



## ANOKA COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY (ACRRA)

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For Immediate Release  
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### **Erhart Named 2011 Transportation Advocate**

Anoka County Commissioner Dan Erhart has received the 2011 Transportation Advocate Award from the Minnesota Transportation Alliance, a statewide coalition of organizations advocating for a safe and effective transportation system that works for all Minnesotans.

The award is presented annually to people who make a difference, according to Margaret Donahoe, Executive Director of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance.

"The award is given to individuals in the transportation community who go above and beyond, spending their own personal time and efforts to advocate for transportation improvements in the state," Donahoe said.

The Alliance noted that Commissioner Erhart is regarded as the "Godfather" of the Northstar Commuter Rail Line. He dedicated 13 years to make Minnesota's first commuter rail line a reality. He envisions a second phase that extends the line to St. Cloud in the future. Commissioner Erhart also advocates for the proposed Northern Lights Express passenger rail line between Minneapolis and Duluth, with a station in Coon Rapids at Foley Boulevard.

"Transportation is key to everything we do," Commissioner Erhart said. "Jobs, housing, lifestyle choices that age with us—these all depend on a transportation system that effectively moves people."

Commissioner Erhart has long been recognized for his visionary leadership and transportation and transit expertise. He was named Outstanding Regional Leader during the 2010 Regional Commuter Choice awards ceremony hosted by Metro Transit and the region's Transportation Management Organizations. He has served in leadership positions on the Transportation Advisory Board to the Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Regional Transitway Guidelines Advisory Committee, the Northstar Corridor Development Authority, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, and the Anoka County Regional Railroad Authority.

Commissioner Erhart has worked on major highway projects in the north metro, including the new TH 10 and TH 610. He has supported highway funding on the local level, as well as innovative ideas such as the design-build project of CSAH 14 now under construction in Blaine and Coon Rapids.

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**Photo Cutline:** Jon Olson, 2010 Transportation Advocate Award winner, presents Anoka County Commissioner Dan Erhart with the 2011 award at the November meeting of the Minnesota Transportation Alliance held in Isanti.