



Jess L. Greenwood, P.E.
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TO: Honorable County Commissioners
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Jess L. Greenwood, P.E. - Director / County Engineer

RE: 21 Jan 25 Budget Committee Meeting
Out of State Travel 2025

Date: 14 Jan 25

Summary

It is requested that the Budget Committee and the County Board approve Out-of-State Travel for the following conferences. The costs for these conferences are included in the 2024 Budget.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Estimated & Budgeted</u>	<u>Dates of Event</u>
- Washington Fly-In – Washington, DC (Engineer + 3 Co Staff)	\$8,300	September 2025
- NACE Annual Meeting	\$1,500	April 2025

Background

Washington, DC Fly-In:

Since 2002, the County has sent four representatives consisting of one or two commissioners, the County Administrator, the County Engineer, the Assistant County Engineer and/or our Legislative Liaison to the 'Transportation Alliance Washington Fly-In.'. With the exception of 2019, when Commissioner Anderson, Commission Drotos, and the Public Works Director traveled to Washington DC in September with the Olmsted County Engineer, the Mayor of Zumbrota, and a Zumbrota City Council member. No County representatives attended in 2020-2023 due to COVID-19 and coordination issues.

Our visits to Washington DC have enabled us to develop relationships with our Congressional delegation and their staff, and keep them informed about the needs, concerns, projects, and funding in Goodhue County. Goodhue County has received several appropriations in past years and will continue to request federal funds in future years. Therefore, establishing and maintaining these relationships is very important. The cost for the Fly-In can range from approximately \$1,600 - \$2,300 per person depending on airfare, lodging, and meals. The estimated cost, mentioned above, was included in our 2025 Conference & Training budget line item.

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

The Board should decide if a contingency will attend this year's Fly-In. If so, it is recommended that Jake Rezac attend if space is available.

NACE Conference – Schaumburg, Illinois.:

The former County Engineer attended several NACE Conferences in the past and found the national conference to be very informative and an opportunity to learn about new approaches for managing the County's Public Works Department from sources throughout the country. The 2025 conference is in Schaumburg, Illinois. Attendance, by the County Engineer, to this conference is being recommended.

Alternatives

- Authorize Out-of-State Travel for the Washington, DC Fly-In and the NACE Conference as presented.
- Take no action at this time.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation that the Budget Committee and County Board authorize Out-of-State Travel for the Washington, DC Fly-In and the NACE Conference as presented.