



## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

**Tuesday, January 13, 2015, 9:30 A.M.**

**County Board Room, Second Floor  
St. Louis County Courthouse  
100 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Duluth, Minnesota**

**PETE STAUBER, Chair  
Fifth District**

**FRANK JEWELL  
First District**

**PATRICK BOYLE  
Second District**

**CHRIS DAHLBERG  
Third District**

**TOM RUKAVINA  
Fourth District**

**KEITH NELSON  
Sixth District**

**STEVE RAUKAR, Vice-Chair  
Seventh District**

County Auditor  
Donald Dicklich

County Administrator  
Kevin Gray

County Attorney  
Mark Rubin

Clerk of the Board  
Phil Chapman

The St. Louis County Board of Commissioners welcomes you to this meeting. This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered. The Board encourages your participation. If you wish to speak on an item contained in the agenda, you will be allowed to address the Board when a motion is on the floor. If you wish to speak on a matter that does not appear on the agenda, you may do so during the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Standing Rules of the County Board, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda.

When addressing the Board, please sign in at the podium and state your name and address for the record. Please address the Board as a whole through the Chair. Comments to individual Commissioners or staff are not permitted. The St. Louis County Board promotes adherence to civility in conducting the business of the County. Civility will provide increased opportunities for civil discourse in order to find positive resolutions to the issue before the Board. Tools of civility include: pay attention, listen, be inclusive, do not gossip, show respect, be agreeable, apologize, give constructive criticism and take responsibility [County Board Resolution No. 560, adopted on September 9, 2003]. Speakers will be limited to five (5) minutes.

**\*\*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify Property Management 72 hours prior to the meeting at (218)725-5085.\*\***

All supporting documentation is available for public review in the County Auditor's Office, 100 North 5th Avenue West - Room No. 214, St. Louis County Courthouse, Duluth, MN, during regular business hours 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Agenda is also available on our website at <http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/GOVERNMENT/BoardofCommissioners.aspx>

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9:30 A.M.      Moment of Silence  
                    Pledge of Allegiance  
                    Roll Call

AT THIS TIME CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA. [Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes each.]

FOR ITEMS LISTED ON THE BOARD AGENDA OR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA, CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE BOARD AT THE TIME A MOTION IS ON THE FLOOR.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approval of business submitted on the consent agenda.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Public Works & Transportation Committee – Commissioner Raukar, Chair**

1.      Support for Highway 1/169 Eagles Nest Area Project. {15-13} **[Has not been to committee; requires consent of the Board to be considered.]**

**ADJOURNED:**



## **Support for Highway 1/169 Eagles Nest Lake Area Project**

BY COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has proposed a new transportation infrastructure maintenance and safety improvement project on a corridor of state highway extending along 5.7 miles of Highway 1/169 from 0.1 mile west of Sixmile Road to approximately 0.1 mile east of Bradach Road, located in the 4<sup>th</sup> Commissioner District of St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, The St. Louis County Board has expressed its concerns for safety issues on this stretch of roadway for many years, first passing a resolution of support for the Highway 169 North Improvement Task Force in 2000 (Resolution No. 00-415, dated June 13, 2000), and again in 2013 in a resolution supporting the continued efforts of the task force in recommending a realignment of the highway (Resolution No. 13-161, dated March 26, 2013);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the St. Louis County Board approves of and supports the Minnesota Department of Transportation's new infrastructure maintenance and safety improvement project along Highway 1/169 in the Eagles Nest Lake area of St. Louis County, MN;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That County Board support for the new MnDOT transportation infrastructure maintenance and safety improvement project is with the expectation that normal negotiations between the county and MnDOT regarding roadway turn back issues and Mesabi Trail continuation efforts will be acknowledged as part of any realignment of Highway 1/169;

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the County Board directs that a letter of support for the project be submitted prior to close of the public comment period on January 30, 2015, to Michael Kalnbach, P.E., Minnesota Department of Transportation, District 1-Duluth, 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, MN.

**Minnesota Department of Transportation  
NEWS RELEASE**

Dec. 22, 2014

**Contact:**

Beth Petrowske, 218-725-2708

Michael Kalnbach, 218-725-2745

## **Highway 1/169 Eagles Nest Lake Area Project public comment period begins**

Duluth, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Transportation has initiated a transportation infrastructure maintenance and safety improvement project that includes pavement replacement, widening the shoulders, drainage improvements, expanding the clear zones, adding turn/bypass lanes and passing opportunities and realignment of portions of the highway. The project corridor extends along 5.7 miles of Highway 1/169 from approximately 0.1 miles west of Sixmile Road to approximately 0.1 miles east of Bradach Road. The new alignment will also reduce shading, which has contributed to icy road conditions during the winter.

As part of the planning and design phase of the project, a combined Federal Environmental Assessment and State Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) has been prepared and will be available for public and agency review and comment beginning December 22, 2014. The EA/EAW identifies the project purpose and need, alternatives considered, and identifies potential social, economic and environmental effects. The EA/EAW is available for review on the project website at

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/Hwy169eagles/> and at the following locations:

- Ely Public Library, 224 East Chapman Street, Ely, Minnesota 55731
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W. Superior Street, Duluth MN 55802;
- MnDOT District 1 – Virginia Office Building Lobby, 101 N. Hoover Road, Virginia, MN 55792
- Minneapolis Public Library, Technical & Science Division, Government Docs., 2nd Floor, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1992;
- MnDOT Library, 395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155;

To afford an opportunity for all interested persons, agencies and groups to learn more about the project, a public hearing/informational meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at the Vermilion Community College – Room CL104, 1900 East Camp St., Ely, MN 55731. The open house style meeting will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m. MnDOT representatives will be present to answer questions and receive public comments on the preferred alternative and the assessment of environmental impacts in the EA/EAW.

Minnesota Department of Transportation officials announced today that it is recommending the 3A route as the preferred alternative.

"MnDOT has worked closely with the Federal Highway Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the public to identify this preferred alternative," said Duane Hill, MnDOT District 1 engineer. "This has been a very challenging project, but we have studied every detail and option and we believe alternative 3A offers the best balance of all factors considered in the environmental assessment."

Hill added, "MnDOT hosted many public meetings for this project and citizens often stated that they wanted their comments recorded, now is the time for people to share their feelings about the project and have them entered into the public record."

The deadline for submitting comments is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2015. All comments should be directed to: Michael Kalnbach, P.E., Minnesota Department of Transportation, District 1 – Duluth, 1123 Mesaba Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811, Email: [michael.kalnbach@state.mn.us](mailto:michael.kalnbach@state.mn.us)

"We hope that everyone who is interested in this project comes to the hearing or submits comments by the January 30 deadline," said MnDOT D1 Highway 1/169 Eagles Nest Lake Area Project Manager, Michael Kalnbach,.

To request this document in an alternative format, please contact the Affirmative Action Office at 651-366-4718 or call 1-800-657-3774 (Greater Minnesota). For Minnesota Relay, call 711 or 1-800-627-3529. You may also send an e-mail to [ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us](mailto:ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us). (Please make your request at least one week in advance).

For more information, visit the project website at: [www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/Hwy169eagles/index.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d1/projects/Hwy169eagles/index.html).

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Attachment: Map of 3A Alternative

