



Minnesota **H O U S I N G** Partnership

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City of Big Lake Awarded Grant to Address Housing Needs Associated with Northstar Commuter Rail

City Planning Ahead for Significant Population Increase

St. Paul, Minn. (April 10, 2007) – On April 3, Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) awarded the City of Big Lake a \$10,000 grant to study the housing need resulting from rapid population growth and the arrival of the Northstar Commuter Rail in 2009. An action plan based on the study recommendations will be created and implemented by the City, Big Lake Economic Development Authority, and Central Minnesota Housing Partnership.

“The Highway 10 and Interstate 94 corridor region is already a fast growing area,” said Jim Thares, community economic development director for the City of Big Lake. “Pair that with expected growth from the Northstar Commuter Rail, and could have a housing affordability and availability problem if we don’t plan ahead. The City of Big Lake is pleased to receive MHP’s award so we may manage our community’s growth in a smart and efficient way and make sure our citizens have affordable places to live.”

The housing study and subsequent action plan will help the City with diverse planning techniques such as smart growth and transit oriented development initiatives. The study and action plans are expected to be completed by late-2007 or early-2008. The City of Big Lake has been involved with housing activities through its Single Family Housing Assistance Program, Homeowner Rehabilitation Program, and Community Activity Set Aside Program etc.

The Minnesota Housing Partnership is a statewide nonprofit organization that advances the preservation and creation of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income people as a means of strengthening communities and families. MHP provides local governments and nonprofit housing organizations access to loans, grants, and technical expertise to plan and construct housing, in addition to educating people on sound housing policies.

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