

# County saves \$1.5 million under estimate for CSAH 39 construction project

Provided by Wright County at [www.co.wright.mn.us](http://www.co.wright.mn.us)

By John Holler

In June 2017, the Wright County Board of Commissioners followed suit with numerous other counties in the state that were struggling to keep up with the funding needs for county highway and road infrastructure by implementing a half-cent Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) for transportation. The requirement was that all revenue generated by the tax could only be used on transportation projects that were on a list presented at a public hearing in 2017.

It is the LOST funding mechanism that will be used on the CSAH 39 project in Otsego

(from Hwy 42 west to O'Dean Avenue) and the county got some good news – almost \$1.5 million that was expected to be spent on the two-year project was saved by low bids that can be used for other projects on the LOST list.

Wright County Highway Engineer Virgil Hawkins said that the project, which had an engineer's estimate of \$3.32 million, came in at \$6.33 million – almost \$2 million under the estimated cost – a whopping 24 percent. Hawkins said he always hopes bids come in under the budgeted amount, but was stunned at how far the winning bid from Park Construction Company of Minneapolis came in under the estimate.

"We were hoping it would come in under budget, but I don't think anyone was thinking the low bid would come in almost \$2 million under the engineer's estimate," Hawkins said. "We've had projects that have come in under estimate, but 24 percent under doesn't happen very often."

One of the primary drivers for the shockingly low bid was the competition among the construction industry to land contracts. Typically for large road construction projects, there are two or three bidders. Occasionally, there will be four.

The CSAH 39 project had six bidders and all came in under \$8 million – the high bid was \$7.8 million – 6.4 percent under estimate.

Using Local Option Sales Tax dollars to pay for the county's share, the plan was to budget \$4.5 million of LOST funding in 2020 and \$2 million in 2021. The numbers for both the county and the city dropped significantly with the bid being as low as it was.

"A total of \$6.5 million was expected to be the county's share for this project and the city's share was expected to be about \$2 million," Hawkins said. "Based on the low bid being so far under (estimate), the city's share is going to be \$1.29 million and the county is going to pay \$5.04 million. It's a nice savings on this one."

In the two full years that the LOST program has been in place, it has far exceeded projections for revenue generated. The expectation was to bring in \$5.5 million a year according to 2017 projections. It has averaged \$7.3 million and a year and, thanks to the competitive bidding on the CSAH 39 project, Wright County gets to use almost \$1.5 million to use toward other transportation projects on the LOST list.

## Park View Care Center launches Caregiver Support Program

Park View Care Center staff members launched a Caregiver Support Services program recently, funded by significant grants from the Central Minnesota Council on Aging and Wright-Hennepin Electric Coop Foundation. The program coaches caregivers in the community, organizes volunteers for in-home respite services, and connects former residents of the Cassia campus, hospitals and clinics with community resources to stay healthy. This is an especially important service for families and caregivers who find themselves stressed out by the Coronavirus. Support can be supplied by phone and electronically.

Coaching caregivers can help loved ones stay in their homes longer. Coaches listen, offer possible solutions/resources and provide referrals to other agencies. This may be done by phone or via in-person visits. Volunteers can provide respite for a few hours a week or people can attend adult day centers through the program, once social distancing practices are over.

The program also provides education through one-to-one counseling or in group

settings. Park View Quality in Living Specialists Barb Anderley and Theresa Henson pursued training and certifications to provide this new service. For more information, please contact Barb Anderley at 763-951-7819 or [Barb.Anderley@cassialife.org](mailto:Barb.Anderley@cassialife.org).

### About Cassia

Cassia's mission is to foster fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ's love. In 2018, Augustana Care and Elim Care voluntarily joined together to form Cassia, reinforcing both organizations' missions. With more than 200 years of combined service, the affiliation strengthens our focus on meeting the needs of residents, clients and patients of all faiths. The name "Cassia" ('KAS e- uh) was inspired by an anointing oil made from the bark of the Cassia tree and is said to symbolize the heart of a servant. Cassia provides independent and assisted living communities, memory care, skilled nursing care centers, short-term rehabilitation centers, adult day programs and a variety of community-based services for older adults across five states.

a portion of the sewer system for some time.

The compost site is open for

## Work, detour begins on Hwy. 24 in Annandale April

Motorists who travel on Highway 24 in Annandale will encounter delays as the highway closes from Highway 24/Oak Avenue and Poplar Avenue in Annandale on Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Motorists should follow the signed detour along Highway 55, Poplar Avenue, and Highway 24/Oak Avenue

and residences local. Highway 24 will remain open, however expect changes.

All lanes and along Highway 24 will be opened by June 27. Fourth of July holiday. For additional traffic visit [www.mndot.gov/traffic/annandale/](http://www.mndot.gov/traffic/annandale/).

When complete

## Montrose Update

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### Personal Care

Trinlett urged all Montrose

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TRAFFIC MUCH LIGHT  
COKATOS ELIM CHUR  
CARING FOR CAREG  
MONTROSE PUBLIC V  
CLAYTON THOMAS  
HANOVER UPDATES  
MOBILE HOME FIRE  
OUR CHOICE TO MAK  
NONESSENTIAL  
ELECTED OFFICIALS  
WHATS THE DIRT  
BLACK SQUIRRELS