



Date: May 15, 2018

RE: **Notice of Public Informational Meeting** on Wednesday May 23, 2018

Meeting location: Koochiching County Courthouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor courtroom

From 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm we will discuss proposed CSAH 24 **bridge** over CN RR tracks

From 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm we will discuss proposed CSAH 24 **road extension** to TH 11

To: CSAH 24 (Van Lynn Rd) property owners and project stakeholders

We are sending this letter to inform you about a Public Informational Meeting to discuss the possibility of constructing a new bridge to carry CSAH 24 (Van Lynn Rd) over the CN RR tracks and to discuss the possibility of extending CSAH 24 (Van Lynn Rd) to connect with TH 11.

#### **Background – work previously done**

The Koochiching County Highway Department has been working for appx. 2 years on preliminary designs for various road alignments and bridge configurations for CSAH 24 (Van Lynn Rd).

For the proposed Bridge project, County staff has completed the following tasks:

- studied several configurations and span arrangements for the proposed bridge
- submitted preliminary bridge drawings to CN RR and Mn/DOT Office of RR for their review
- talked with abutting property owners about the need for easements
- Collected topo survey and updated our preliminary construction cost estimate

For the proposed road extension project County staff has completed the following tasks:

- studied several different alignments for the proposed roadway extension
- talked with several abutting property owners about the need for road easements
- completed some wetland delineation work & talked to BWSR about mitigation requirements
- collected survey data and updated our preliminary construction cost estimate.

#### **Project Phasing – and segment prioritization**

In previous discussions, the Koochiching County board has determined that the CSAH 24 (Van Lynn Rd) road extension and bridge overpass are both important projects.

Due to project funding limitations, the County Board has characterized the CSAH 24 upgrades as a two-phase project – with the CSAH 24 road extension to TH 11 as Phase 1 and the CSAH 24 bridge over the CN tracks as Phase 2.

## **Notice of Public Informational Meeting on Wednesday May 23, 2018**

CSAH 24 (Van Lynn Rd) road extension and bridge overpass projects

May 15, 2018

Page 2

### **Project costs and Funding sources**

The CSAH 24 bridge project is anticipated to cost in the range of \$4.0M to \$5.0M. The CSAH 24 road extension project is anticipated to cost in the range of \$5.0M to \$6.0M. The projects could be funded with local funds, state aid funds (e.g. gas tax revenues), state bonding dollars (earmark by MN legislature), or federal funds (e.g. BUILD grant).

Koochiching County's annual allocation for state aid construction funds is appx \$2.8M. The County can advance encumber to leverage funds from future annual allocations; however, there are pro's and con's of doing so. The County is pursuing state bonding funds and federal funds – but we have not secured any state bonding or federal funds as of this date.

### **Project Timeline – Programming for Construction**

Dates for which construction can be programmed for the proposed bridge project or the proposed road extension project vary – and are dependent upon the agency reviews, agency permitting, design issue resolution, R/W acquisition, project funding, etc. Generally speaking, the CSAH 24 bridge and road projects have been contemplated for year 2020 or year 2021.

### **Purpose of May 23, 2018 public info meeting**

County elected officials and highway department staff would like to share project design information with property owners, residents and meeting attendees.

We would like to present information as to why the road extension and bridge overpass are both important elements of a multi-phase project.

We would like to collect input from meeting attendees: do you support the road and bridge projects – or are you more supportive of just one of those two projects?

We would like to confirm that there is adequate public support to justify moving these projects forward.

### **Meeting Overview**

The meeting will be informal. County staff will provide handouts including preliminary project drawings and we will have large maps available for review and discussion.

At the meeting outset, elected officials and county staff will provide a project overview. After that, we will open the meeting to questions and comments.

We will have several highway department staff members on-hand to facilitate 1:1 discussions or small group discussions with property owners and interested stakeholders.

At the conclusion of the public informational meeting, we will ask attendees to complete “comment cards” – outlining their thoughts on the project.

**Meeting Overview**      **cont'd.**

If you know that you cannot attend the upcoming public meeting and you want to complete a "comment card" to share your thoughts on the project, please call or mail county highway department staff using the contact information provided below, and we will provide you with "comment cards", etc.

Within a few days following the public meeting, a meeting overview along with scanned images of meeting handouts will be posted on the Koochiching County website. Downloadable copies of blank "comment cards" will also be available at the Koochiching County Engineer website. Please see: [www.co.koochiching.mn.us/167/Engineer](http://www.co.koochiching.mn.us/167/Engineer).

**Next steps**

Highway Department staff will summarize meeting discussions and comment cards and present that information to the County Board. The County Board will work to make a determination on how best to advance or re-direct the CSAH 24 project(s). If the County Board feels that additional public input is needed, we may be scheduling another public meeting or conducting additional public outreach.

**Questions**

Please contact the Koochiching County highway department staff at the following:  
Koochiching County Highway Department; Koochiching County Courthouse  
715 Fourth Street, Intl Falls, MN 56649.

Or feel free to call or email county staff using the following contact information:

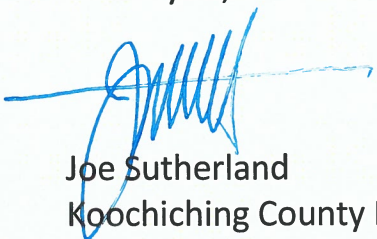
Joe Sutherland, County Engineer

Phone            283- 1186 or email: [joe.sutherland@co.koochiching.mn.us](mailto:joe.sutherland@co.koochiching.mn.us)

Trent Nicholson, Assistant County Engineer

Phone            283- 1187 or email: [trent.nicholson@co.koochiching.mn.us](mailto:trent.nicholson@co.koochiching.mn.us)

Thank you,



Joe Sutherland  
Koochiching County Engineer