



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONER PETER MCLAUGHLIN RECEIVES 2015 ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES' PRESIDENT'S AWARD

(St. Paul, MN)— Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin received the Association of Minnesota Counties' (AMC) President's Award for his years of dedicated service and exemplary leadership in county government. 2015 AMC President Christopher Shoff, a Freeborn County commissioner, selected McLaughlin for this honor and presented it to him at the association's annual conference December 7 in St. Cloud.

The prestigious President's Award is presented to an individual who has a deep history of public service to their community and to their county.

First elected to the Hennepin County board in 1991, McLaughlin is also a former AMC president (1997). His accomplishments are many, but notably he:

- Put Hennepin County Sentence-To-Service crews to work saving the deteriorating Upper Post of Fort Snelling, an historic place that saw generations of Minnesota veterans mobilized through multiple conflicts. The buildings at the Upper Post are now stabilized and the area boasts homeless veterans housing and the Boy Scout's Base Camp.
- Shepherded a successful merger of the Hennepin County and Minneapolis Library systems, which led to the re-opening of several shuttered Minneapolis branch libraries.
- Sponsored actions to develop Hennepin County's long-range early childhood plan to ensure all youth in the county stay enrolled and graduate from high school.
- Is a founding member of the Phillips Partnership and the Midtown Community Works Partnership, two partnerships that have successfully aligned public and private sector efforts to stabilize and increase property values in some of Minneapolis' poorest neighborhoods.
- Spearheaded recent efforts at Hennepin County resulted in a Pathways to Jobs partnership with Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC). People living in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty are eligible to receive tuition-free training that is customized to Hennepin County's hiring needs. This training earns academic credit at MCTC and can lead to employment at the County, the State of Minnesota, the City of Minneapolis, and Fairview Health Service.

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- During the late 1990s he coordinated a regional effort to successfully lobby for Light Rail Transit (LRT) funding that resulted in 2004's opening of the Hiawatha Line. In 2008, he worked with AMC and others for increased funding for roads and to create a dedicated funding source, managed by the Counties Transit Improvement Board, to expand the region's transit system. Since the Northstar Commuter Rail and the Green Line LRT, and the Red Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) all started operating, the Union Depot was renovated and put back into transit service, and Target Field Station was built. Planning and funding for the Green Line and Blue Line LRT extensions as well as the Gold Line and Orange Line BRT alignments have created the basic outline of an efficient transit system.

Prior to joining the Hennepin County Board, Peter McLaughlin served three terms in the Minnesota Legislature, rising to the post of Assistant House Majority Leader. He was the chief author on several key pieces of legislation, including the Minnesota Parental Leave law, and legislation funding the State Jobs Program (MEED) and State Dislocated Worker Program.

AMC is a voluntary statewide organization that assists the state's 87 counties in providing effective county governance to the people of Minnesota. The association works closely with the legislative and administrative branches of government in seeing that legislation and policies favorable to counties are enacted. In addition, the Association provides educational programs, training, research and communications for county officials.

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Editors: Photo attached.

Caption (from left to right): National Association of Counties' president Sallie Clarke (El Paso County, Colorado, Commissioner), AMC President's Award recipient Commissioner Peter McLaughlin (Hennepin County), 2015 AMC President Commissioner Christopher Shoff (Freeborn County), Commissioners Jim McDonough and Toni Carter (Ramsey County).