



Jess L. Greenwood, P.E.
Public Works Director – County Engineer

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TO: Honorable County Commissioners
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Jess L. Greenwood, Public Works Director / County Engineer

RE: 17 June 2025 County Board Meeting
Eminent Domain for CSAH 11 Reconstruction Project – S.A.P. 025-611-031

Date: 11 June 2025

Summary

It is requested that the Board approve the use of eminent domain proceedings to secure the right of way needed for the CSAH 11 Reconstruction Project scheduled to begin in 2026.

Background

S.A.P. 025-611-031 consists of the grading of CSAH 11 from CR 55 to the east County line. Forty-five appraisals were completed by Valbridge Property Advisors for the acquisition of new right of way for the project. The eminent domain process is as follows:

- Filing and service of the petition to remaining parcel owners (estimated 30 days)
- Public need hearing (held at least 30 days after petition is served)
- Title and possession (maximum of 90 days after public need hearing)
- Total estimated duration = 150 days (5 months)

Staff is requesting to initiate the eminent domain process at this time to allow for tree clearing during the fall of 2025 and/or winter of 2026. Negotiations will continue with the landowners with the goal of reaching a mutually acceptable settlement for the needed parcels.

Alternatives

- o Authorize County staff to begin the eminent domain proceedings for S.A.P. 025-611-031.
- o Delay authorization to begin the eminent domain proceedings, which may delay the bid opening.
- o Do not authorize eminent domain, which could result in property not being acquired to construct the project.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the County Board pass the attached resolution authorizing the commencement of eminent domain proceedings to obtain the unacquired parcels of land needed for the construction of S.A.P. 025-611-031, with those eminent domain proceedings to include provisions of early possession or “quick take” by Goodhue County.

"To effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of our residents"

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

17 June 2025

WHEREAS, the construction of Goodhue County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 11 from CR 55 to the east County line is part of the approved Goodhue County Five-Year Construction Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the County contracted with Valbridge Property Advisors to complete appraisals for 45 parcel groups; and,

WHEREAS, the eminent domain process will take approximately 5 months to obtain title and possession; and

WHEREAS, County staff is proposing to bid the project this year to allow for tree clearing in the fall months of 2025 and/or winter months of 2026 to meet environmental requirements; and,

WHEREAS, possession of the right of way is necessary to proceed with construction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Public Works Director and the County Attorney to begin eminent domain proceedings, at the appropriate time, against unacquired parcels of land needed for the construction of S.A.P. 025-611-031, with those eminent domain proceedings to include provisions of early possession or “quick take” by Goodhue County.

State of Minnesota
County of Goodhue

Flanders	Yes	___	No	___
Anderson	Yes	___	No	___
Betcher	Yes	___	No	___
Majerus	Yes	___	No	___
Greseth	Yes	___	No	___

I, Scott Arneson, duly appointed, qualified, and County Administrator of the County of Goodhue, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of a resolution with the original minutes of the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners, Goodhue County, Minnesota at their session held on the 17th day of June, 2025, now on file in my office, and have found the same to be a true and correct copy thereof.

Witness my hand and official seal at Red Wing, Minnesota this 17th day of June, 2025.

Scott Arneson
County Administrator