



# COUNTY OF ANOKA

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

GOVERNMENT CENTER  
2100 3RD AVENUE STE 700 • ANOKA, MINNESOTA 55303-5024  
(763) 323-5700

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**MARTHA WEAVER**

Public Information Manager

Direct #763-323-5744

E-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

Contact: Martha Weaver, Public Information Manager, 763-323-5744, or e-mail: [martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us](mailto:martha.weaver@co.anoka.mn.us)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Anoka County Highway Department Achieves Another 'First'**

The Anoka County Highway Department is using a new project delivery system called design-build to reconstruct Main Street from east of Crane Street in Coon Rapids to west of Ulysses Street NE in Blaine. MnDOT has used the design-build process on state projects but Anoka County is the first county in the state and among the first in the nation to do so.

With traditional road construction projects, contractors are given detailed project design plans and specifications on which to base their bids. Under the design-build system, contractors submit proposals based on general project requirements.

“Basically, we tell design-build teams what we need and they submit ideas on how best to achieve it,” said Anoka County Commissioner Andy Westerberg, who chairs the county’s Public Works Committee. “Once county engineers approve a concept, the design-build team handles all phases of the project: design, engineering, and construction. Having one entity accountable for the budget, schedule, and performance means the project is far more likely to be completed on time and on budget. It streamlines the entire construction process.”

**-more-**

## **Anoka County Highway Department Debuts Innovative Project Delivery System – Add 1**

The Main Street design-build reconstruction project covers three and one half miles and includes an overpass at the railroad crossing between Avocet Street and Foley Boulevard. The roadway will be expanded to four lanes, with a median down the middle, along with protected right and left turn lanes. Bike and pedestrian trails also will be constructed. Segments of the roadway will be closed during different stages of construction. Completion is scheduled for fall 2012.

The project is being paid for using state “turnback” funds. (Turnback funds become available when a former MnDOT Trunk Highway is turned back to the local government to maintain.) In addition, the cities of Coon Rapids and Blaine will together pay \$648,000 for portions of the costs of traffic signals and trails.

For more information, go to the Highway Department’s project page at [www.anokacounty.us/csah14designbuild](http://www.anokacounty.us/csah14designbuild).

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