

RAMSEY COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

April 28, 2009

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority met in the Council Chambers, Third Floor Court House, with the following members present: Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, McDonough – 6. Absent: Bennett - 1.

Chair McDonough called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM

AGENDA

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Agenda of the April 28, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, McDonough – 6. Nays – 0. Motion accepted.

MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Minutes from the April 21, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, McDonough – 6. Nays – 0. Motion accepted.

1. Minnesota High Speed Rail Corridor Joint Powers Agreement

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

Chair McDonough commented that an official High Speed Rail meeting would take place in late May or early June, once the partners have signed the agreement.

Commissioner Carter asked for clarification that the eight counties and twenty two cities involved in the Joint Powers Agreement will have signed the Agreement by the end of May.

Chair McDonough said yes, by the end of May or early June. He commented that they are excited about moving forward with this because they now have support at the federal level and some support at the state level.

Chair McDonough also updated the board on his CTIB trip to Washington, DC. He said they met with all 9 members of Minnesota's congressional delegation and the conversations were good. They highlighted the Central Corridor as their priority and getting it into a full funding grant agreement. Chair McDonough said they received positive response.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, McDonough – 6. Nays – 0. Motion accepted. (R09-16)

WHEREAS, The Midwest Regional Rail Initiative has identified a High Speed Rail corridor between the Twin Cities and Chicago; and

WHEREAS, The identified Corridor enters Minnesota at La Crescent and travels northwest along the Canadian Pacific Railway track to the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, Federal funds have been authorized for the development of high speed rail corridors throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, To be eligible for federal funds a corridor must be identified in a State Rail Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Transportation is currently undertaking the development of a state rail plan that includes high speed rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, With the signing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment (ARRA) on February 13, 2009, \$8 billion was appropriated for the implementation of High Speed Rail; and

WHEREAS, ARRA waives the requirement that High Speed Rail corridors be part of a state rail plan allowing for their immediate implementation; and

WHEREAS, Future federal funding will require that High Speed Rail corridors be identified in a State Rail Plan; and

WHEREAS, Local government involvement in corridor development and implementation is important to the successful development of a State Rail Plan;

WHEREAS, Local government involvement in corridor development and implementation is important to the successful development of High Speed Rail in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the development of a joint powers agreement is the best way to ensure local government involvement; and

WHEREAS, A joint powers agreement has been drafted allowing the Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston, and Olmsted County Regional Railroad Authorities in partnership with Corridor cities to cooperatively advocate for and analyze the feasibility, environmental impacts, engineering, construction and operation of an integrated rail transportation system in the Corridor along with the associated land use and development impacts; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves the Minnesota High Speed Rail Corridor Joint Powers Agreement, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Minnesota High Speed Rail Corridor Joint Powers Agreement, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority hereby appoints Commissioner Jim McDonough as the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission representative for 2009.

Commissioner Rettman asked about updates on the public hearings.

Tim Mayasich, Director of Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, explained that the public hearings for the environmental work on Central Corridor have not yet been scheduled. They are still waiting for the state to approve the environmental document. They will move forward once it has been approved.

There being no further business, Chair McDonough declared the meeting adjourned at 10:13 AM.