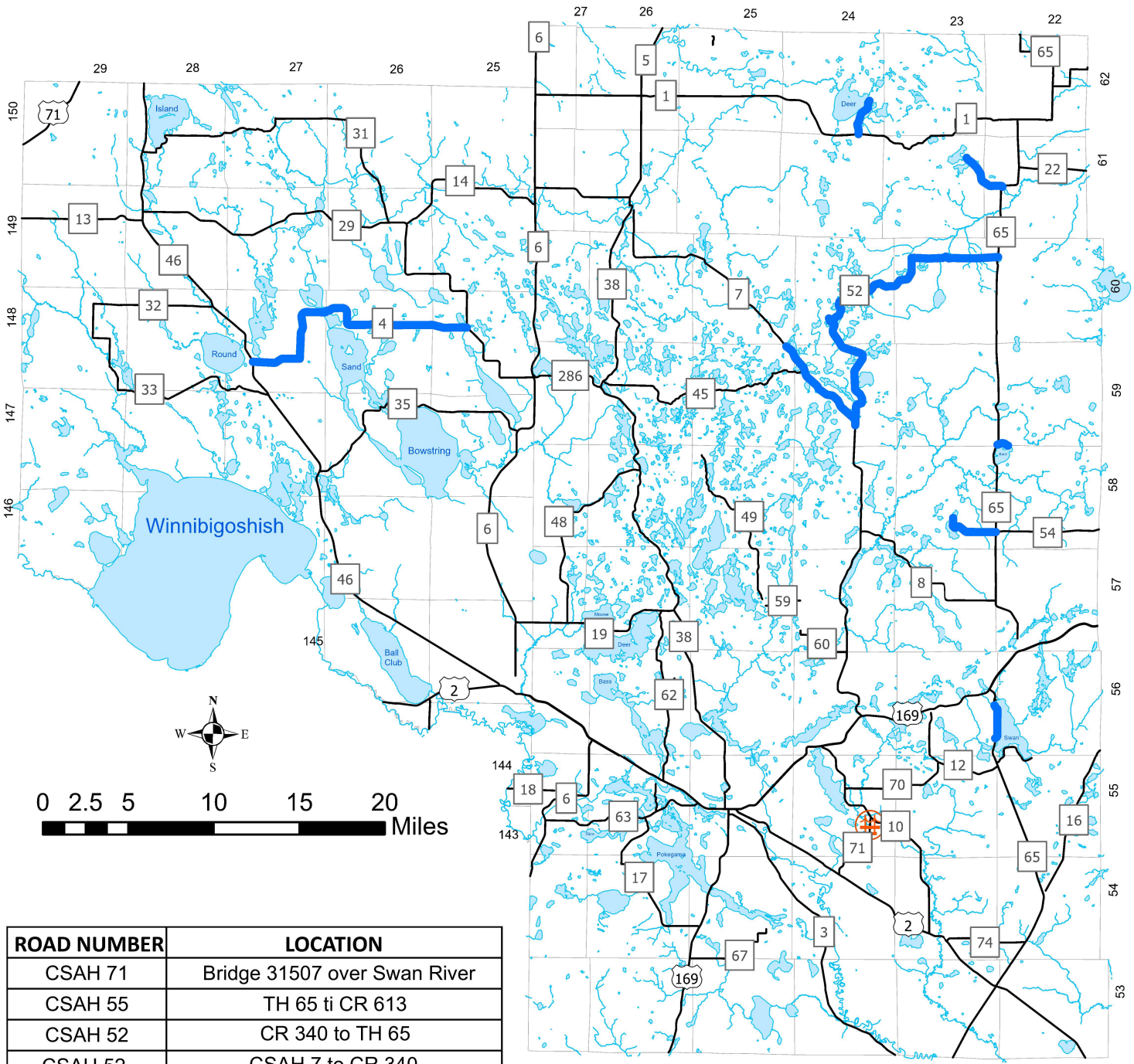
PROJECTED COUNTY PRESERVATION BALANCE

County Preservation Balance End of 2027	$515,000
County Preservation Allotment for Year 2028	$470,000
Wheelage Tax	$430,000
County Preservation Construction for Year 2028	$1,375,000
County Preservation Balance End of 2028	$40,000

PROJECTED MUNICIPAL STATE AID BALANCE

Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2027	$1,780,000
Municipal State Aid Allotment for Year 2028	$965,000
Transfer from Mun. Const. to State Aid Const.	
Municipal State Aid Construction for Year 2028	$0
Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2028	$2,745,000

ITASCA COUNTY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS 2028



ROAD NUMBER	LOCATION
CSAH 71	Bridge 31507 over Swan River
CSAH 55	TH 65 ti CR 613
CSAH 52	CR 340 to TH 65
CSAH 52	CSAH 7 to CR 340
CSAH 7	CR 339 to CR 341
CSAH 4	TH 46 - CSAH 29
CR 533	TH 1 to end of pavement
CR 340	CSAH 52 to end of pavement
CR 551	TH 65 to end of pavement
CR 532	TH 65 to end of pavement
CR 560	TH 65 to TH 65 West Shore

Itasca County 5-year Plan

REVISED: 3/19/2026

		CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR		2029						
Road Number	**LOCATION (FROM - TO)**	**Length**	**Type of Work**	**Estimated Cost**	**State Aid Funding**	**Municpal State Aid Funding**	**County Preservation Funding**	**Other Funding**	**Other Funding Source**	**Plat Page**
CSAH 69	Bridge 31504 over Swan River	–	Bridge Replacement	$700,000	$350,000			$350,000	Bridge Bonding	31, 32
CR 254	Bridge 88215 over Rice River	–	Bridge Replacement	$750,000			$100,000	$650,000	Bridge Bonding	69
CSAH 86	TH 65 to Hwy 169	1.0	Bituminous Rehab & ADA	$275,000		$275,000				41
CSAH 25	Hwy 2 - East Co Line	5.0	Bituminous Overlay	$650,000	$650,000					14
CSAH 61	TH 38 to Coleraine City Limits	4.2	Bituminous Overlay	$550,000	$550,000					23, 30
CSAH 71	Hwy 2 to CSAH 10	4.7	Bituminous Overlay	$625,000	$625,000					18, 24
CR 440	CSAH 21 to Hwy 169	2.33	Bituminous Overlay	$300,000			$300,000			23, 24
CR 407	Hwy 2 to CSAH 21	1.80	Bituminous Overlay	$250,000			$250,000			23
CSAH 17	CSAH 63 - CR 459	3.6	Bituminous Overlay	$500,000	$500,000					16, 22
CSAH 17	CR 459 to TH 169	5.5	Bituminous Overlay	$825,000	$825,000					16
CSAH 90	CSAH 62 to TH 38	1.9	Bituminous Overlay	$250,000	$250,000					29, 30
CSAH 11	TH 2 to TH 6	5.5	Bituminous Overlay	$825,000	$825,000					21, 28
CSAH 19	TH 6 to CR 238	5.85	Bituminous Overlay	$750,000	$750,000					35, 36, 37
	County Wide Locations	–	6" Edgeline Striping	$861,000	$103,500		$7,500	$750,000	HSIP	
	County Wide Locations	–	Pavement Striping	$230,000	$150,000			$80,000	Levy	
	Various Roads		Rountine Maintenance: Crack Sealing & Pavement Patches	$200,000			$200,000			
TOTAL				$8,541,000	$5,578,500	$275,000	$857,500	$1,830,000		

PROJECTED STATE AID BALANCE

State Aid Balance End of 2028	-$1,212,817
State Aid Allotment for Year 2029	$6,900,000
Transfer from Municipal Construction	$1,750,000
Engineering	$400,000
State Aid Construction for Year 2029	$5,578,500
State Aid Balance End of 2029	$1,458,683

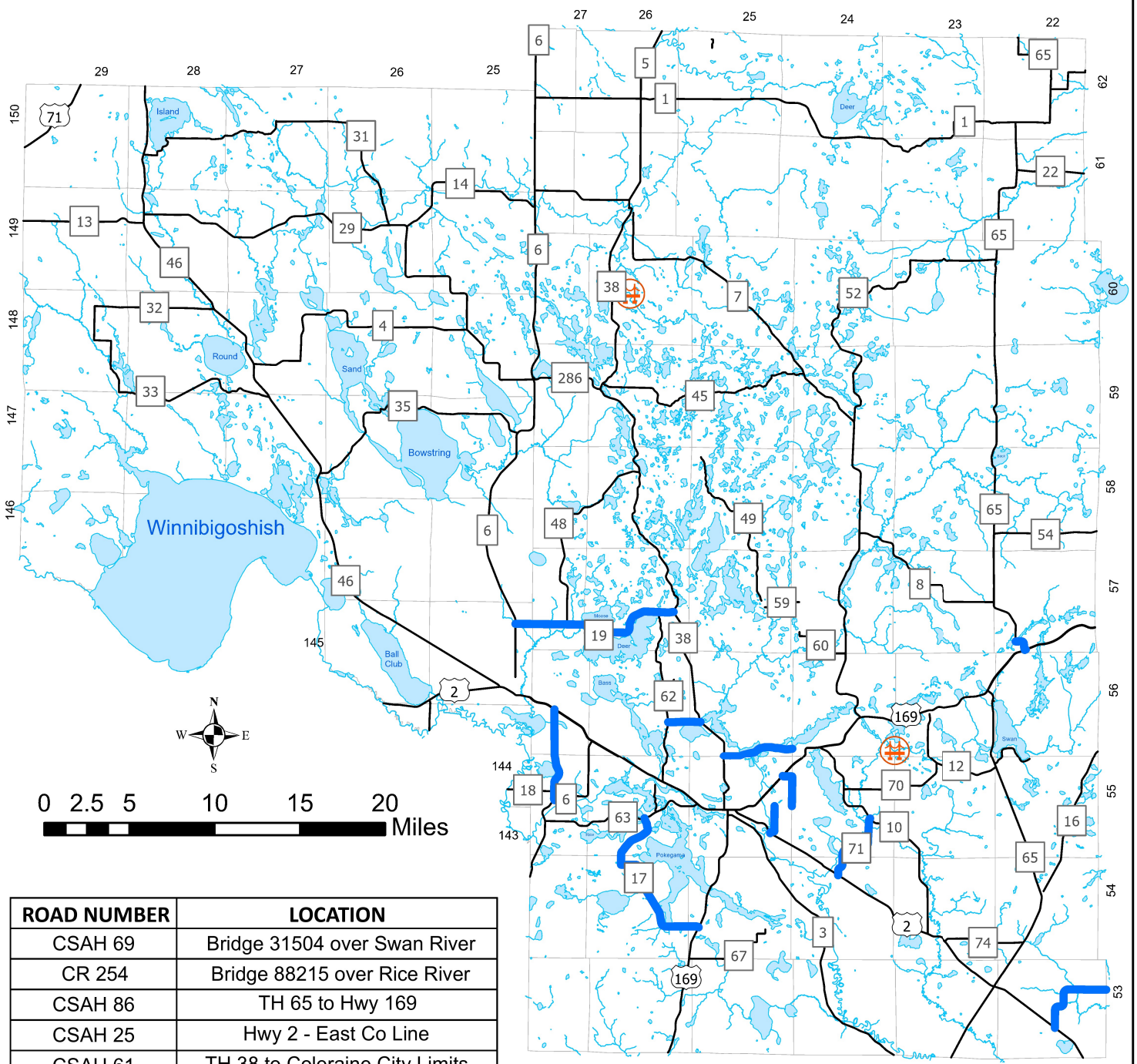
PROJECTED COUNTY PRESERVATION BALANCE

County Preservation Balance End of 2028	$40,000
County Preservation Allotment for Year 2029	$470,000
Wheelage Tax	$430,000
County Preservation Construction for Year 2029	$857,500
County Preservation Balance End of 2029	$82,500

PROJECTED MUNICIPAL STATE AID BALANCE

Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2028	$2,745,000
Municipal State Aid Allotment for Year 2029	$965,000
Transfer from Mun. Const. to State Aid Const.	$1,750,000
Municipal State Aid Construction for Year 2029	$275,000
Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2029	$1,685,000

ITASCA COUNTY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS 2029



ROAD NUMBER	LOCATION
CSAH 69	Bridge 31504 over Swan River
CR 254	Bridge 88215 over Rice River
CSAH 86	TH 65 to Hwy 169
CSAH 25	Hwy 2 - East Co Line
CSAH 61	TH 38 to Coleraine City Limits
CSAH 71	Hwy 2 to CSAH 10
CR 440	CSAH 21 to Hwy 169
CR 407	Hwy 2 to CSAH 21
CSAH 17	CR 459 to TH 169
CSAH 90	CSAH 62 to TH 38
CSAH 11	TH 2 to TH 6
CSAH 19	TH 6 to CR 238

Itasca County 5-year Plan

REVISED: 3/19/2026

		CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR		2030						
Road Number	LOCATION (FROM - TO)	Length	Type of Work	Estimated Cost	State Aid Funding	Municpal State Aid Funding	County Preservation Funding	Other Funding	Other Funding Source	Plat Page
CSAH 80	Bridge 88246	–	Bridge Replacement	$1,000,000		$500,000		$500,000	Bridge Bonding	32
CSAH 40	Bridge 31533	–	Bridge Replacement	$2,250,000	$1,125,000			$1,125,000	Bridge Bonding	92
CR 149	Bridge 88201 to TH 46	0.7	Bituminous Overlay	$100,000			$100,000			65
CSAH 13	Beltrami County Line to TH 46	7.2	Bituminous Overlay	$1,000,000	$1,000,000					74, 75
CSAH 34	TH 46 to CSAH 4	4.7	Bituminous Overlay	$650,000	$650,000					54, 65
CSAH 10	TH 169 to TH 2	14.4	Bituminous Overlay	$2,100,000	$2,100,000					19, 24, 25, 31
CSAH 12	TH 169 to TH 65	7.2	Bituminous Overlay	$1,000,000	$1,000,000					25, 32
CSAH 69	TH 169 to CSAH 70	5.1	Bituminous Overlay	$675,000	$675,000					24, 32
CSAH 70	CSAH 10 to CSAH 12	6.4	Bituminous Overlay	$850,000	$850,000					24, 25
CR 599	CSAH 12 to CSAH 12	0.2	Bituminous Rehab				$50,000			26
CR 600	CSAH 12 to CSAH 12	0.2	Bituminous Rehab				$50,000			26
CR 571	Hwy 169 to end of pavement	0.8	Bituminous Overlay	$110,000			$110,000			41
CR 177	CSAH 62 to TH 38	1.8	Bituminous Overlay	$250,000			$250,000			29, 30
CSAH 21	Int of CSAH 21 & Hwy 169	–	Construct J-Turn	$1,850,000	$83,333			$1,766,667	MnDOT/HSIP	23
	County Wide Locations	–	Redgeline Rumble Strips	$707,900				$707,900	HSIP	
	County Wide Locations	–	Pavement Striping	$230,000	$150,000			$80,000	Levy	
	Various Roads		Rountine Maintenance: Crack Sealing & Pavement Patches	$400,000	$200,000		$200,000			
TOTAL				$13,172,900	$7,833,333	$500,000	$760,000	$4,179,567		

PROJECTED STATE AID BALANCE

State Aid Balance End of 2029	$1,458,683
State Aid Allotment for Year 2030	$6,900,000
Transfer from Municipal Construction	$0
Engineering	$400,000
State Aid Construction for Year 2030	$7,833,333
State Aid Balance End of 2030	$125,350

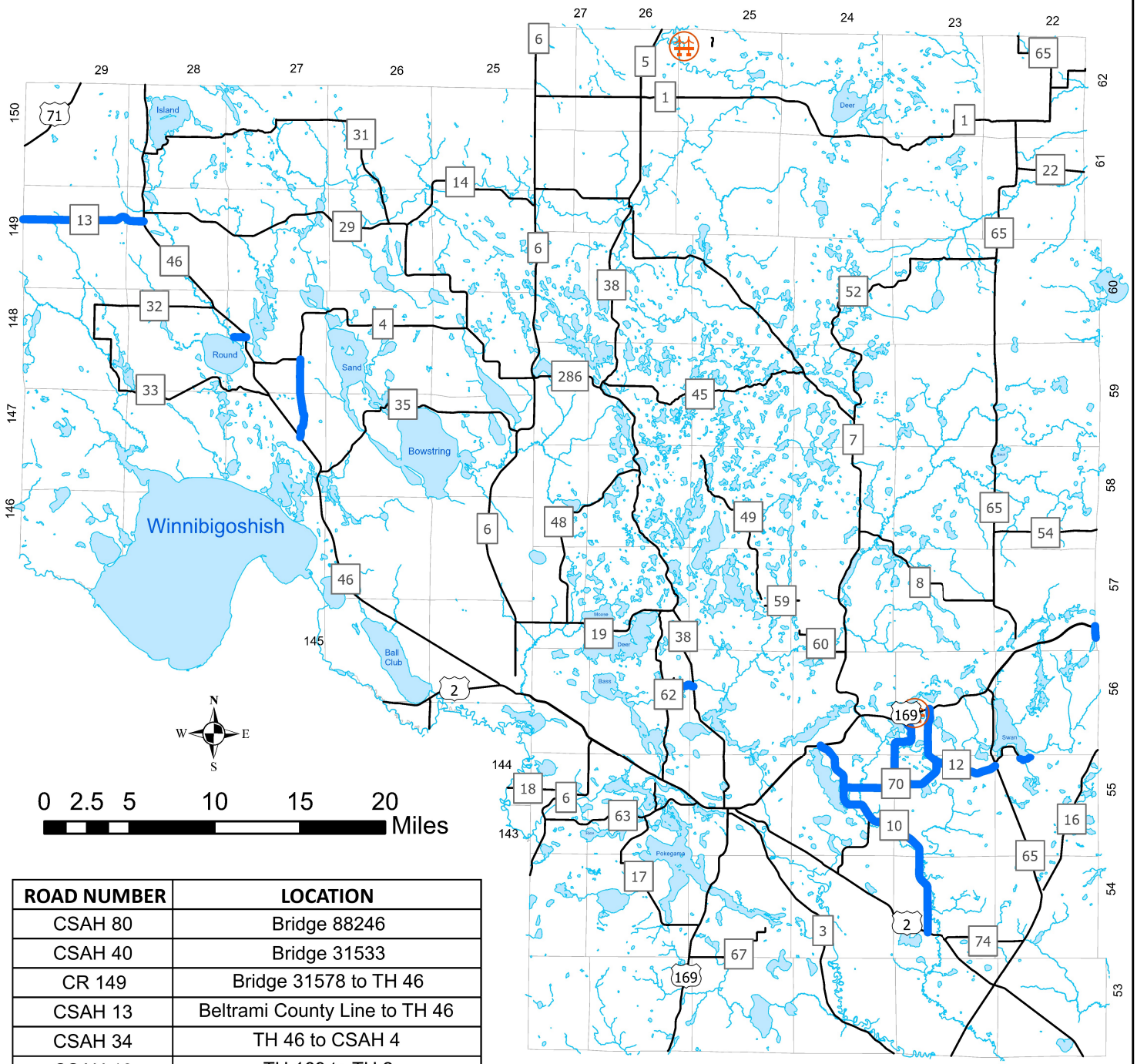
PROJECTED COUNTY PRESERVATION BALANCE

County Preservation Balance End of 2029	$82,500
County Preservation Allotment for Year 2030	$470,000
Wheelage Tax	$430,000
County Preservation Construction for Year 2030	$760,000
County Preservation Balance End of 2030	$222,500

PROJECTED MUNICIPAL STATE AID BALANCE

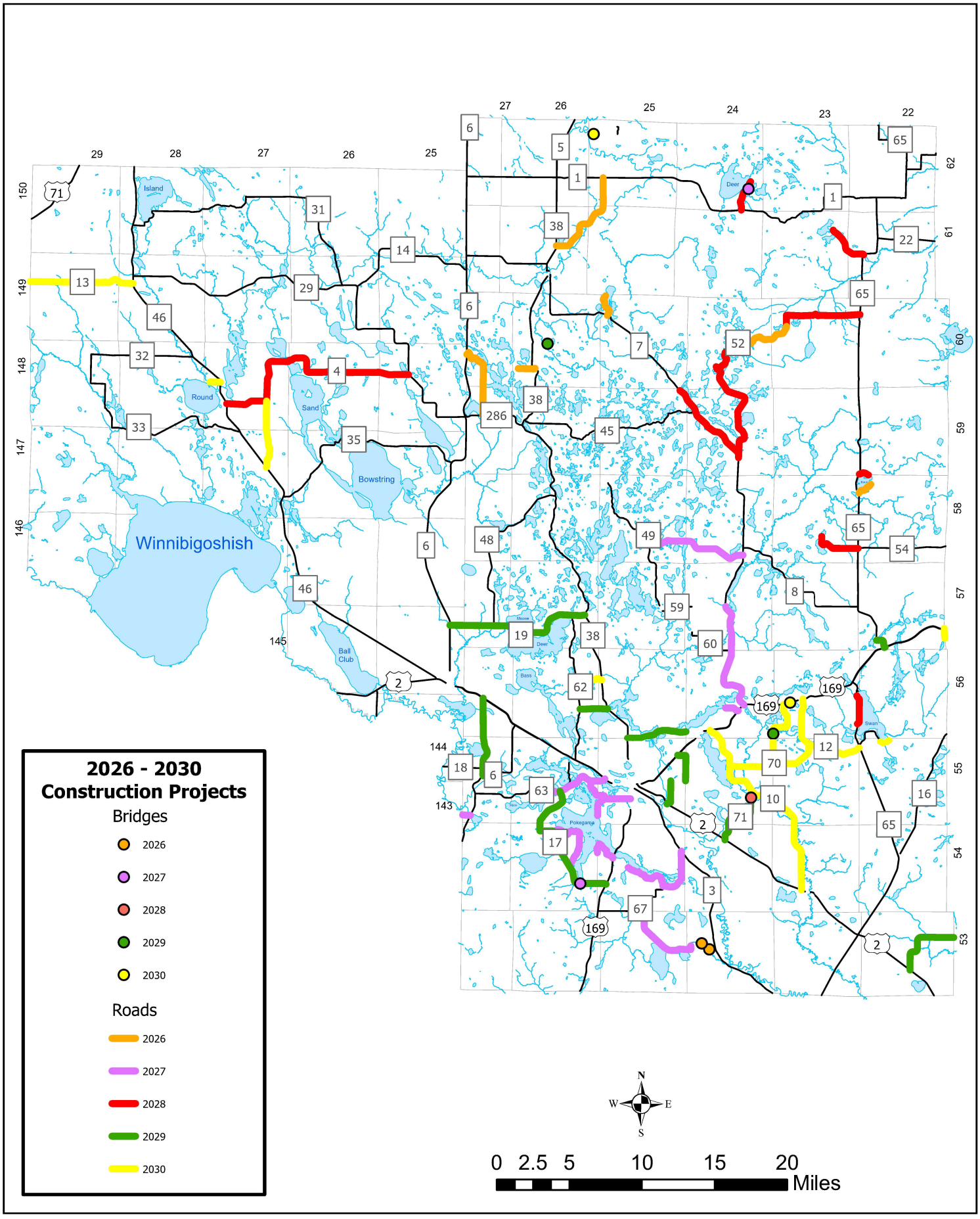
Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2029	$1,685,000
Municipal State Aid Allotment for Year 2030	$965,000
Transfer from Mun. Const. to State Aid Const.	
Municipal State Aid Construction for Year 2030	$500,000
Municipal State Aid Balance End of 2030	$2,150,000

ITASCA COUNTY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS 2030



ROAD NUMBER	LOCATION
CSAH 80	Bridge 88246
CSAH 40	Bridge 31533
CR 149	Bridge 31578 to TH 46
CSAH 13	Beltrami County Line to TH 46
CSAH 34	TH 46 to CSAH 4
CSAH 10	TH 169 to TH 2
CSAH 12	TH 169 to TH 65
CSAH 69	TH 169 to CSAH 70
CSAH 70	CSAH 10 to CSAH 12
CR 599	CSAH 12 to CSAH 12
CR 600	CSAH 12 to CSAH 12
CR 571	Hwy 169 to end of pavement
CR 177	CSAH 62 to TH 38

ITASCA COUNTY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS 2026 - 2030



February 26, 2026

Joshua Falck
123 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

I recently attended the County Board of Commisioners Meeting in Grand Rapids. Shown below are my comments made at that meeting.

We purchased our home on Itasca County 540 in the August 2022. As part of the research, for the purchase of above property we identified a few challenges associated with the homesite location, 1. The onsite sewer system location and 2. The deterioration/condition and safety concerns regarding County Road 540. I am a MN licensed professional Civil Engineer (since 1988) and along with my professional experience (over 40 plus years) I knew we could rectify the issues.

I worked with the seller, Itasca County Highway Department, and Itasca County Environmental Health to address and replace the onsite sewer system in 2023.

I discussed the condition and the County Road 540 road layout with the various homeowners located on 540. Then In February 2023 a terrible home fire happened to one of our neighbors. The fire opened all our eyes regarding how unsafe the current road design and configuration as it limited emergency vehicles to properly access the home, put the fire out, as well as remove/transfer patients to nearby hospitals.

In the spring of 2023 the community requested a meeting with Itasca County Highway Department staff. A meeting was held with Karin Grandia, Itasca County Engineer, Ryan Sutherland, Asst County Engineer, and Casey Venema County Commissioner.

The majority of the meeting discussed concerns regarding the unsafe conditions of the road and how to proceed with a replacement road designed and installed to current standards thereby addressing and ensuring the safety of property owners and families that utilize the road for transportation to work/store/neighbor; walking; school buses, service providers (fed-Ex, UPS, utility company, ambulance, fire) transportation, etc. Specifically, the following was discussed:

1. Road surface – deteriorated asphalt, replacement of road

2. Road width currently 11 feet with no real shoulder, road width lanes are typically 11-12 feet or a total of 22-24 foot wide for a two lane road not including shoulder.
3. Road alignment, horizontal curves, vertical curves, site distances/visibility
4. Road speed limit not posted, road unsafe
5. Road drainage, wetlands, utilities, poor soils, onsite sewer systems, water wells, etc.
6. Road Setbacks – Road is located adjacent to homes, garages, and lake, 25-50 feet
7. Road easement is only 50 feet?
8. Road location adjacent to lake, erosion, environmental impacts on lake, drainage, etc.

Since the 2023 meeting, the County has been proceeding forward with securing funds to make County 540 Road Improvements. There have been **no additional community** meetings with the county regarding the project. The community requested meetings with the County and residents to discuss the road project but the County did not want to meet with the entire community. In 2025 the County provided homeowner's their draft road improvement plan views for review. Homeowners have provided comments/concerns to the County regarding the road alignment. Specifically, I provided multiple letters to Itasca County Highway Department regarding the proposed road alignment and how the alignment will not address the community needs previously identified at the public meeting. For example:

1. Setbacks – The new road alignment does not address homes and garages within, 25-50 feet of road.
2. Road alignment - horizontal curves, vertical curves, site distances/visibility - The new road alignment does not eliminate the curves and adds a horizontal curve across our property/home/garage.
3. Road surface – asphalt. The proposed gravel road means homeowners will have to deal with dust to homes, buildings, cars, etc. The current road is asphalt and there is no dust control to worry about.
4. The proposed county road will not be re-located further from lake as discussed which would reduce surface water drainage to lake and provide time and distance to minimize impact from fluid spills, drainage, etc.
5. The proposed county road will not be re-located further from homes thereby providing a buffer of safety for community members children and animals as discussed.
6. Easement – current easement is 50?. Proposed easement is 66 feet

Shown below are my concerns regarding our property:

1. The current road bisects our property where the house/driveway are on the north side of the road and garage/shop and driveway are on the south side of the road. The proposed County 540 road option would cross the garage driveway and travel southeast across our lawn area. We currently use the garage driveway for parking of truck/boat trailer as well as for truck and utility trailer for equipment. The proposed road option would make it unsafe to use driveway for that purpose.
2. As indicated previously the purpose of the road improvements is make the road safe by addressing horizontal and vertical curves in current alignment. The proposed road option will transition the current road from a vertical curve to a horizontal curve in front of our shop and home.

I recommend the road alignment be located behind our garage which would eliminate the vertical to horizontal curve at the proposed transition in front of our home. The road alignment behind our garage would also move road further back from my next-door neighbor's home thereby eliminating the road drainage issue with current steep road vertical curve. The road alignment behind our garage would also allow for a more direct transition to driveway for our neighbor's homes. Lastly, the road alignment behind our garage would allow road alignment to easily match current road alignment. I recognize and understand with the road alignment behind our shop that there would be **additional costs and permitting requirements.** I also recognize the benefits to the homeowners, community, and the environment if the road is located further from existing homes and the lake.

As I indicated in previous correspondence the proposed County 540 road alignment across our property is **unacceptable.** The alignment will negatively impact the use of our property as well as negatively impact our community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Scofield P.E., M.S.E.
15542 County Road 540 Nashwauk, MN
218-308-0611
scofield@paulbunyan.net

Ryan Sutherland
Assistant County Engineer
123 4th Street NE
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

The reconstruction of County Road 540 is a mixed bag for the residents who live on the road. The Hodge and Lucas properties are finally getting the road moved to where it should have been all along. The road running between the lake and their cabins should never have been located there. Not much thought for the future was evident when whoever was in charge decided to put the road in that location. There were only two, maybe three properties beyond Hodge's cabin at that time. Not much traffic. Now there are eight properties at that end of the road, five of them year round homes - more traffic. At least it was, and is, a blacktopped road.

Are we any more enlightened now with benefit of history and hindsight to guide us as we decide how the road should be reconstructed? We and our four neighbors to the west of us live in a location known as Auditor's Subdivision 22. Three out of the five of us own property across the road, so the road runs through our yards. Not the most ideal situation, but made tolerable by the condition of the road (bumpy, but not that bad IMHO) and the twelve foot width of the asphalt surface keeps traffic moving relatively slowly. The posted speed limit is 20 mph.

The present reconstruction plan will change this considerably. We will now have a road that is smoother, wider and the surface will be dirt. The speed limit will be 30 mph. And it will still run right through our yards. We request that the road be moved to the south of Patterson's drain field, Patterson's garage and Hodge's garage. If we are going to have a dusty road it would be better if it were located further from our houses and cabins.

There is room for more development on County Road 540. It has happened and it will continue to happen. Traffic will increase which will decrease the quality of life for those of us who have the road running through our yards. Let's build something for the future and move it further away from the houses that will have to deal with it. I'm sure the traffic study done for the road plainly shows that County Road 540 does not qualify to be a paved road. The traffic study does not take into consideration the amount of four wheeler and side-by-side traffic in the summer created by kids riding up and down the road. It is substantial and will create a significant amount of dust.

We bought our cabin on Buck Lake in 1989 on a blacktopped road. We built our house here in 2001 on a blacktopped road. Now that blacktop will be removed and replaced by a dirt road. This is not an improvement in any way from where we are sitting. It is a giant step backward. If it does happen, we request that another later entry to the five year plan be added for County Road 540. Pave the road.

Sincerely

Dennis and Pamela Elj

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-322

DEPARTMENT: Land Department
PRESENTER: Sara Thompson

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM:
US Highway 2 Recreational Trail Integration Project (2027) Local Trail Connections Grant Application

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Adopt the Resolution Re: US Highway 2 Recreational Trail Integration Project (2027) Local Trail Connections Grant Program Application, and authorize necessary signatures.

BACKGROUND:
Over the course of last year, Itasca County has been working with MnDOT on keeping trail connectivity through the City of Warba, specifically the snowmobile trail. Most recently, MnDOT recently presented an opportunity to Itasca County to incorporate a 10' wide trail corridor within their upcoming highway reconstruction plans for summer 2027. This opportunity provides a safer, sustainable, year-round recreational asset within the community while adding value to Itasca County's broader trail network.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

RESOLUTION 2026-20

RE: US HIGHWAY 2 RECREATIONAL TRAIL INTEGRATION PROJECT (2027)

LOCAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Itasca County recognizes the importance of recreational trails to the local economy and supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Local Trail Connections Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, Itasca County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation are collaborating to incorporate a seasonal, multi-use recreational trail corridor into the planned 2027 US Highway 2 reconstruction project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 10-foot-wide trail corridor is intended to accommodate seasonal snowmobile use during winter months and other recreational trail uses during non-winter months, including walking, bicycling, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the project will enhance regional connectivity, improve public safety, and support year-round recreational and transportation opportunities within the City of Warba and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, a Local Trail Connections Grant Program grant is available to fund seventy-five (75) percent of the cost of the project under this grant, and

WHEREAS, Itasca County and the Greenway Snowmobile Club recognize the twenty-five (25) percent match requirement for the Local Trail Connections Grant Program, and are actively seeking matching funds, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if Itasca County is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Itasca County agrees to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project and Itasca County will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant has read the Conflict-of-Interest Policy contained in the Local Trail Connections Program Grant Manual and certifies it will report any actual, potential, or organizational conflicts of interest upon discovery to the state related to the application or grant award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Itasca County hereby assures that the recreational trail corridor will be maintained for a period of no less than 20 years as required by the Local Trail Connections Grant

Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Itasca County Auditor, 123 NE 4th St. Grand Rapids, MN 55744, be named as the fiscal agent for this grant.

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
County of Itasca) ss.
Office of County Administrator)

I, BRETT SKYLES, Administrator of the County of Itasca, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in this office on March 24, 2026 and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.



Administrator

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-323

DEPARTMENT: Land Department
PRESENTER: Sara Thompson

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM:
Moody's Creek Bridge Replacement and Trail Relocation Project Local Trail Connections Grant Application

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Adopt the Resolution Re: Moody's Creek Bridge Replacement and Trail Relocation Project Local Trail Connections Grant Application, and authorize necessary signatures.

BACKGROUND:
Itasca County, the Rapid Riders ATV Club, and the Driftskipper Snowmobile Club are working collaboratively to currently re-route the ATV/Snowmobile trail to improve safety by reducing 90-degree corners and minimize environmental impact by removing the corridor out of the floodplain of Moody Creek. This project will involve constructing a new bridge that will be wider and provide a safer crossing for the trail and the users.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: No

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner John Johnson
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-126

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services
TIME REQUESTED: 15 Minutes
PRESENTER: Chair Smith

AGENDA ITEM:
Legislative Conference Call

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Receive Legislative Conference Call.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. 2026 Legislative Priorities FINAL

03/24/2026

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

ITASCA COUNTY
Courthouse
Administrative Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848

Itasca County
2026 Legislative Priorities
FINAL

- Hwy 169 – Support efforts for double lane completion
- Increase PILT Reimbursement, Emphasis on Lakeshore Property PILT
- EMS Funding
- Lift Nuclear Moratorium/Energy Transition – Include Biomass as Carbon Neutral
- New Business Economic Development/Investment – Recent Leg Impacts
- Recreation Enforcement State Funding Process
- Update/Change current sulfate standards

For Legislative Discussion:

- Wolf Management and Economic Impact

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-103

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources
PRESENTER: Administrator Skyles

TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes

AGENDA ITEM:
Employee Recognition

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
The following employees celebrated significant work milestones this month:

Brandon Nelson in the Transportation Department, celebrating 5 years.
Jonathan Prica in the Transportation Department, celebrating 10 years
John Linder, in the Sheriffs Department, celebrating 20 years

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to Itasca County.

Congratulations to Quinn Hagen, who transferred from Eligibility Specialist to Accounting Technician in the Health and Human Services Department effective March 15, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

03/24/2026

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-128

DEPARTMENT: Auditor / Treasurer
TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes
PRESENTER: Gail Guck

AGENDA ITEM:
Commissioner Warrants

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Approve the Commissioner Warrants with a check date of March 25, 2026, in the amount of $198,831.10

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-139

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services
TIME REQUESTED: < 5 Minutes
PRESENTER: Christine Krebs

AGENDA ITEM:
ICCHS Warrants

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Approve the Itasca County Health & Human Services Warrants for March 2026 in the amount of $1,069,332.31.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. March 2026 Board Report-ICHHS

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Casey Venema
SECONDER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ITASCA RESOURCE CENTER

1209 SE 2nd Avenue, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Hearing Impaired Number TDD: 218-327-5549
218-327-2941
Visit us at : www.co.itasca.mn.us

March 2026

Income Maint/Admin Payments	$	243,327.02
Social Services - Waivers	$	50,471.95
Social Services - Non-Waivers	$	340,199.36
Foster Care/Out of Home/FamilySupport	$	375,543.81
Relative Custody/Preventive Placement Costs/Incidentals	$	10,990.14
Public Health	$	30,549.40
Community Health Board	$	18,250.63
Total	$	1,069,332.31

Note : The above is a general description of payments made during the month indicated and is not intended to be a detailed itemization. The Community Health Board does not affect the Health & Human Services budget or levy.

March 2026
Out of Home Placement Breakdown

Foster Care/Out-of-Home/Family Support Comparison

	Actual 2026	Actual 2025	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
January	423,172.82	407,984.28	358,655.03	481,711.66	433,150.76
February	337,301.90	419,438.58	392,553.96	553,117.21	348,631.48
March	375,543.81	360,646.28	406,513.25	549,963.91	390,198.68
April		503,076.21	490,023.47	519,051.04	552,814.60
May		486,088.00	499,374.53	438,535.58	487,698.28
June		419,736.48	358,348.53	563,762.89	585,853.92
July		380,255.92	424,373.46	429,881.33	400,212.87
August		611,190.11	381,991.86	482,732.73	484,467.08
September		434,323.05	471,425.74	397,517.32	499,454.00
October		346,547.13	465,927.89	445,148.34	596,946.77
November		436,612.53	384,937.51	510,070.44	361,433.79
December		294,053.94	422,698.84	383,715.02	510,726.16
Total	1,136,018.53	5,099,952.51	5,056,824.07	5,755,207.47	5,651,588.39

Child Protection Statistics

	Maltreatment Reports	Opened for Assessment	% Opened	Children Placed	% Placed of Open
January	57	22	39%	1	5%
February	79	30	38%	7	23%
March	95	27	28%	5	19%
April			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
May			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
June			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
July			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
August			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
September			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
October			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
November			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
December			#DIV/0!		#DIV/0!
	231	79	34%	13	16%
			average		average
2025	968	323	33%	71	22%
2024	472	191	40%	80	42%
2023	510	275	56%	84	32%
2022	605	300	50%	96	33%

March 2026

Out of Home Placement Payments by Vendor

		Rate		Invoices Paid
Northwestern MN Juvenile	-	$275-$421/day		$ 75,847
The Bridge Residential Facility	-	$255/day		$ 52,521
North Homes	-	$175 - $573/day		$ 45,613
Northwood	-	$294-$441/day		$ 23,130
Lutheran Social Services	-	$148-$366/day		$ 21,609
Kadiri House	-	$593/day		$ 16,607
Anoka County Juvenile Center	-	$395/day		$ 15,498
Village Ranch	-	$249 - $318/day		$ 14,601
Snyders/Foundation for Life	-	$200/day		$ 11,200
Little Sand Group Home	-	$394/day		$ 11,198
Bar None	-	$559/day		$ 10,950
Lighthouse	-	$200/day		$ 5,600
Dungarvin	-	$35/day		$ 2,077
180 Degrees Inc	-	$500 - $566/day		$ -
Arrowhead Juvenile Center	-	$286/day		$ -
Crow Wing Community Serv	-	$295/day		$ -
Dakota County Juvenile Serv	-	$325 - $340/day		$ -
East Central Regional Juvenile	-	$375/day		$ -
Fond Du Lac Foster Care	-	$40 - $90/day		$ -
Heartland Girls Ranch	-	$249 - $359/day		$ -
MCF - Redwing	-	$260/day		$ -
MN Dept of Corrections	-	$269/day		$ -
New Trails Group Home	-	$331/day		$ -
Nexus	-	$296 - $556/day		$ -
Northstar	-	$200/day		$ -
Peace House	-	$115/day		$ -
Port Group Homes	-	$381/day		$ -
Prairie Lakes Youth Program	-	$209 - $410/day		$ -
Volunteers of America	-	$330 - $590/day		$ -
West Central Juvenile Center	-	$300 - $595/day		$ -
Woodland Hills	-	$290 - $331/day		$ -
Individuals*	-	$21 - $121/day		$ 69,093
Total				**$ 375,544**

*Individuals : Includes Foster Care & Family Support Programs

March 2026
North Homes & Northwestern Placement Breakdown

North Homes

	Assessment Evaluation	Shelter	Hawkins Home	Boys & Girls Programs	Cottage	Foster	Total
Jan	27,318.77	-	23,397.16	42,693.84	6,945.45	-	100,355.22
Feb	-	-	11,890.36	-	-	16,343.82	28,234.18
Mar	7,735.31	-	22,630.04	15,247.80	-	-	45,613.15
Apr							-
May							-
Jun							-
Jul							-
Aug							-
Sep							-
Oct							-
Nov							-
Dec							-
	35,054.08	-	57,917.56	57,941.64	6,945.45	16,343.82	174,202.55

Northwestern

		Residential	Non-Secure Detention	Secure Detention	Satellite Homes	Evaluation	Total
Jan		29,295.00	7,150.00	15,777.55	8,277.00	5,985.00	66,484.55
Feb		26,000.00	2,345.00	14,157.99	8,525.00	12,741.00	63,768.99
Mar		37,837.50	7,705.00	12,740.00	7,700.00	9,864.00	75,846.50
Apr							-
May							-
Jun							-
Jul							-
Aug							-
Sep							-
Oct							-
Nov							-
Dec							-
	-	93,132.50	17,200.00	42,675.54	24,502.00	28,590.00	206,100.04

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-337

DEPARTMENT: Human Resources **TIME REQUESTED:** 5 Minutes
PRESENTER: Commissioner John Johnson / Commissioner Cory Smith

AGENDA ITEM:
Approval of the following job posting: two Corrections Officers, Sheriff's Department

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Approval of the following job posting: two Corrections Officers, Sheriff's Department.

BACKGROUND:
The Sheriff's Department has requested authorization to post two Corrections Deputy positions.

In alignment with the County's updated job posting process, the department head met with the Classification / Job Posting Committee to present the operational need for filling these positions. The Committee reviewed the current workload, service impacts, and staffing levels and agreed to bring this recommendation forward to the County Board for consideration.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-140

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services **TIME REQUESTED:** 5 Minutes
PRESENTER: Sarah Anderson

AGENDA ITEM:
County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division Update/Presentation

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Receive presentation on County Based Purchasing (IMCare) Division.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. 2025 Compliance Program Report

03/24/2026

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-317

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services **TIME REQUESTED:** 10 Minutes
PRESENTER: Eric Villeneuve, Christine Krebs, Mary Chambers

AGENDA ITEM:
Financial Unit Update

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Receive Financial Unit Update.

BACKGROUND:
H.R. 1, signed into law in 2025, is a reconciliation bill that will cause some upcoming changes to several programs, including Medicaid and SNAP. This update will cover the application process, including some of those changes, as well as information on the County's fraud prevention program.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

03/24/2026

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-324

DEPARTMENT: Land Department **TIME REQUESTED:** 10 Minutes
PRESENTER: Sara Thompson, Justin Johnson - Plum Catalyst

AGENDA ITEM:
Itasca County Comprehensive Trail Study Project Update/Presentation

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Itasca County Comprehensive Trail Study Project Update Presentation

BACKGROUND:
The Itasca County Land Department, in partnership with the University of Minnesota and The PLUM Catalyst, is conducting a two-year comprehensive trails study from December 2025 through November 2027. This study will measure the economic impact of the county's trail systems and collect trail user data on how, when, and why people use motorized and non-motorized trails.

Informational — No Action Needed

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. Trails Project - March 26 Update to County Board

03/24/2026

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

Itasca County Trails Economic Impact Study: Board Update

March 24, 2026

THE PLUM CATALYST™

Itasca County Minnesota

University of Minnesota Extension

AGENDA



Project Goals Recap



Meet the Team



Steering Committee Meeting Summary



Survey Strategy / Update



Trail Counting Strategy / Update



Next Steps

Project Goal:

A Recreational Trails Economic Impact Study

WHAT



Trail Counts Surveys

HOW













Meet the team



Sara Thompson
Forest Recreation Specialist | Itasca County
Project Leader

Trisha Peterson
Community Catalyst | The PLUM Catalyst
Outreach & Engagement

Justin Johnson
Director of Tech | The PLUM Catalyst
Project Manager

Sarah Birdwell
Engagement Strategist | The PLUM Catalyst
Design & Communication

Jon Dege
Regional Director | The PLUM Catalyst
Sensors & Data Aggregation

Brigid Tuck
Applied Research | University of MN
Statistics & Analysis

Steering Committee

WHO

- Representatives from trail user groups
- Mix of trail types
- Experienced in management and maintenance of trails and trails groups

WHAT

- Review planning and data
- Provide insights to ideal trail counter locations
- Provide insights into opportunities to maximize survey responses
- Spearhead awareness through social media and club communications

HOW

- Monthly in-person meetings
- Email and direct conversations
- Representation at trails events

Itasca County Trails: Survey Update, March 20, 2026

424 respondents

374 used trails in the last 12 months

364 moved past the screening questions

147 entered the drawing

60% are residents

40% are visitors

Activity	Count	Total Base	%
ATV riding	76	400	19%
General biking	11	400	3%
Horseback riding	9	200	5%
Cross-country skiing	111	200	56%
Hiking/snowshoeing	56	200	28%
Mountain biking	54	400	14%
Snowmobiling	119	400	30%
Other	29 (walking/hunting)	N/A	N/A

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Takeaways

- ✔ Added 130 responses since last check-in
- ✔ Close to enough surveys to do an analysis of winter trails in general, not enough for specific use types
- ✔ Increase in surveys from snowmobiling, which is good
- ✔ Continued uptick in the number of visitors completing the survey, want to continue to get more

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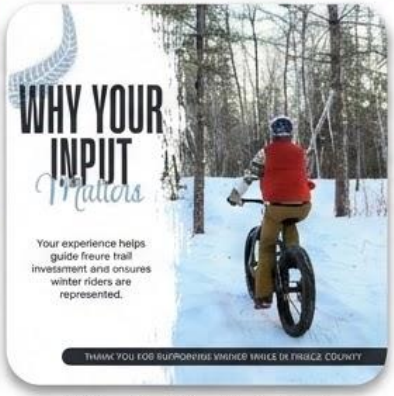
Outreach, Engagement & Communications

- Developed comprehensive communications plan to help bring awareness and promote survey participation
- Created seasonal and trail use modality specific materials in both print and digital formats



Snowmobile Print Flyer





Winter Fat Tire Social Post





Snowshoeing Social Post

Trail Counting Goals



Leverage a reliable, robust and trusted trail counter



Work with steering committee to identify representative trails for each trail modality to install counters



Capture major trails events and attendance to validate spikes in data



Rotate trail counters seasonally, or as needed to provide maximum data validation



Build correlations across all county trails to establish annual usage metrics for the trail system

OHV Counter - Trafx

OHV COUNTER

Generation 4.1



Key Info

- *For off-highway vehicles (ATVs, quads, dirt bikes, etc.)*
- *Advanced microelectronic design*
- *Self-contained design; no external wires or tubes*
- *Designed to be buried*
- *Small and easy to hide — reduces vandalism risk*
- *Long battery life (up to 9 months)*
- *Large storage capacity (millions of counts)*
- *Built for outside: -40C (-40F) to +55C (131F)*
- *Low installation, operating, and maintenance costs*
- *Field-proven, Generation 4 design (>10 year history)*



Compact, Unobtrusive Design

The TRAFx OHV Counter detects and counts off-highway vehicles such as ATVs, quads, motorcycles, jeeps, 4x4s, etc. It is the first, and currently the only OHV counter available. Because the counter is small (about the size of a bar of soap), it is easy to deploy and hide. It is designed to be buried and left unattended in the field for long periods. It can also be mounted under a bridge, or hidden under a log or rock at the trailside.

B. INSTALLATION EXAMPLES

A. Buried at roadside (quick and easy)



B. Inside a lockable box on post at roadside



C. In an electrical or valve box at roadside





D. Under a bridge, cattle guard, rock pile, or log.



Trafx - Pedestrian Trail counter

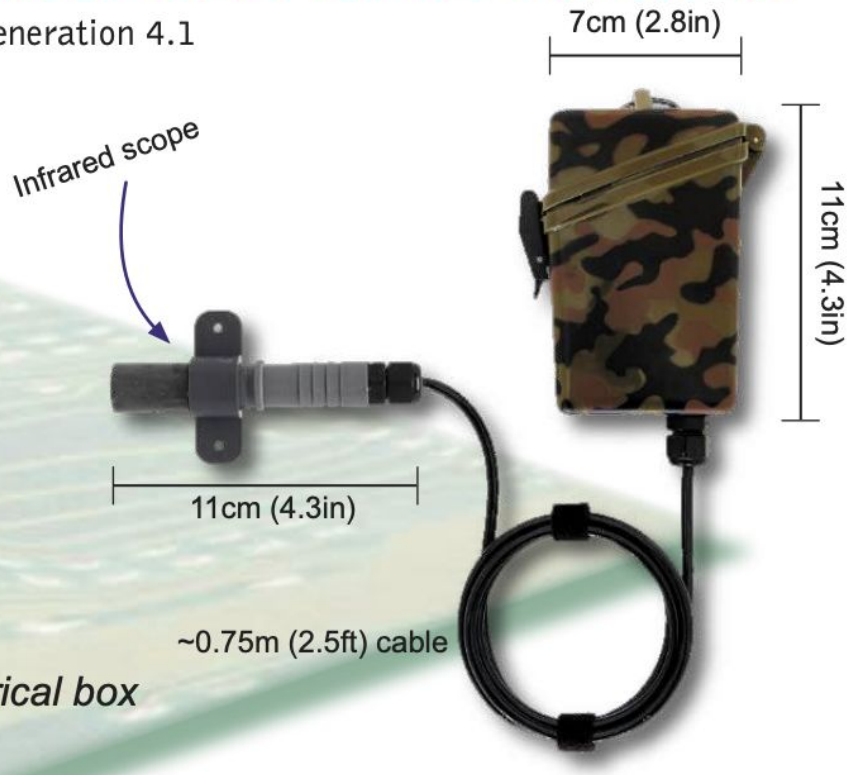
TRAFx
Count on us! ™

Key Info

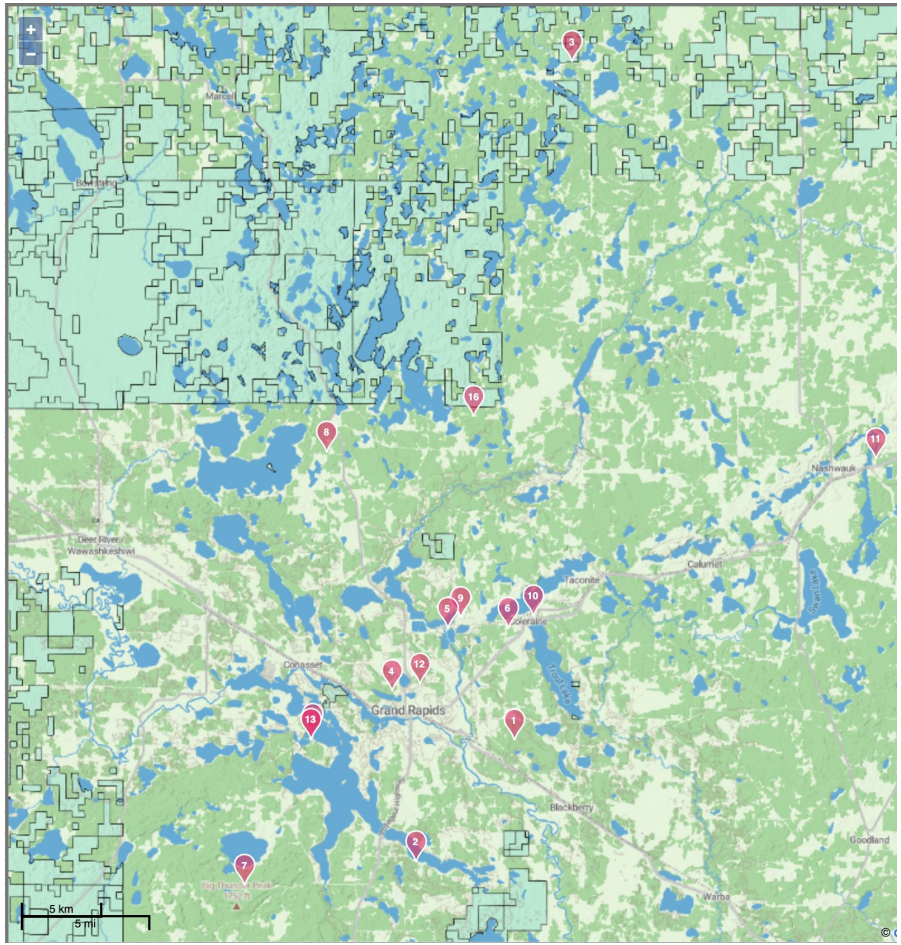
- *Counts people on trails, paths and sidewalks*
- *Advanced microelectronic design*
- *High-quality infrared scope*
- *Compact, unobtrusive, camouflaged design*
- *Very long battery life (up to 10 years)*
- *Large storage capacity (millions of counts)*
- *Maximum range: 6m (20ft.)*
- *Built for outside: -40C (-40F) to +55C (131F)*
- *Very low operating costs (<$1/year for batteries)*
- *Mount on a tree, or put inside a low-cost, lockable electrical box*
- *Field-proven, Generation 4 design (>10 year history)*

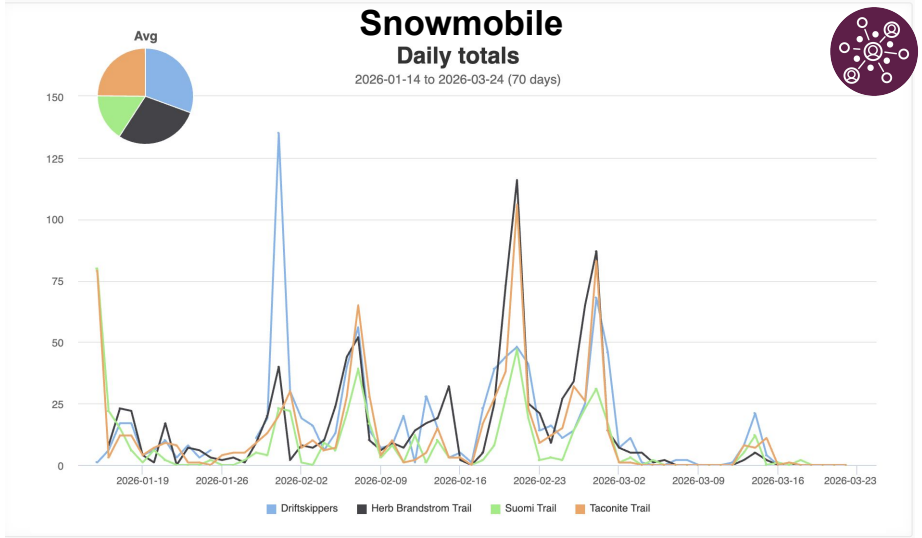
INFRARED TRAIL COUNTER

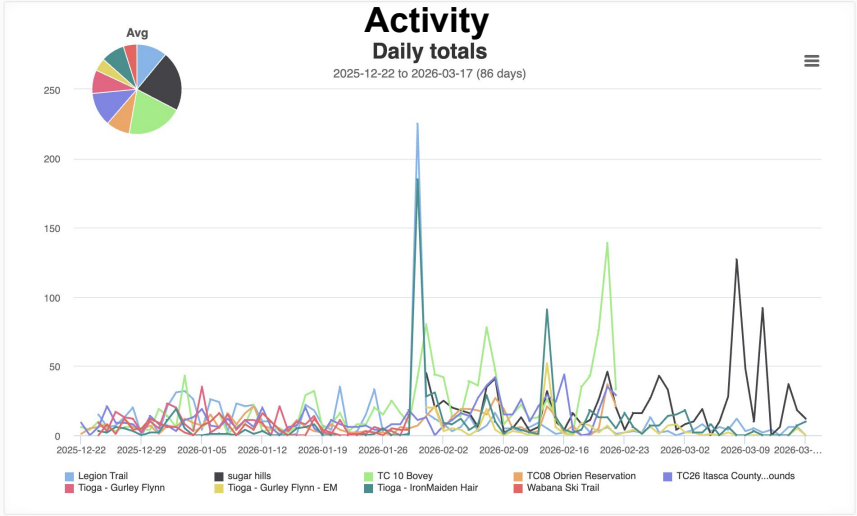
Generation 4.1



Counts Data: Winter 26







Master Summary

Download as Excel CSV

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT†	ADT†x365	Days with data
2025	Legion Trail												*287**	9.250	*3,376*	8
	TC 10 Bovey												*184**	5.933	*2,166*	30
	TC08 Obrien Reservation												*166**	5.367	*1,959*	30
	TC26 Itasca County Fairgrounds												*235**	7.567	*2,762*	30
	Tioga - Gurley Flynn												*275**	8.875	*3,239*	8
	Tioga - IronMaiden Hair												*89**	2.875	*1,049*	8
	Wabana Ski Trail												*198**	6.375	*2,327*	8
2026	Driftskippers	*545**	625	*1,340**										28.469	*10,391*	64
	Herb Brandstrom Trail	*322**	750	*61**										14.530	*5,304*	66
	Legion Trail	637	151	*126**										11.373	*4,151*	75
	sugar hills	*1,395**	522	*831**										22.133	*8,079*	45
	Suomi Trail	*306**	334	*61**										8.134	*2,969*	67
	Taconite Trail	*1,505**	612	*61**										22.485	*8,207*	68
	TC 10 Bovey	473	*957**											23.113	*8,436*	53
	TC08 Obrien Reservation	216	*355**											9.340	*3,409*	53
	TC26 Itasca County Fairgrounds	269	*540**											13.075	*4,773*	53
	Tioga - Gurley Flynn	518	339	*138**										12.373	*4,516*	75
	Tioga - Gurley Flynn - EM	*620**	170	*39**										4.667	*1,703*	45
	Tioga - IronMaiden Hair	*77**												2.483	*906*	29
	Wabana Ski Trail	*142**												4.586	*1,674*	29

ADT† = Average Daily Traffic

* = based upon that month's ADT Learn more Indicates months with less than 6 days of data.

NEXT STEPS


Final winter trails data collection
Pull trail counters from winter only trails
Complete trail counter deployment plan for spring / summer / fall
Execute Communications plan for Spring trail user groups
Focus hands-on survey efforts on key seasonal events

THANK YOU

Questions?



ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-189

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services
TIME REQUESTED: 10 Minutes
PRESENTER: Kyle Erickson

AGENDA ITEM:
Inroduction of New CEO of IEDC

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Recieve information regarding the new CEO of IEDC.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

03/24/2026

RESULT:	**INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN**

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-341

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services
TIME REQUESTED: 10 Minutes
PRESENTER: Chair Smith

AGENDA ITEM:
Budget Committee Consideration

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Discuss the formation of a Budget Committee to review scheduled Budget to Actual reports and meet with Department Heads to discuss any variances, current or potential.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

It was the consensus of the County Board to form a Budget Committee to review scheduled budget to actual reports and meeting with Department Heads to discuss any variances, current or potential.

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-343

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services
TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes
PRESENTER: Commissioner Snyder

AGENDA ITEM:
Letter of Opposition - Trail Bill

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Approve Letter of Opposition and authorize Board Chair signature.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. HF1012.SF1245 Opposition Letter

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner Terry Snyder
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse
Administrative Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218) 327-2848

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Foung Hawj, Chair
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Josh Heintzeman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Peter Fischer, Co-Chair
House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Hawj, Co-Chair Heintzeman, Co-Chair Fischer and Committee Members,

On behalf of Itasca County and the Itasca County Board of Commissioners, I am writing to express our strong opposition to HF1012/SF1245. This bill threatens the responsible development, management, and maintenance of multi-use trail systems, which are essential to outdoor recreation, local economies, and access to public lands for residents and visitors alike.

Itasca County is home to some of Minnesota's most extensive and well-maintained trail systems, supporting ATVs, snowmobiles, hikers, bikers, equestrian riders, and skiers. These trails provide safe, designated routes that reduce environmental impact while also ensuring outdoor recreation remains a sustainable and enjoyable part of life in northern Minnesota.

ATV use, in particular, has become a major driver of tourism and local economic activity. Every year, thousands of visitors, including hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts, travel to Itasca County to enjoy our trails all while contributing significantly to restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and local businesses. The tourism dollars generated by responsible ATV use help sustain our communities and create jobs. Itasca County's outdoor tourism generates over $110,000,000 in revenue annually, of which ½ is from Motor Trail sports.

We recognize the importance of responsible land and trail management. That is why Itasca County works closely with:

- Local ATV and snowmobile clubs that maintain and monitor trails, ensuring environmental best practices are followed.
- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which already conducts rigorous environmental reviews before approving any trail expansion.

- Private landowners, conservation groups, and community members, ensuring that trails are developed with sustainability and access in mind.

The proposed 300-foot buffer zone restriction for ATV trails near water bodies, trout streams, and wetlands is excessive and unnecessary given that current oversight by the DNR MPCA, Army Corp and Itasca County already ensures proper trail placement and protection of sensitive areas. This restriction would severely limit future trail expansion and connectivity, making it difficult to improve and maintain the well-regulated, safe, and environmentally responsible system we have worked hard to develop.

One particularly concerning provision of HF1012/SF1245 is the requirement for the DNR to consider decommissioning existing OHV roads and trails. These trails provide essential access to public lands for ATV riders, hunters, and anglers, many of whom rely on these networks to reach their favorite outdoor destinations.

Hunting is deeply connected to ATV access. Many hunters use ATVs to reach remote locations, transport gear, and retrieve harvested game in a safe and ethical manner. Removing ATV access would severely impact many hunters, particularly older sportsmen and those with mobility limitations, making it harder for them to participate in this cherished outdoor tradition.

Furthermore, closing trails would not eliminate ATV use—it would simply push riders into unmanaged areas, increasing the risk of environmental harm and illegal trail creation. Itasca County and local ATV organizations have invested significant resources into ensuring that riders have safe, designated routes, and decommissioning trails would undo years of careful planning and responsible development.

Itasca County believes in collaborative, evidence-based solutions to trail and land management. Rather than imposing unnecessary restrictions, the state should:

- Continue to invest in responsible trail expansion that balances access and conservation.
- Support partnerships between counties, local clubs, and the DNR to ensure trail maintenance, rider education, and environmental protections remain strong.
- Recognize the economic and cultural value of ATV use, hunting, and outdoor recreation in Greater Minnesota.

For these reasons, Itasca County opposes HF1012/SF1245 and urges you to reject this legislation in favor of policies that support sustainable trail access, economic growth, and outdoor traditions in Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cory Smith, Board Chair
Itasca County

ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2026-344

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services
TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes
PRESENTER: Commissioner Johnson

AGENDA ITEM:
Letter of Support - Grant Opportunity

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
Approve Letters of Support from Itasca County and Grand Village authorize necessary signatures regarding a grant opportunity surrounding Itasca County's Expanded Organics Management Infrastructure.

BACKGROUND:
Background: There is a historic grant opportunity through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for infrastructure and other investment into organic waste (including food waste) management. Such a program would reduce organic waste currently going into our waste stream, reduce transportation costs, lessen the amount of waste going into our landfills while providing an environmentally sound recycling effort resulting in an local end market – compost.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:
1. Letter of Support

RESULT:	**APPROVED (5 TO 0)**
MOVER:	Commissioner John Johnson
SECONDER:	Commissioner Larry Hopkins
AYES:	Cory Smith, Terry Snyder, John Johnson, Larry Hopkins, Casey Venema

ITASCA COUNTY

Courthouse
Administrative Services
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-2600
Office (218) 327-7363 Fax (218-)327-2848

March 24, 2026

RE: Letter of support for Itasca County's Expanded Organics Management Infrastructure

To Whom It May Concern,

Itasca County Board of Commissioners fully supports Itasca County's application for the Minnesota Pollution Control's MCSFS Statewide Organics Management Infrastructure Grant. The funding provided by this grant would expand the operations at the Itasca Transfer Station to include composting of organic waste, including food waste. This proposal includes the collection and processing of food waste and food scraps—an important step toward reducing landfill use, recycling organics, and helping the state and county to meet the 35% recycling goal for greater Minnesota.

We recognize that approximately 30% of the material currently disposed of in trash bins is organic waste that could instead be diverted for beneficial reuse through composting. The addition of composting to this regional facility will help capture these valuable materials and put them to productive use.

This project will significantly increase recycling and organics diversion opportunities in Greater Minnesota, particularly serving the communities of Cohasset and Grand Rapids (population 13,000) through curbside collection. Residents throughout Itasca County (population 45,000) would also be able to participate through drop-off sites. By improving access to composting infrastructure, the project will support more sustainable waste management practices across the region.

Additionally, the compost produced through this program will be managed locally, going to a local end market, the residents of Itasca County. The compost will be used to contribute to healthier soils - benefiting local agriculture, landscaping, and environmental restoration efforts.

We strongly support this initiative and believe it will provide lasting environmental and community benefits to the northeast region of Minnesota. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you.

Cory Smith, Board Chair
Itasca County