

Regional snapshot

Washington County

November 2009

Transit and Transportation

The region's first commuter rail line, the Northstar Line, begins service Nov. 16 from Big Lake to Minneapolis. The Central Corridor project is moving ahead toward construction in late 2010. The project is moving ahead with final design – service on the line is expected to begin in 2014.

Express bus service from Forest Lake and Columbus into downtown Minneapolis continues, due to the efforts of Anoka, Chisago, and Washington counties and the cities of Forest Lake and Columbus. In addition, the Council recently reduced fares on the route.

Several other transit corridors involving Washington County are being examined. The Rush Line Corridor Task Force will consider recommendations to perform an advanced Alternatives Analysis for light-rail or bus-rapid transit on routes into downtown St. Paul. Commuter rail is no longer being considered for Rush Line. A demonstration bus service between Forest Lake and downtown St. Paul is being planned.

For the Red Rock Corridor, which extends 30 miles from Hastings to downtown St. Paul, the Council is working with the Washington County

At a Glance

Total population	222,031
Median age	36.5
Population under age 5	15,065
Adult population	162,433
Population age 65 and older	19,038
Total housing units	86,713
Owner-occupied homes	70,896
Average household size	2.64
Average family size	3.10
Population in the labor force	125,070
Mean travel time to work, in minutes	25.4
Median annual household income	\$78,067

Source: American Community Survey 3-year estimates, 2005-2007, U.S. Census Bureau

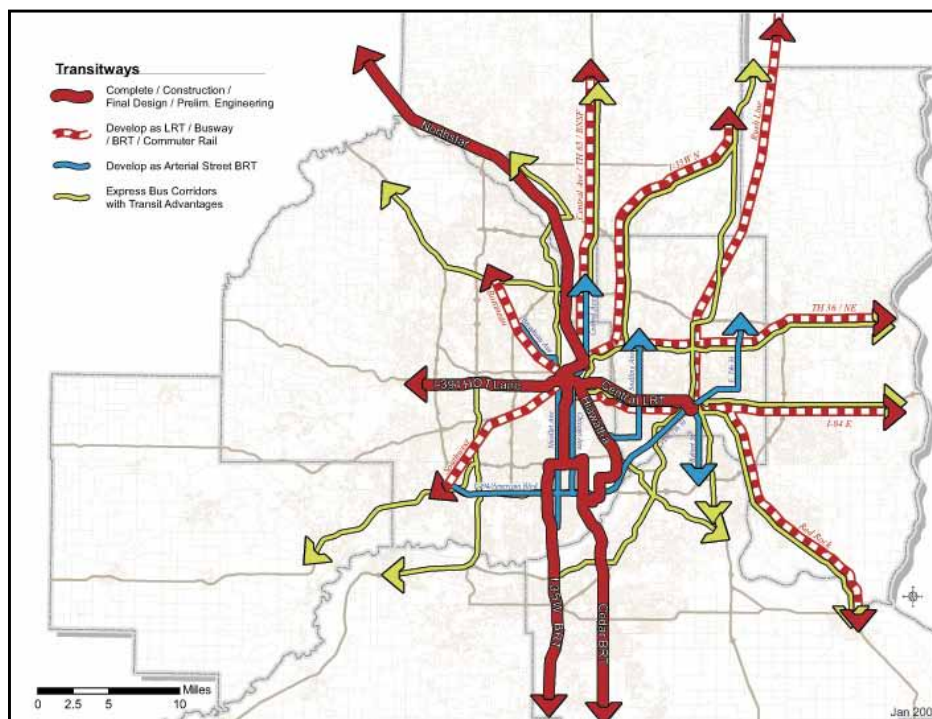
Regional Rail Authority and the Red Rock Corridor commission to possibly expand bus service, increase bus frequency, and provide additional park and ride facilities.

A study of the I-94 corridor, supported by the Metropolitan Council and Washington and Ramsey counties, will begin in 2010.

Regional Parks

The Council provided a \$595,000 grant to Washington County from the constitutional Land and Legacy Amendment's Parks and Trail Fund. The funds will be used for two projects in Lake Elmo Park Reserve:

- Lighting for cross county ski trails
- Remodeling a barn for winter trail users



Metropolitan Council Representatives - Washington County

Georganne Hilker, District 11 (Washington County communities of Hugo, Landfall, Oakdale, White Bear Lake, and portions of Anoka and Ramsey counties) **Sherry Broecker**, District 12 (all Washington County cities and townships not included in District 11)

Metropolitan Council District Dialogues

Community Development

Communities throughout the region submitted their 2030 comprehensive plan updates in 2008, and the Council is reviewing those plans throughout this year.

Reviewed by Council

- Baytown Township
- Denmark Township
- Forest Lake
- Grant
- Grey Cloud Island Tnp
- Lakeland Shores
- Marine on St. Croix
- May Township
- Oakdale
- Oak Park Heights
- Pine Springs
- St. Mary's Point
- Scandia
- Stillwater Township

Review Process Underway

- Bayport
- Birchwood Village
- Cottage Grove
- Dellwood
- Hugo
- Lake Elmo
- Lakeland
- Lake St. Croix Beach
- Mahtomedi
- Newport
- St. Paul Park
- Stillwater
- Washington County
- West Lakeland Tnp
- Willernie
- Woodbury

Livable Communities Grants

Communities throughout the seven-county metropolitan area have received funds through one of several Livable Communities grant programs. These programs provide funding for new developments or redevelopment projects that provide affordable housing, link housing with nearby jobs and services, help preserve affordable housing, and clean up polluted land for redevelopment.

Since 1996, the Council has granted 26 Livable Communities awards, worth more than \$5.8 million, to Washington County communities.

Community	Grants	Total
Cottage Grove	2 awards	\$275,000
Forest Lake	3 awards	\$1,425,000
Hugo	1 award	\$45,000
Oakdale	8 awards	\$1,042,000
Stillwater	5 awards	\$683,287
Woodbury	7 awards	\$2,331,000

Recovery Act Transportation Projects

Projects in Washington County will receive nearly \$26 million in regional and state funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

ID	Location	Project	Total Cost	State ARRA	Region ARRA	Other Funds
1	Baytown, Lake Elmo, Oakdale, Oak Park Heights	Hwy 5 – Roadway reconstruction	\$3,210,000	\$3,210,000	\$0	\$0
11	Columbus & Forest Lake	I-35 – road resurfacing from Hwy 8 to I-35E/ I-35W junction	\$8,239,000	\$8,239,000	\$0	\$0
25	New Scandia & Stillwater	Hwy 95 – road resurfacing from Hwy 97 to Nelson St	\$5,986,600	\$5,986,600	\$0	\$0
47	Mahtomedi	Hwy 244 – construct right-turn and bypass lanes at Old Wildwood Rd	\$195,000	\$0	\$156,000	\$39,000
54	Oakdale	Hadley Ave N – resurfacing from Hudson Blvd N to 11th St N	\$461,000	\$0	\$368,800	\$92,200
62	Stillwater	Washington Ave – resurfacing and stormsewer work from Hwy 36 to Orleans St	\$350,000	\$0	\$280,000	\$70,000
64	Forest Lake	County Rd 83 – construct bridge and retaining walls over I-35	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
66	Woodbury	Several minor roadway improvements, including curb and utility repair, and resurfacing	\$1,667,000	\$0	\$1,250,250	\$416,750
68	North St. Paul & Oakdale	Gateway Tr – Bridge enhancement over Hwy 120	\$1,943,500	\$0	\$1,300,000	\$643,500

