



S A I N T  
**LOUIS** ❖  
**COUNTY**  
.....  
M I N N E S O T A



Big Three Departments  
Budget Trends Presentations

21st Century Transportation Systems:  
St. Louis County Challenges & Solutions

Public Works Department  
Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Richard H. Hansen Transportation & Public Works Complex



ST. LOUIS COUNTY ❖  
Public Health and Human Services

# I. Agenda

1. St. Louis County Public Works Overview
2. Road & Bridge Asset Management
3. Maintenance & Operations
4. Motor Pool
5. Land Survey
6. Additional Discussion Items

\* Each topic area will cover trends impacting that business line, budget impacts, staffing, strategic initiatives and impediments



# 1. St. Louis County Public Works Overview

## Public Works Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Public Works Department is to provide a safe, well maintained road and bridge system that will insure reliable and convenient access to County services, facilities, recreational and natural resource areas and employment centers to enhance the quality of life of St. Louis County residents and to promote the economic development of the area.



# 1. St. Louis County Public Works Overview

## Vision for our department:

- We would like to preside over a safe, well maintained road and bridge system which meets or exceeds the public's expectations for level of service in the following areas:
  - Quality of driving surface
  - Load carrying capacity
  - Number and severity of accidents
  - Environmental sensitivity
- These should be provided at the lowest life cycle cost using proper asset management techniques.
- Our infrastructure should meet or exceed standards comparable to other agencies that are similar to St. Louis County.



# 1. St. Louis County Public Works Overview

- Public Works represents 19% of the total county budget.
- \$41 million in PW Operations
  - Includes Land Survey & Motor Pool
- \$58 million in Projects and Equipment
  - Includes road & bridge, equipment and building repairs



# 1. St. Louis County Public Works Overview

- Our department's primary lines of business are:

- 1) Engineering Operations

The Engineering Operations organizational unit performs administrative activities, contract administration, engineering, R/W activities, and GIS activities that all relate to the management of road and bridge assets throughout the county. This division is responsible for the management of the special revenue funds and capital projects funds that are used to fund the 10-Year Road & Bridge Construction Plan.

- 2) Road and Bridge Maintenance

The Road and Bridge Maintenance organizational unit is responsible for maintaining and keeping in repair road, bridge and related assets under the jurisdiction of St. Louis County.

- 3) Equipment and Shops

The Equipment and Shops organizational unit is responsible for the acquisition, maintenance and disposal of all equipment and vehicles utilized by the Public Works Department. This involves the management of the shops, storerooms, part inventories and related facilities. The building and grounds managed by the Public Works Department are also the responsibility of this unit, including the programming of facility repairs, major renovations and new structures.

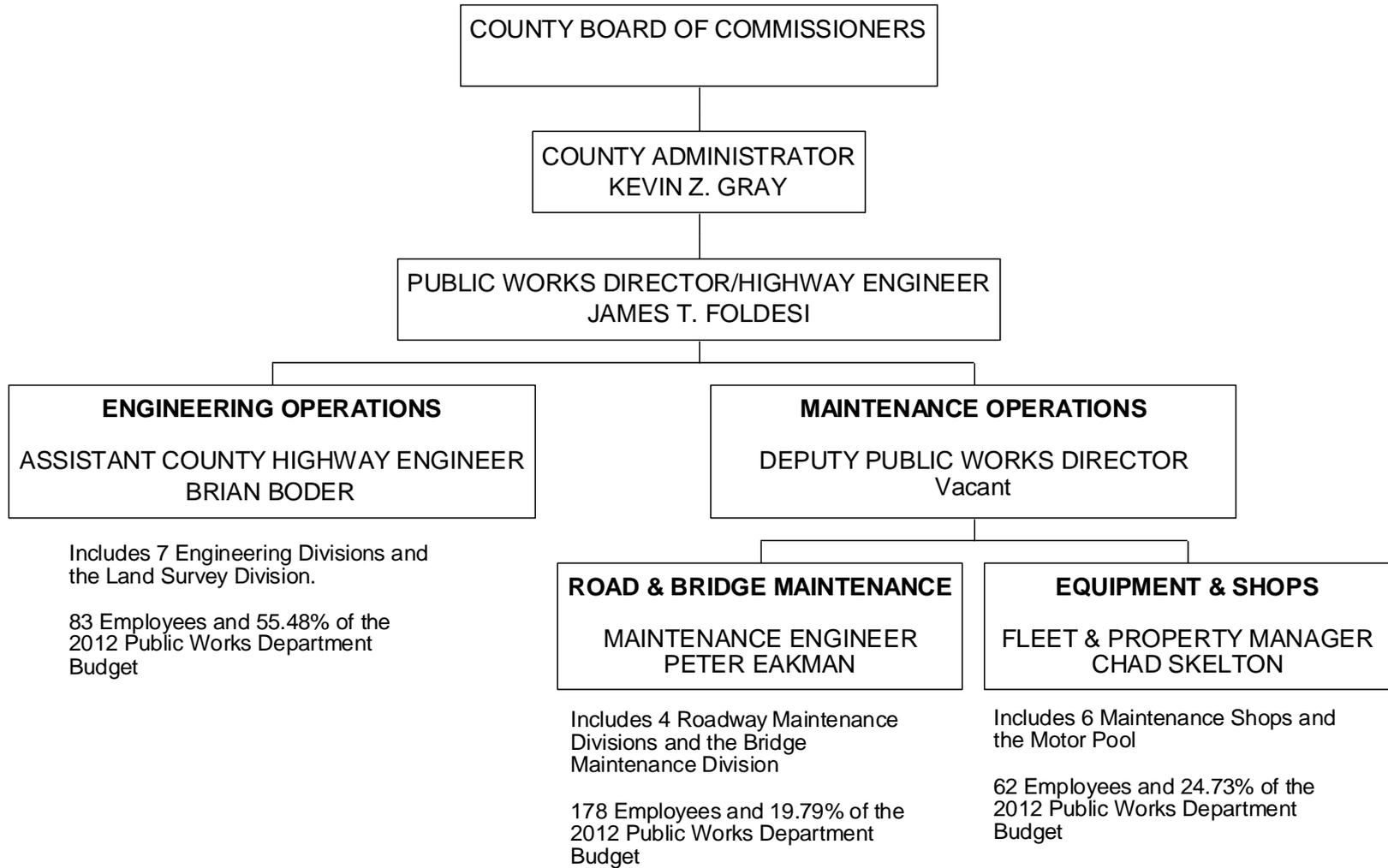
- 4) Other Support Divisions

The Motor Pool provides a centralized pool of vehicles for use by all county departments. The Motor Pool unit is responsible for acquiring, operating, maintaining and the disposal of a fleet of vehicles in Duluth, Virginia, Hibbing and Ely.

The Land Survey Division is funded by the Road and Bridge Fund and is responsible for the maintenance and restoration of approximately 26,000 Public Land Survey (PLS) corner monuments and associated records.



**2012  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART  
ST. LOUIS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS  
DEPARTMENT**



# 1. St. Louis County Public Works Overview

## Horizontal Infrastructure:

### St. Louis County Highway Facts

<b>Road Type</b>	<b>Paved Miles</b>	<b>Unpaved Miles</b>	<b>Total Miles</b>
County State Aid Highway	1,105	273	1,378
County Roads	277	997	1,274
Unorganized Township Roads	74	241	315
<b>Total Miles</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>1,511</b>	<b>2,967</b>

St. Louis County has a total of 601 bridges that have a span of 10 feet or greater.



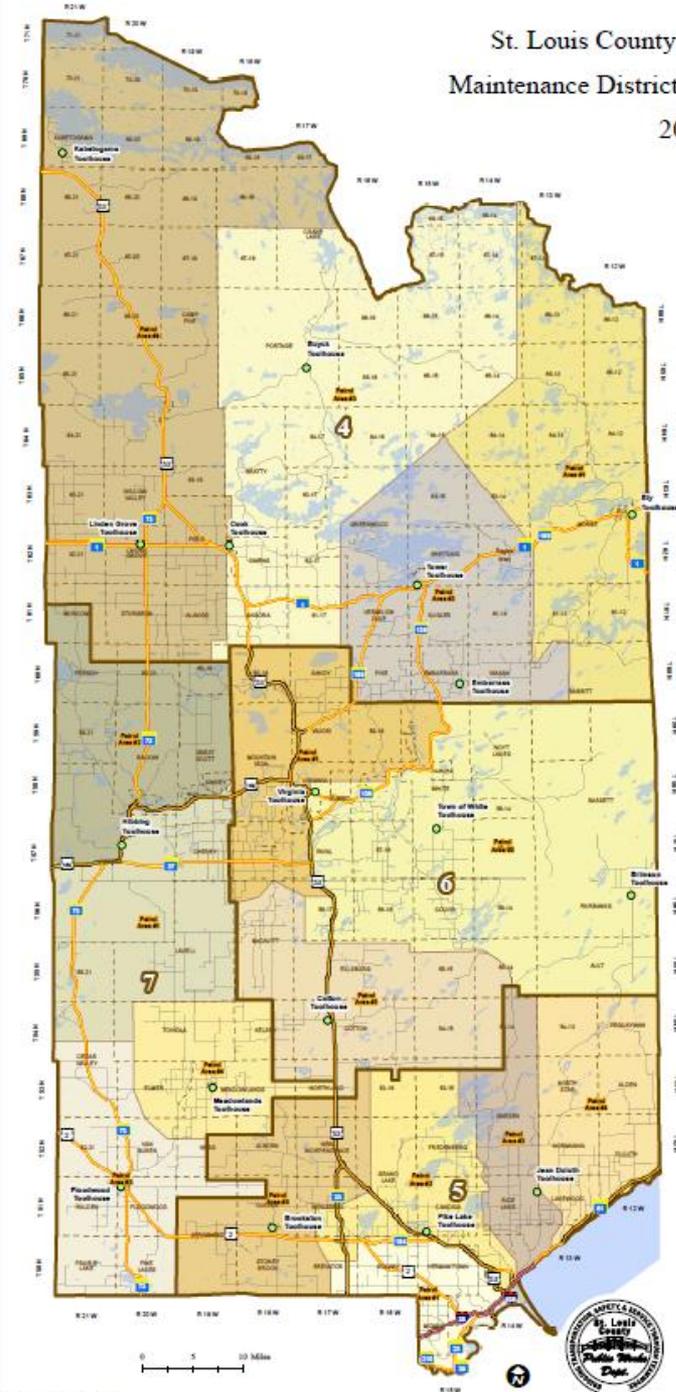
# 1. St. Louis County Public Works Overview

## Vertical Infrastructure:

The Department occupies 19 sites. Of the 19 sites, six are main, multi-purpose facilities. The Department manages 72 buildings characterized as follows: 18 garages, 10 salt sheds, 7 warm storage, 21 cold storage and 16 salt/sand storage buildings. In addition, the Department manages many parcels of county fee land associated with gravel mining operations and highway right-of-way.



# St. Louis County Public Works Maintenance Districts & Patrol Areas 2011



- Maintenance District 4**  
Lindon Grove Garage  
11193 Highway 1  
Cook, MN 55723  
Supt. Dale Johnson 666-5261  
Ely Garage 365-2381
- Maintenance District 5**  
Pike Lake Garage  
4787 Midway Road  
Duluth, MN 55811  
Supt. Patrick McCarthy 625-3849  
Jean Duluth Garage 525-7010
- Maintenance District 6**  
Virginia Maintenance Facility  
St. Louis County Garage  
7823 Highway 135  
Virginia, MN 55792  
Supt. Kevin McConnell 742-9803
- Maintenance District 7**  
Hibbing Garage  
1425 East 23rd Street  
Hibbing, MN 55746  
Supt. Mike Lopac 262-0270

**Map Components**

- Patrol Area
  - Maint. Dist. 4 - Patrol Area 1
  - Maint. Dist. 4 - Patrol Area 2
  - Maint. Dist. 4 - Patrol Area 3
  - Maint. Dist. 4 - Patrol Area 4
  - Maint. Dist. 5 - Patrol Area 1
  - Maint. Dist. 5 - Patrol Area 2
  - Maint. Dist. 5 - Patrol Area 3
  - Maint. Dist. 5 - Patrol Area 4
  - Maint. Dist. 5 - Patrol Area 5
  - Maint. Dist. 6 - Patrol Area 1
  - Maint. Dist. 6 - Patrol Area 2
  - Maint. Dist. 6 - Patrol Area 3
  - Maint. Dist. 7 - Patrol Area 1
  - Maint. Dist. 7 - Patrol Area 2
  - Maint. Dist. 7 - Patrol Area 3
  - Maint. Dist. 7 - Patrol Area 4
- Maintenance District Boundary
- Township Boundary
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. State Multi-lane Divided Highway
- U.S. State 2 Lane Highway
- County/Unorganized Township Road
- Toolbox



# 1. St. Louis County Public Works Overview

## Equipment (Rolling Stock):

### Major Equipment

<u>Equipment Type</u>	<u>Qty</u>
<u>Sedans</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Pickups</u>	<u>156</u>
<u>Vans</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Loaders</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>Excavators</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Crawler Dozers</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Motor Graders</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Dump Trucks</u>	<u>159</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>480 units</b>

Valued at over \$54 million in replacement costs



# 2. Road & Bridge Asset Management

1. Pavement Assets
2. Bridge Assets
3. Transportation Funding
4. Flood Recovery Projects
5. County Highway Safety Plan
6. Gravel Road Investment Plan (GRIP)
7. Jurisdictional Studies/Downsizing of Infrastructure
8. Staffing
9. Environmental Permitting Issues
10. In the perfect world:
  - a) 10-ton year round road network
  - b) Eliminate all structurally deficient bridges with load postings
  - c) Increase funding for pavement preservation and preventative maintenance
  - d) Increase GRIP investments



# 3. Maintenance & Operations

1. Equipment Funding
2. Maintenance Facilities
3. Snow & Ice Control Operations
4. Teamster Contract & Staffing
5. In the perfect world:
  - a) Increase bridge maintenance & rehabilitation activities
  - b) Outsource salt sand production
  - c) Increase frequency of clearing & brushing
  - d) Increase noxious weed control activities
  - e) Increase frequency of storm sewer cleaning



# 4. Motor Pool Division

1. Major Review of Operations in 2012
2. Virginia Motor Pool Building CIP Project
3. Continue to upgrade the on-line reservation system
4. Staffing
5. In the perfect world:
  - a) Dispose of vehicles at 5 years.



# 5. Land Survey Division

1. Created Business Plan in 2012 to Respond to New Demand for Services
2. Implementing Business Plan in 2013
  - a) Three- pronged approach
    - Four additional employees
    - Consultant Contracts
    - Corner Certificate Reimbursement Program
3. Staffing
4. In the perfect world:
  - a) Accelerate monumentation
  - b) Accelerate the scanning of all survey records



# 6. Additional Discussion Items

1. Purchasing Rules
  - a) Sync up spending authority with statutory limit
  - b) Extend blanket contract authority
2. Material Cost Inflation
3. Staffing – Succession Planning
4. eGovernment & Technology



# The Motley Crew



# Thank You

