

Commuter News

Anoka County TMO Commute Solutions

Volume 5
Issue 2



The 2011 Commuter Challenge is coming—are you ready?

We're partnering again this year with Metro Transit to bring the Commuter Challenge to Anoka County, now through June 30! As of April 1, you and your employees can take the 2011 Commuter Challenge, an annual campaign to encourage people in the Twin Cities region to reduce the number of drive-alone trips they make and replace those with an alternative. For many people, this is as simple as leaving their cars at home one or more days a week, and taking a bus or train, using a car / vanpool, riding a bicycle or walking to their destination. For others, it means trying something completely new, or trying a combination of transportation modes such as using a bike rack on a bus or train, or car / vanpooling to a park and ride lot.

Whichever method you try, getting started is simple.

For individuals: Pledge online at mycommuterchallenge.org/anokacountytmo from now to June 30. Your pledge enters you into the grand prize drawing that takes place at the close of the Challenge. This year's prizes include Apple iPads, Amazon Kindles, and netbooks! Participants can choose to extend their challenge by tracking their trips in the regional Trip Tracker. Tracking at least one trip each week enters your name into weekly drawings for additional prizes such as \$50 gift cards!

For organizations: Contact Commute Solutions for ideas on how to promote the Commuter Challenge, order promotional materials, and schedule a commuter fair.

763-862-4260 or tmo@co.anoka.mn.us



In This Issue

Director's Corner	2
Transportation Summit Recap	2
Bike Walk Week	2
Anoka County Construction News	3
New in 2011	4
eWorkPlace	4

www.mycommuterchallenge.org/anokacountytmo

Anoka County TMO
Commute Solutions



Director's Corner

As we head into spring, gas prices are significantly higher—*\$1 per gallon more*—than they were last year. If you or your employees are interested in saving money on commuting costs consider carpooling, biking, or taking a bus or train. Even using an alternative just one or two days a week can yield big savings. Several area businesses are creating telework programs to increase productivity and save money. We can help implement a telework program at your workplace.

Spring is a great time to try something new! Each spring, we partner with other TMO's to promote the Commuter Challenge. The Commuter Challenge encourages people to pledge to try something other than driving alone. In return, people are entered into a drawing for some great prizes including iPads, Amazon Kindles, and netbooks!

Here are some **EASY** ways your organization can participate:

- Display Commuter Challenge posters and pledge forms in high-traffic areas.
- Post a link to Challenge information (mycommuterchallenge.org/anokacountytmo) on your intranet or in your company newsletter.

- Send an e-mail to employees to let them know about the Commuter Challenge.
- Host a Bike-to-Work Day event during Bike Walk Week June 4 -12.
- Host a brown bag lunch to discuss commuting resources and Commuter Challenge.
- Record trips in the regional trip tracker to see the emissions reduced and dollars saved.
- Create in-house events. Sponsor prize giveaways or promote a team competition.

These ideas were presented at our Transportation Summit held on April 5th. A sincere thank you goes out to the 70 people who attended the event. It was a success because of your participation!

Information about the Commuter Challenge and all of our FREE programs is available at www.AnokaCountyTMO.com.

Please let me know how our staff can assist your organization!

Renee Sande, *Executive Director*

Anoka County TMO Transportation Summit Recap

Change was a major theme of the second annual Anoka County TMO Transportation Summit held April 5. More than 70 people attended, to learn about transportation options and alternatives as well as planned road construction projects throughout Anoka County.

Guest speakers included representatives from Metro Transit, the Anoka County Regional Rail Authority, SRF Consulting, Inc. (eWorkplace), Mn/DOT, and the Anoka County Highway Department. Metro Transit staff provided an overview of where transit has been, where it is headed, and what to expect in the future. The Rail Authority, as well as SRF Consulting, provided updates on Northstar and eWorkplace, respectively. A highlight of the event was a preview of planned road construction projects in and around Anoka County taking place in 2011. Doug Fischer of Anoka County, and Kent Barnard of Mn/DOT provided a brief overview of the construction and paving projects scheduled for 2011 and how they will impact traffic. TMO staff provided information on programs available and highlighted new tools for 2011, including a sneak peek at the interactive road construction map featuring road construction projects as well as detour maps for Anoka County roadways, and the development of a pilot virtual bike map featuring the Mississippi River Trail. Both tools are planned for launch in 2011.

If you missed the event and would like copies of the speaker presentations or construction maps, please contact the TMO office: 763-862-4260 or tmo@co.anoka.mn.us

2011 Spring Bike Walk Week June 4-12

Bike Walk Week is back! The annual region-wide celebration focused on biking and walking as transportation is planned for June 4-12, 2011. Events include Tuning up for Summer, Women's Wednesday, and bicycle-safety demonstrations. Bike to Work Day is scheduled for Thursday, June 9. Anoka County Commute Solutions is your resource for this week-long celebration. Bicycle riders and walkers, from novices to seasoned veterans, are encouraged to participate!

Register for Bike Walk Week as a team or individual. By registering, you are pledging to make at least one trip during the week that you would have made anyway without the use of a car. Registered participants are also eligible for great prizes! Visit bikewalkweek.org for more information, or contact Commute Solutions: 763-862-4260 or tmo@co.anoka.mn.us.

Host an event on Bike to Work Day, or any time during Bike Walk Week!

Commute Solutions staff can assist in planning your bike / walk event by providing these resources:

- Biking / walking trail maps • Bicycle safety information
- Bike locker and transit information • Promotional items & ideas for a successful event!



Anoka County Road Construction

As noted by County Engineer Doug Fischer during the annual Transportation Summit, 2011 will bring one of the biggest road construction seasons Anoka County has ever had. For more information about current and planned road construction projects, including detour maps and project layouts, visit AnokaCounty.us/Highways.

2011 Anoka County Road Construction Projects

Bunker Lake Boulevard (CSAH 116) Roadway Reconstruction Project in Ramsey. Bunker Lake Boulevard between Basalt and Germanium Streets will be completely reconstructed beginning summer 2011 running through summer 2012. The project will improve traffic flow as well as safety through the corridor by increasing Bunker Lake Boulevard to four lanes, adding a raised median, shoulders, and turn lanes. During construction, there will be traffic delays due to lane closures and lane shifts.

Main Street / 125th Avenue (CSAH 14) Design-Build Project in Coon Rapids and Blaine. This project will reconstruct Main Street / 125th Avenue from east of Crane Street in Coon Rapids to west of Ulysses Street in Blaine, increasing traffic flow as well as safety for motorists and pedestrians. This project is expected to begin spring 2011 and run through 2012. *Due to the complexity of this project, specific project details will be available when the contract is awarded in May 2011.*

Sunfish Lake Boulevard (CR 57) Intersection Reconstruction Project in Ramsey. This project will reconstruct the intersection of Sunfish Lake Boulevard at Alpine Drive, approximately 1500 feet north and south of Alpine Drive, and approximately 500 feet east and west of Sunfish Lake Boulevard. Improvements include installation of a new traffic signal, addition of raised median, and turn lanes. During construction, the intersection will be closed to all traffic. The project is anticipated to run June-September, 2011.

Viking Boulevard (CSAH 22) Resurfacing Project in Nowthen. This project will resurface Viking Boulevard between Nowthen Boulevard (CSAH 5) and Highway 47 with a concrete overlay and paved shoulders. During construction, Viking Boulevard will be closed to through traffic, with access for local residents only. The project is expected to begin summer 2011.

Projects carried over from 2010

Main Street (CSAH 14) and I-35E Interchange Reconstruction in Centerville. Traffic has been shifted to the new bridge, while the original bridge receives new bridge decking. Access ramps are open, though minor delays are expected through the duration of the project. The project is expected to be completed early summer 2011.

Main Street (CSAH 14) from Thrush to Crane Project in Coon Rapids. Major construction on this stretch of road has resumed, with closures remaining in place from Coon Creek Boulevard to Hanson Boulevard, and with traffic remaining at two lanes from Hanson Boulevard to Crane Streets. This project is anticipated to be completed in July 2011.

Radisson Road (CSAH 52) and Bunker Lake Boulevard (CSAH 116) Project in Blaine/Ham Lake. Construction has resumed with the start of Phase III on April 18. This final phase includes paving the final section of Radisson Road south of Main Street / 125th Avenue to match the new sections constructed during Phases I and II. No additional detours are anticipated, though lane shifts are expected, causing traffic delays. Construction is anticipated to be complete by July 2011.

2011 Paving Projects—Overlays and Thin Mat Paving

Locations (Overlays)

Fairview Drive (CSAH 4) in Columbia Heights
 Broadway Avenue (CSAH 18) in Columbus
 Fawn Lake Drive N (CSAH 36) in Linwood
 20th Avenue (CSAH 54) in Centerville
 Cedar Drive (CR 67) in Oak Grove
 Fifth Avenue (CSAH 1) in Anoka
 Naples Street (CR 105) in Lexington
 161st Avenue (CSAH 20) in Andover

Locations (Thin Mat Paving)

Roanoke Street (CSAH 7) in Ramsey and Andover
 181st Avenue (CR 64) in Ramsey and Nowthen
 43rd Avenue (BNSF Road) in Columbia Heights
 Andover Boulevard (CR 16) in Andover and Ham Lake



For more details on any of the planned road construction or paving projects scheduled for 2011, contact:

Charles Cadenhead, P.E., Construction Manager:
 763-862-4237 or Charles.Cadenhead@co.anoka.mn.us

Contact Maintenance Department for thin mat paving questions / details. 763-862-4200.

What's new in 2011

Anoka County TMO Commute Solutions—The Anoka County TMO has a new look and a new name. Anoka County TMO is now Commute Solutions! Our website will also receive a makeover featuring a streamlined format with easy navigation tools. Planned launch in summer 2011.

Faster Communication—Commute Solutions is going green! By 2012, our goal is to be 100% green in all of our communications. We are implementing new tools such as interactive email newsletters, Facebook, and Twitter. Planned launch in summer 2011.

Virtual Bike Map—In partnership with Anoka County Parks and the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), Commute Solutions is developing a pilot virtual bike map for the Mississippi River Trail. The map will enable users to plan bike trips from a computer or mobile device and includes virtual snapshots of points along the trail. Planned launch in 2011.

Interactive Construction Map—The Anoka County Highway Department is launching an interactive construction map that will provide details on road construction projects happening in Anoka County. Planned launch spring 2011.

eWorkPlace

eWorkPlace is a state-sponsored program for Twin Cities metro area employers. It is also a business strategy and work process that is focused on telework and the Results-Only Work Environment (ROWE). Telework enables employees to work from home or a remote location and connect to the office via technology: Internet, phone, and mobile devices. Telework can be performed on a full or part-time basis and is often complemented with flexible scheduling. eWorkPlace funds are still available for Anoka County employers! To learn how your company can benefit from this program and to reserve your funds today, contact Commute Solutions:

tmo@co.anoka.mn.us or **763-862-4260**

We're here to help you! Commute Solutions works with local employers and commuters to explore alternative transportation options such as transit, car/vanpooling, biking, walking or flexible work hours. It is our goal to reduce traffic congestion while helping to make commuting easier, healthier, and more enjoyable.

Contact us today for your commuting resources!

763-862-4260 or **tmo@co.anoka.mn.us**

Anoka County TMO Commute Solutions Staff

Renee Sande, Executive Director
Renee.Sande@co.anoka.mn.us

Katie Kastan, Assistant TDM Coordinator
Katie.Kastan@co.anoka.mn.us

Anoka County TMO

**Commute
Solutions**



Anoka County TMO
1440 Bunker Lake Boulevard
Andover, MN 55304

Phone: 763-862-4260

Fax: 763-862-4201

Email: tmo@co.anoka.mn.us

www.AnokaCountyTMO.com

Commuter Fact:

Check your car's alignment. Poor alignment not only causes tires to wear out more quickly, it forces the engine to work harder, reducing fuel economy by as much as 10%.