



A mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinic took place June 14 at Backus Community Center. MDH PHOTO

Response to vaccine bus exceeds expectations

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

A state vaccine bus administered all its doses of COVID-19 vaccination when it visited Borderland June 14. All 100 Johnson & Johnson single dose vaccinations were administered, exceeding the expectations of state officials, said Amanda Theisen, senior public relations specialist, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, a partner in the program. “Any time we can vaccinate someone who may not otherwise have access to the vaccine, we consider it a worthy effort,” she said. The program has ad-

ministered more than 5,600 vaccine doses to Minnesotans to protect them against COVID-19. “We’ve heard from many patients that they may not have received the vaccine if it weren’t for a mobile clinic visiting their community” she said. “The purpose of the buses is to provide equitable access to vaccines and to help overcome barriers that many communities face – such as technology, transportation, language, scheduling and wanting to be vaccinated in a more familiar setting. We’re proud to be doing our part to help Minnesota get as many

people vaccinated as possible.” The event coincided with a local Ruby’s Pop-up Pantry distribution for convenience of the public. Theisen said Koochiching County Public Health officials are working with the state to determine if a second bus clinic is wanted in the coming weeks and the logistics to make that happen. Each bus is prepared to vaccinate around 100 people each day, depending on travel time. Everyone with an appointment will be able to get the vaccine. All COVID-19 vaccines are free.

IDs, proof of citizenship, and insurance are not required. The buses are ADA accessible. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Metro Transit, the Metropolitan Council, and Minnesota Department of Transportation are partners in an effort to bring mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics to communities throughout the state. Metro Transit turned six underutilized transit buses into mobile vaccination clinics by removing seating and installing new equipment.

Minimize conflicts with bears this summer

DNR REPORT

Is your yard or campsite attractive to bears? Bears rely on small, scattered patches of natural foods: specific types of young green vegetation in spring; certain species of ants and ant pupae in June; berries in summer; and nuts in fall. If bears can get con-

centrated, high-calorie, easily accessible foods around people’s homes and campsites, they are easily enticed away from their natural food sources. This year’s late frost, combined with drought conditions, will reduce or delay the availability of berries and nuts, so it is especially important to secure anything that

a bear would consider food. Don’t condition bears to associate your home or campsite with an easy meal by leaving out unsecured garbage, birdseed or pet food. Learn more about how to reduce property damage, and the chance of human-bear conflicts, on the DNR website.



FILE PHOTO



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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Koochiching County
SP 036-598-028 – CR 99 Rat Root River Bridge
BIDS CLOSE: Friday, July 9th, 2021, at 2:00 pm, local time

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS: Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Koochiching County, Int'l. Falls, Minnesota until **Friday, July 9th, 2021, at 2:00 pm, local time** at the office of the County Auditor/Treasurer in the Koochiching County Courthouse 715 4th Street Int'l. Falls, Minnesota 56649 at which time they will be opened and read publicly for the following:

Project Designation: Bridge Replacement, Grading

Project Location:
County Road 99, South of Ray, MN 5 miles

Major Project Quantities include:
--Remove existing bridge
--appx. 77 CY Structural Concrete
--appx. 2183 SY Bridge Slab Concrete
--appx. 850 CY Common Borrow (LV)
--appx. 813 Ton Aggregate Surfacing Class 5

Wage Rates and DBE requirements: Minimum wage rates to be paid by the Contractors have been predetermined and are subject to the Work Hours Act of 1962, P.L. 87-581 and implementing regulations.

READ CAREFULLY THE WAGE SCALES AND DIVISION A OF THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS AS THEY AFFECT THIS/THESE PROJECT/PROJECTS

The Minnesota Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders: in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Act), as amended and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Subtitle A Part 21, Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation, it will affirmatively assure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded maximum opportunity to participate and/or to submit bids in response to this invitation, and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, disability, age, religion, sex or national origin in consideration for an award;

in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, and Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 230 Subpart A-Equal Employment Opportunity on Federal and Federal-Aid Construction Contracts (including supportive services), it will affirmatively assure increased participation of minority groups and disadvantaged persons and women in all phases of the highway construction industry, and that on any project constructed pursuant to this advertisement equal employment opportunity will be provided to all persons without regard to their race, color, disability, age, religion, sex or national origin;

in accordance with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statute 363A.08 Unfair discriminatory Practices, it will affirmatively assure that on any project constructed pursuant to this advertisement equal employment opportunity will be offered to all persons without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age;

in accordance with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statute 363A.36 Certificates of Compliance for Public Contracts, and 363A.37 Rules for Certificates of Compliance, it will assure that appropriate parties to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement possess valid Certificates of Compliance.

If you are not a current holder of a compliance certificate issued by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and intend to bid on any job in this advertisement you must contact the Department of Human Rights immediately for assistance in obtaining a certificate.

The following notice from the Minnesota Department of Human Rights applies to all contractors:

"It is hereby agreed between the parties that Minnesota Statute, section 363A.36 and Minnesota Rules, parts 5000.3400 to 5000.3600 are incorporated into any contract between these parties based on this specification or any modification of it. A copy of Minnesota Statute 363A.36 and Minnesota Rules, parts 5000.3400 to 5000.3600 is available upon request from the contracting agency."

"It is hereby agreed between the parties that this agency will require affirmative action requirements be met by contractors in relation to Minnesota Statute 363A.36 and Minnesota Rules 5000.3600. Failure by a contractor to implement an affirmative action plan or make a good faith effort shall result in revocation of its certificate or revocation of the contract (Minnesota Statute 363A.36, Subd. 2 and 3)."

A minimum goal of 4.3% Good Faith Effort to be subcontracted to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

Project Completion Date: All work required under this Contract, shall be completed **prior to September 30, 2022**, unless modified by the Engineer with a written Contract Extension.

Proposals, Plans and Specifications are available at:
Koochiching County Highway Department
715 4th Street, Int'l. Falls, MN 56449
Phone 218 283-6743

Cost for Plans: Cost of 1 set of plans and proposals is \$75 (Minnesota State Sales Tax Included). There is no cost for electronic plans/proposals; electronic plans/proposals are available at <https://mn-co-koochiching.app.rvtvision.com/oneoffice/bidding> or (218) 283-6743 or email to dave.reimer@co.koochiching.mn.us.

Bidder's Bond: Bids must be accompanied by a certified check or bidder's bond made payable to the Treasurer of Koochiching County in an amount not less than 5% of the total bid.

Bid shall be plainly marked on the exterior of the containing envelope: **"SAP 036-601-014 CSAH 1 Bear River Bridge Replacement, Letting Date, 2:00 pm on Friday, July 9th, 2021"**.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein, and to award the contract in the best interests of Koochiching County.

Dated at International Falls, Minnesota**June 3rd, 2021**
Dave Reimer, Koochiching County Highway Engineer
Phone: 218-283-1186; Email: Dave.Reimer@co.koochiching.mn.us
Alt Contact: Trent Nicholson 218-283-1187 or trent.nicholson@co.koochiching.mn.us