

# RAMSEY COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

June 7, 2011

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority met with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, McDonough – 7. Absent: 0. Also present was Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager and Phil Carruthers, Director of Civil Division, Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

Chair McDonough called the meeting to order at 10:25 AM.

## AGENDA

Commissioner Parker moved approval of the Agenda of the June 7, 2011 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough – 7. Nays – 0.

## MINUTES

Commissioner Rettman moved approval of the Minutes of the May 17, 2011 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough – 7. Nays – 0.

### 1. Agreement with the Metropolitan Council for a temporary construction easement at the Union Depot for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough – 7. Nays – 0. (R11-17)

WHEREAS, The Central Corridor light rail transit line will start at a station in front of the Union Depot, and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council needs to do work on Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority property to construct the project, and

WHEREAS, Portions of the Union Depot project will reduce the cost of Central Corridor work by approximately, \$55,500, and

WHEREAS, A Temporary Construction Agreement has been negotiated with the Metropolitan Council to provide construction access and pay the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority \$55,500 for its construction activities, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves an agreement with the Metropolitan Council for a temporary construction easement at the Union Depot for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project, and be it further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the Chair to execute the agreement.

### 2. Gateway Corridor contract amendment payment

Commissioner Ortega moved approval of the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough – 7. Nays – 0. (R11-18)

WHEREAS, The Gateway (I-94) Corridor begins at the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul and travels east to the St. Croix River; and

WHEREAS, The Gateway Corridor Commission was formed in 2010 with the Regional Railroad Authorities of Ramsey and Washington County and the communities of St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale, Woodbury, Lake Elmo, West Lakeland Township, Afton, and Lakeland; and

WHEREAS, The Gateway Corridor Commission entered into a contract with CH2MHILL (Consultant) for the completion of the Gateway Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA); and

WHEREAS, The Consultant's work scope included the analysis of seven build alternatives; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to amend the Consultant's work scope and budget to include a managed lane alternative as an eighth build alternative; and

WHEREAS, The addition of the eight build alternative will cost \$99,917 with the cost to be split between the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority and the Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, On May 12, 2011, the Gateway Corridor Commission approved a resolution of support for adding the eight alternative to the scope of work for the AA contingent upon approval of the funding from the Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority and the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority is responsible for \$40,000 of this cost; Now Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves the payment of \$40,000 to the Gateway Corridor Commission to amend the Alternative Analysis work scope and budget to include a managed lane alternative as an eighth build alternative; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the County Manager to make payments all necessary budget adjustments including increasing estimated revenues and appropriations.

3. Approval of Subrecipient Agreements and Consortium Agreement for the HUD Sustainable Communities and Living Cities Integration Initiatives

Commissioner Parker moved approval of the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Commissioner Rettman mentioned she has struggled with this initiative since the Board had a workshop on it. She had commented that she still has some questions regarding the community process for this initiative including involvement with the community. She stated she is glad that foundations and corporations want to invest in corridors. Although community involvement, as a cornerstone of these initiatives, remains a commitment and goal, in her observation it is reflected as less important. She reaffirmed her issue with calling communities marginalized. She stated just because business profits are miniscule does not mean you are a marginalized business; even though a person's property lot may seem like marginal space, they have been provided with affordable housing and they are not marginalized community members. The purpose of the initiative is to keep changing the paradigm based on new housing and new jobs, but it should also be saving the housing, jobs, and families that already exist there. These areas have been studied to death and have been declared as needing help from others, but it cannot just be more consultants and studies. The people in the businesses are real individuals and have issues to address to allow them to remain in the corridor, survive the construction, and thrive in the future. She submits that the paradigm shift so that the people and longtime businesses that are in corridor can remain there and offer the affordable opportunities. She believes this is a part of the initiative and the focus of the leadership, but we must involve the community. She does not want to vote against this item, but she also does not want to see the "tapestry" and diversity of this neighborhood gone in ten years. She will work toward helping with this, but it can't be more consultants and more studies. It has to be with the people that are in the community.

Commissioner Carter thanked Commissioner Rettman for her comments. She said she will support this because they heard about the work of the sustainable communities' structure. She is also reassured by the fact that there is a focus on community engagement, and that this is an initiative that will place emphasis on jobs, housing, employment, business opportunity and even education for people who are living in corridors

today. However, it must address opportunity for those who are there. We have not always necessarily done what is needed to assure that there is this sort of focus to guide us in the right direction. But she thinks this is a beginning and is encouraged by what is in these initiatives today. She also asked that the Board be kept engaged, updated, involved and put to work on behalf of all of our communities.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough – 7. Nays – 0.

Chair McDonough commented that a lot of work has gone into the community engagement piece. He reinforced his commitment that this is an inclusive process as we move forward and acknowledged that it is a great opportunity for us. The work we are doing here is the foundation for the future, not only in this corridor but also how we look at all our corridors that we develop in the metro area. We will continue to improve the processes, whether it is community engagement, how we deal with affordable housing or business support, and we will learn from them as we move forward. It's important to be at the table regionally because these are the same issues that affect us regionally. As we step back and bring in this regional partnership, we cannot lose track of the close connection to the community because we lose all the benefits of working together as a region. He said this balance of working together regionally and keeping the local connection is very important.

(R11-19)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority / Ramsey County have worked collaboratively with Hennepin County/Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority, City of St. Paul, City of Minneapolis, Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the McKnight Foundation over the past couple of years to effectively respond to two national funding opportunities for regional transit-oriented development planning and implementation in and along planned transit corridors; and

WHEREAS, The first funding opportunity came by invitation to the McKnight Foundation from Living Cities, a private national entity comprised of twelve large foundations and financial institutions, to develop sustainable communities along transit corridors in the Twin Cities region; and

WHEREAS, The second opportunity for funding is through the federal Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) agency, in the form of a regional planning grant for a maximum of \$5 million; and

WHEREAS, On August 17, 2010, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority took several actions committed to working collaboratively with consortium members in supporting regional planning efforts that advance federal Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”), Department of Transportation (“DOT”) and the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) agencies’ joint *Livability Principles*; as well as supporting the submission of a proposal to HUD for a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant by the Metropolitan Council ; and authorizing the Chair to sign a letter of commitment to accompany the HUD grant proposal; and

WHEREAS, In November 2010, the Twin Cities region was awarded both grants: the HUD grant, with the Metropolitan Council serving as the fiscal agent, and the Living Cities funding, with Saint Paul Foundation serving as the fiscal agent; and

WHEREAS, Together, the HUD *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning* grant and the *Living Cities Integration Initiative* grant have become one single effort entitled *Corridors of Opportunity* that supports HUD’s six “livability principles” and outcomes, as well as supporting the goals of the Living Cities Integration Initiative; and

WHEREAS, HUD specifically requires each member of the consortium involved in the consortium that comprises the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Policy Board, sign a consortium agreement, which encompasses the goals, principles and governance agreed upon by the consortium in oversight of the *Corridors of Opportunity* efforts; and

WHEREAS, Two specific projects were funded under the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant that directly involves Ramsey County: the Gateway Corridor Project, funded at \$150,000, and the Workforce /Economic Development Project, funded at \$247,000; and

WHEREAS, In order to carry out the work of these two projects, a Subrecipient agreement between the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority and the Metropolitan Council for each of these two projects is required; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority hereby approves the Corridors of Opportunity Consortium Agreement effective upon signatures of parties and expiring January 31, 2014; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the Chair to execute the Corridors of Opportunity Consortium Agreement; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves Subrecipient Agreement SG011-031 with the Metropolitan Council for the Corridors of Opportunity Gateway Corridor Project, effective upon signature by parties through January 31, 2014, in the amount of \$150,000 in federal funds; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves Subrecipient Agreement SG011-045 with the Metropolitan Council for the Corridors of Opportunity Workforce/Economic Development Project, effective upon signature by parties through January 31, 2014, in the amount of \$247,000 in federal funds; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the Chair to execute the Subrecipient Agreements; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments including increasing estimated revenues and appropriations; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the Chair to serve as the appointed Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority representative on the Corridors of Opportunity Policy Board.

#### CORRIDOR UPDATES

No updates were reported.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair McDonough declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.