



# Saint Louis County

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## NEWS RELEASE

**For immediate release:**

March 18, 2013

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### **County Board to discuss five-year Capital Improvement Program at workshop**

What are the major capital improvement needs facing St. Louis County in the next five years? Roads and bridges, County facilities and other projects will be part of the conversation as Commissioners discuss the County's five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and bonding needs. The County Board will review updates to the 2013-2017 CIP at a Board Workshop, which will be held Tuesday, March 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the IRRRB Board Room in Eveleth. The workshop will also include a legislative update at approximately 10:30 a.m.

The CIP identifies projects that support existing or projected needs in the following areas: transportation infrastructure; County facilities; land improvement, development or acquisition; equipment purchases and technology. Significant projects slated for 2013 include renovations to the Government Services Center, as well as \$45 million invested in this year's road and bridge construction program, which will be the largest single construction season ever for the County.

The CIP is an important planning tool for County leaders as they work to balance debt issuance with current property tax levels. The goal always is to minimize tax burden while better aligning the organization to meet the ever changing demands placed upon local governments. The County has maintained its strong financial standing with an assigned "Aa2" rating from Moody's Investor Services on all bonds since 2005.

Reflected in the 2013-2017 CIP is the County's use of its new asset management systems to better identify and prioritize projects on the list. The asset management systems, as the name suggests, are tools to manage the County's assets, ranging from vehicles to road and bridges to buildings, helping to identify the right fix at the right time, and ultimately a way to save tax payer dollars. The County continues to emphasize a pay-as-you-go philosophy, meaning debt is used sparingly and only after other means of financing are fully investigated.

Spread across more than 7,000 square miles, St. Louis County is the largest county east of the Mississippi River and is home to more than 200,000 people. For more information about the County or County Board, call (218) 726-2450 or visit [stlouiscountymn.gov](http://stlouiscountymn.gov).

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