

Dakota County 2024 Capital Priorities Summary



V3-2024

COUNTY ROAD 50 AND INTERSTATE 35 BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE 1)

STATE REQUEST

\$33 million for I-35 (100%)

\$25 million – I-35 bridges, County Road 50 interchange (100%)

\$8 million – County Road 50 improvements (50%)

COUNTY MATCH

\$8.26 million for County Road 50 interchange (50%)

County Road 50 at Interstate 35 in Lakeville is insufficient for the increasing traffic volume, and pedestrian safety is impaired along the county road. Additionally, the interstate in this corridor needs improvements to accommodate a growing population, improve safety and extend E-ZPass managed lanes from Burnsville to Lakeville. Dakota County is seeking support for Phase 1 of this project in 2024.

State bonding in 2024 would help reconstruct the two interstate bridges at County Road 50 and two railroad bridges south of the interchange. The new bridges will be built to carry three lanes in each direction when future interstate improvements are made. New freeway ramps will be built connecting County Road 50 to the interstate. Funding would also provide a fourth lane on County Road 50 under the I-35 bridges and other county road improvements near the interchange.

COUNTY ROAD 46 SAFETY AND MOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

\$21.4 million

County Road 46 is a two-lane roadway that carries 11,000-15,000 vehicles daily and a high volume of truck traffic. The east-west corridor runs through Empire, Rosemount, Farmington, Apple Valley and Lakeville.

Expanding County Road 46 from two to four lanes from Highway 3 to the Highway 52 interchange and adding turn lanes and other traffic improvements would enhance safety for all users.

COUNTY ROAD 54 RECONSTRUCTION AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION

\$15 million

County Road 54 is a high-speed, two-lane highway connecting Hastings and the Prairie Island Indian Community. The road has a documented crash history and lacks turn lanes and standard shoulders, limiting pedestrian access.

Reconstruction of County Road 54 and the addition of a roundabout will enhance traffic safety, improve access to the Prairie Island Indian Community and allow for the extension of the Mississippi River Trail.

117TH STREET RECONSTRUCTION AND SAFETY MODERNIZATION

\$9.3 million

Dakota County and the City of Inver Grove Heights plan to reconstruct 117th Street from County Road 71 (Rich Valley Boulevard) to Highway 52. Safety, pavement conditions, freight mobility and pedestrian connectivity all need to be addressed within this Tier 2 regional truck corridor.

Reconstruction of 117th Street and other critical upgrades are needed to enhance safety, improve pavement condition, address freight mobility, provide pedestrian connectivity and create an efficient east-west transportation corridor.

THOMPSON COUNTY PARK INCLUSIVE ENHANCEMENTS AND NATURAL AREA RESTORATION

\$10 million

Dakota County invested \$3 million to upgrade Thompson County Park in recent years, completing a first phase of master plan improvements. That plan recommends additional enhancements, and the state already invested \$2 million for their design.

State funding would allow for the construction of those additional enhancements, which will improve community access and accessibility, restore native habitat, and enhance the overall park experience.

Continued

NORTH CREEK GREENWAY PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

\$5.4 million

North Creek Greenway's 14-mile route through Eagan, Apple Valley, Lakeville, Empire and Farmington includes at-grade crossings with high-traffic roadways, posing safety risks for pedestrians and bicyclists.

A grade-separated crossing of County Road 42, three local underpasses, a connection to 147th Street and a future connection to the existing alignment north of 140th Street would enhance safety for greenway users.

[HF 2157 Bierman](#); [SF 2299 Maye Quade](#)

MENDOTA TO LEBANON HILLS GREENWAY PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

\$3.3 million

Mendota to Lebanon Hills Greenway travels 8 miles through Dakota County, connecting the River to River Greenway to Lebanon Hills Regional Park and the Veterans Memorial Greenway. A major barrier to completing the greenway is the lack of a safe crossing of Highway 55 at County Roads 28/63.

Grade-separated crossings at Highway 55 and County Roads 28/63, and at County Road 28 west of Argenta Trail will help complete the greenway and provide safer access for pedestrians and bicyclists.

[HF 1928 Clardy](#); [SF 1833 Klein](#)

COUNTY ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GENERATION

\$8.4 million (RDA funds)

Dakota County is committed to reducing energy consumption in county-owned facilities. Energy efficiency measures in 2024 include conversion of the remaining 50 percent of indoor lighting to LED, installation of 1-megawatt solar panels at four locations and energy-efficient HVAC system updates at the two largest service centers. Annually, these measures will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 4.57 million pounds and reduce energy expenses by 25 percent.

Dakota County is requesting \$8.4 million from the Minnesota Renewable Development Account.

THE RECYCLING ZONE PLUS

\$8 million (CAP funds)

Dakota and Scott counties have a combined 593,000 residents — more than 10 percent of the state population — and five active landfills. Each county operates a residential household hazardous waste and recycling facility, but they were not designed to handle the population growth.

The Recycling Zone Plus, a new regional facility located in Lakeville, will increase participation by offering another convenient location to properly manage waste and recyclables. It will also provide a convenient and cost-effective drop-off location for household hazardous waste and recyclables from residents and businesses from both counties.

Dakota County is requesting \$8 million for the second phase of the project for facility construction from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Capital Assistance Program (CAP).

THE RECYCLING ZONE PLUS (B3 INVESTMENT)

\$1.6 million (RDA funds)

Dakota County has met high-performance building and sustainability standards since 2003, which have saved local taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars every year. All county facilities meet these standards. The Recycling Zone Plus will be built to the even higher standard of the Minnesota SB2030 requirements. The increase in construction costs to achieve these requirements is estimated at \$1.6 million.

Dakota County is requesting \$1.6 million from the Minnesota Renewable Development Account.

CONTACT

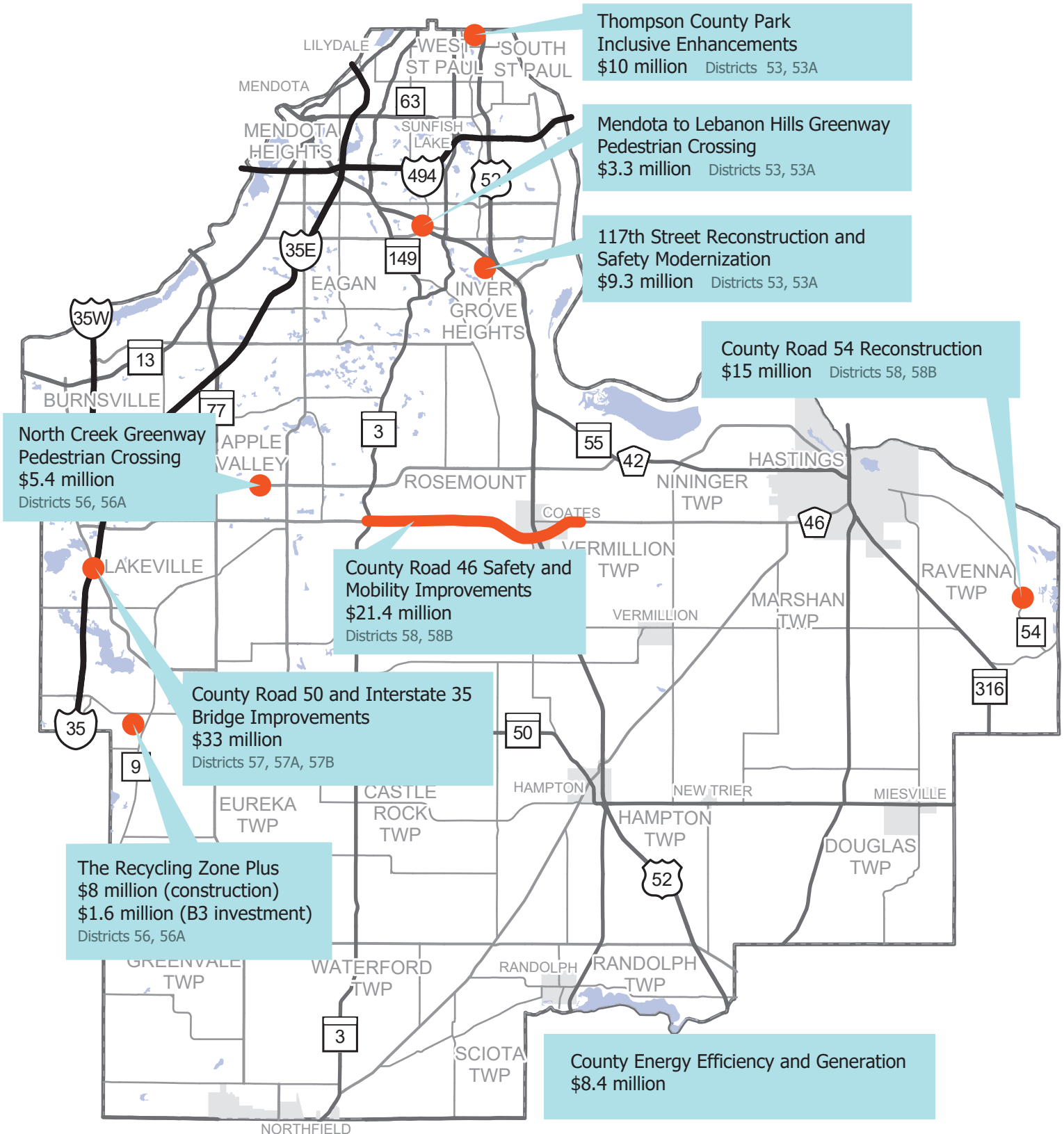
Georg Fischer

Physical Development Director
Georg.Fischer@co.dakota.mn.us
952-891-7007

Matt Smith

County Manager
Matt.Smith@co.dakota.mn.us
651-438-452

Dakota County 2024 Capital Priorities



Dakota County 2024 Policy Priorities



V2-2024

ADDRESS WORKFORCE CHALLENGES IN DISABILITY SERVICES

People with disabilities and their families are being impacted by a shortage of support staff and services to assist them to live and work in integrated, community settings. Staffing shortages have been described as a crisis in Minnesota for at least a decade, and the pandemic made it worse. Solutions include:

- Allowing maximum flexibility in self-directed programs, such as by clarifying that goods or services that support community inclusion are allowable expenses.
- Streamlining paperwork requirements, such as by eliminating the need for people to complete new paperwork for each phase of a job search or support.
- Increasing the availability of assistive technology to supplement paid caregivers. For example, create an Assistive Technology Resource Center to train, certify and build awareness.
- Supporting innovative approaches to increasing support for people with disabilities, such as by engaging businesses and other community organizations in promoting inclusive communities.
- Developing an online application that can be used to match requests for support with available staff in real time.

SUPPORT URGENT MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS FOR CHILDREN

Children diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances need mental health support to succeed at school and in the community. A mental health provider shortage has significantly impacted these children and their families. Solutions exist to help these families, but state support is needed. These solutions include:

- Increasing school-linked mental health funding.
- Addressing the therapist shortage by increasing Medical Assistance reimbursement.
- Developing a service for children comparable to Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) for adults, so kids can stay in their communities when they need stabilization.

- Establishing a statewide Medical Assistance (MA) reimbursement for Collaborative Intensive Bridging Services (CIBS). Dakota County developed this proven model, but it is not reimbursed by MA.
- Establishing a Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI) grant, like what is available for adults. Counties currently are using local property taxes to fund gaps in children's mental health services.

SUPPORT CRISIS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Communities across Minnesota face urgent and unprecedented mental health challenges. Dakota County has responded by developing a continuum of services based on national best practices, but these cannot be sustained without state support. Solutions include:

- Increasing base budget funding for crisis service grants.
- Ensuring there is an equitable and transparent formula for distribution of state crisis grants.

PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE STATE FUNDING FOR HOUSING SERVICES AND EMERGENCY SHELTER

Minnesota's homelessness response needs stable, consistent funding to best serve people in need, not the current patchwork of short-term grants. These grants are awarded competitively without a guarantee of ongoing funding, which creates instability for service providers and people seeking assistance. Stable state funding is needed for services that provide shelter and support to households experiencing homelessness and others that support housing stability so people don't return to homelessness. Solutions include:

- Creating a dedicated, statewide funding stream for emergency shelter services and operations.
- Expanding Housing Support Demonstration program capacity from 226 to 500.
- Amending Affordable Housing Aid passed in 2023 to explicitly allow support services that address housing instability.

CONTINUED

MODERNIZE DHS PROGRAM TECHNOLOGY

The current human services programs, processes and technology are complex, fragmented, burdensome and, in many cases, functionally inept. Modernizing these systems is critical to effectively and sustainably serving Minnesotans in need. Modernization could include:

- Dedicating state funds to county innovation efforts that align with modernization goals and improve human services technology.
- Advancing projects that improve the user experience and reduce administrative burden for clients and workers.
- Ensuring collaboration, cooperation and transparency with counties and tribes when introducing new technology for their use.

CONTACT

Marti Fischbach

Community Services Director
Marti.Fischbach@co.dakota.mn.us
651-554-6560

Matt Smith

County Manager
Matt.Smith@co.dakota.mn.us
651-438-4528

SUBORDINATE SERVICE DISTRICT AUTHORITY

Public safety in the county is provided by several different agencies. Police departments serve most cities, and the Dakota County Sheriff's Office operates the jail and provides patrol services in the townships and small cities in rural areas of the county.

Costs for the sheriff's office patrol services are now paid for by property taxes levied countywide, meaning that residents of cities are double taxed — for their city police department and for sheriff's office patrol in rural areas. Residents of townships and small cities pay only a small fraction of the actual cost of public safety services received.

Rural officials have indicated a willingness to cover a greater percentage of public safety costs in order to increase service levels, but the tool to accomplish this — a subordinate service taxing district — is now only available by state law to Greater Minnesota counties. The Legislature could address this by amending state law to remove the metropolitan county exemption for a subordinate service taxing district and to allow for non-contiguous district boundaries.

CONTACT

Joe Leko

Dakota County Sheriff
Joseph.Leko@co.dakota.mn.us
651-438-4701

Matt Smith

County Manager
Matt.Smith@co.dakota.mn.us
651-438-4528