BOLTON & MENK

Real People. Real Solutions.

notes added in red
by Cara Geheren on
11/11/2026

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 14, 2026

To: Dellwood City Council

From: Cara L. Gehereren, P.E.

Subject: Hwy 244 Jurisdictional Transfer
Dellwood, Minnesota

Summary

MnDOT has proposed transferring ownership and maintenance responsibility of TH 244 to the City. As part of the transfer, MnDOT would provide a one-time, lump-sum payment of **$11,569,172** intended to offset future roadway-related costs assumed by the City.

Key Considerations

- Funding:
  - One-time lump-sum payment of $11.57 million.
  - Funds must be used for roadway-related purposes but may be applied to any roadway within the City and on a timeline determined by the City.
  - MnDOT will not provide additional funding if future costs exceed the available amount.
- City Responsibilities if Transfer Occurs:
  - The City would assume full ownership, operations, and maintenance responsibilities for TH 244, consistent with other City-owned streets.
  - Responsibilities would include routine activities such as snow and ice control, pavement maintenance, signage, and minor repairs, with costs incorporated into future operating and capital planning.
- Flexibility and No Immediate Construction Decision:
  - The City is not obligated to construct any specific improvements as part of the transfer.
  - No roadway construction project is proposed or authorized at this time.
- Alternative if City Does Not Proceed:
  - If the City declines the transfer, TH 244 would remain under MnDOT ownership and maintenance, subject to MnDOT's future priorities and funding decisions.

Discussion and Next Steps

- Detailed technical, financial, and administrative information is provided in Hwy 244 Jurisdictional Transfer: Supporting Information including a tentative timeline.

Bolton & Menk is an equal opportunity employer.

Hwy 244 Jurisdictional Transfer – Supporting Information

For Council Discussion: April 14, 2026

BOLTON & MENK
Real People. Real Solutions.

---

1. **Background and Context:** Trunk Highway (TH) 244 is currently under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). MnDOT has proposed a jurisdictional transfer (turnback) of the roadway to the City of Dellwood. Jurisdictional transfers are accompanied by a one-time payment intended to offset future roadway-related responsibilities assumed by the receiving agency.

   If the City elects not to proceed with the jurisdictional transfer, TH 244 would remain under MnDOT ownership and maintenance, subject to MnDOT's future priorities, budgeting, and project programming.

2. **Turnback Funding Overview**

   Funding Amount

   - The anticipated turnback funding associated with the proposed transfer is **$11,569,172**.
   - Funding would be provided as a one-time, lump-sum payment.

   How the Funding Amount Was Developed

   The funding estimate was developed jointly by MnDOT, City staff, and the City's engineering design consultant. The estimate is based on an assumed full reconstruction of the TH 244 corridor and includes the following planning-level assumptions:

   - Reconstruction of the corridor to an urban-section roadway.
   - Roadway width of approximately 26 feet measured from face of curb to face of curb.
   - Installation of an entirely new storm sewer system along the corridor.
   - Construction of a pedestrian facility along one side of the roadway.
   - Inclusion of typical construction-related costs such as mobilization, removals, traffic control, erosion control, signing, and pavement markings.
   - Engineering design services and anticipated right-of-way acquisition costs.
   - A pedestrian underpass near the White Bear Yacht Club, based on an assumption that required property may be donated.

   The funding estimate represents a planning-level calculation only and is not tied to a specific construction project or design.

3. **Use of Turnback Funds**
   - Turnback funds must be used for roadway-related purposes.
   - Funds may be applied to any roadway within the City of Dellwood, not solely TH 244.

- The City has discretion to determine the scope, timing, and location of eligible improvements.
- Acceptance of the transfer does not obligate the City to construct the improvements assumed in the funding estimate.

4. Financial Risk Considerations

- The MnDOT turnback payment represents the maximum financial contribution associated with the jurisdictional transfer.
- MnDOT will not provide additional funds if future improvement costs exceed the lump-sum payment.
- Any future project would need to be scoped to available funding or supplemented through other sources, such as City funds, grants, or trail-related funding (e.g., Lake Links Trail, if applicable).

5. Infrastructure Assumptions and Known Unknowns

Storm Sewer Infrastructure

- Due to the age of TH 244, MnDOT has limited information regarding the location, condition, and capacity of existing storm sewer infrastructure and culverts.
- Upon completion of the jurisdictional transfer, storm sewer infrastructure within the roadway would become the responsibility of the City.
- The funding estimate assumes full replacement of storm sewer infrastructure.
- A detailed storm sewer investigation would occur if the City advances a future improvement project.

Right-of-Way (ROW)

- MnDOT has compiled available right-of-way information; however, records are incomplete in portions of the corridor due to the roadway's age.
- Additional right-of-way acquisition may be required depending on the scope of future improvements.
- Any right-of-way needs would be evaluated and scoped as part of a future project.

6. Pedestrian Underpass Assumption

The funding estimate includes a pedestrian underpass near the White Bear Yacht Club. This element is based on an assumption that the White Bear Yacht Club may be willing to donate necessary property to facilitate construction.

- This assumption has not been formally confirmed though preliminarily discussed with WBYC.

- If property donation is not feasible, the feasibility, scope, or cost of future improvements could change.

7. Funding Flow and Administrative Process

Section 7 is out of date as of 11.11.2026. MnDOT evaluating other options for transfer of funds to the city should the city decide to proceed with evaluating turnback process

Because the City of Dellwood is not a State Aid city, turnback funding must flow through Washington County. The anticipated process is as follows:

1. Execution of a City–County Jurisdictional Transfer Agreement between the City and Washington County.
2. Execution of a MnDOT–County Transfer Agreement between MnDOT and Washington County.
3. Washington County executes both agreements in a single board action following City execution of the City–County agreement.
4. MnDOT provides the lump-sum turnback payment to Washington County.
5. Washington County allocates the funds to the City of Dellwood.

8. Anticipated Administrative Timeline (Subject to Council Direction)

Schedule is out of date as of 11.11.2026

April–May

- Council and County Board updates on funding estimate and transfer process
- MnDOT prepares MnDOT–County transfer agreement
- Washington County prepares County–City agreement

June

- Council review of draft agreements
- Final agreements prepared for execution

July

- Council consideration and approval of agreements
- Execution of jurisdictional transfer agreements

July–December

- MnDOT Office of Land Management prepares mapping and records necessary for transfer (this timeline may be able to be accelerated).

January (Following Year)

- Jurisdictional transfer completed
- Funds transferred from MnDOT to Washington County and from the County to the City
- Jurisdictional signage updated