

Meeting Minutes

RAMSEY COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY MEETING

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority met on April 25, 2006 in Council Chambers, Third Floor Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Rafael Ortega
Commissioner Tony Bennett
Commissioner Toni Carter
Commissioner Jim McDonough
Commissioner Jan Parker
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt
Commissioner Janice Rettman

OTHERS PRESENT: David Block, Veronica Burt, Robert Clarkson, Kathy DeSpiegelaere, Jo Haberman, Ken Haider, Julie Kleinschmidt, Dan Kravetz, David MacMillan, Steve Morris, Angie Taylor, Alicia Vap

Chair Ortega called the RCRRRA meeting to order at 10:50 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Approve minutes from March 28, 2006 RCRRRA meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Reinhardt, seconded by Commissioner McDonough, to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2006 RCRRRA meeting.

Roll call vote was taken:

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0
Motion accepted.

2. Ratify Partial Payment No. 25 in the amount of \$20,779.94 to DMJM+Harris, Inc. for consulting services on the Central Corridor Phase 2 study for January 2006.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to Ratify Partial Payment No. 25 in the amount of \$20,779.94 to DMJM+Harris, Inc. for consulting services on the Central Corridor Phase 2 study for January 2006.

Roll call vote was taken; Commissioner Rettman voted no:

Ayes – 6, Nays – 1
Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority has contracted for the professional consulting services of DMJM+Harris, Inc. for the purpose of conducting the Central Corridor Phase 2 study; and

WHEREAS, DMJM+Harris, Inc. has satisfactorily completed portions of the work identified in the referenced agreements, and provided detailed invoice documentation for services and costs accrued through January 27, 2006; and

WHEREAS, submittal of invoices and payment documentation to the Rail Authority for ratification at the next scheduled meeting following staff approval of invoice documentation is required; and

WHEREAS, DMJM+Harris, Inc. Invoice No. 6014107, Partial Payment No. 25, in the amount of \$20,779.94 attachments thereto, provide the correct documentation of payments due DMJM+Harris, Inc. through January 27, 2006; Now, Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, Payment to DMJM+Harris, Inc. in the amount of \$20,779.94 for services rendered through January 27, 2006, is hereby ratified.

3. Ratify Partial Payments No. 4 in the amount of \$884.50 and No. 5 in the amount of \$403.50 to Thompson Coburn for legal services on the Union Depot project and Central Corridor Phase 2 study through February 2006

A motion was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to Ratify Partial Payments No. 4 in the amount of \$884.50 and No. 5 in the amount of \$403.50 to Thompson Coburn for legal services on the Union Depot project and Central Corridor Phase 2 study through February 2006.

Roll call vote was taken; Commissioner Rettman voted no:

Ayes – 6, Nays – 1
Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority has contracted for professional services of Thompson Coburn for legal services on the Union Depot project and the Central Corridor transit project; and

WHEREAS, Thompson Coburn has satisfactorily completed portions of the work identified in the referenced agreement, and provided detailed invoice documentation for services and costs accrued through February 2006; and

WHEREAS, submittal of invoices and payment documentation to the Rail Authority for ratification at the next scheduled meeting following staff approval of invoice documentation is required; and

WHEREAS, Thompson Coburn Invoice No. 1034550, Partial Payment No. 4 in the amount of \$884.50 and Invoice No. 1038672, Partial Payment No. 5 in the amount of \$403.50 attachments thereto, provide the correct documentation of payments due Thompson Coburn through February 2006; Now, Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, Payment to Thompson Coburn in the amount of \$1,288.00 for services rendered through February 2006 is hereby ratified.

4. Ratify Partial Payments No. 11 in the amount of \$2,709.88 and No. 12 in the amount of \$3,954.38 to Tunheim Partners for communication services on the Union Depot project through February 2006

A motion was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to Ratify Partial Payments No. 11 in the amount of \$2,709.88 and No. 12 in the amount of \$3,954.38 to Tunheim Partners for communication services on the Union Depot project through February 2006.

Roll call vote was taken; Commissioner Rettman voted no:

Ayes – 6, Nays – 1
Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority has contracted for the professional services of Tunheim Partners for communications and community organizing services on the Union Depot project; and

WHEREAS, Tunheim Partners has satisfactorily completed portions of the work identified in the referenced agreements, and provided detailed invoice documentation for services and costs accrued through February 2006; and

WHEREAS, submittal of invoices and payment documentation to the Rail Authority for ratification at the next scheduled meeting following staff approval of invoice documentation is required; and

WHEREAS, Tunheim Partners Invoice No. 03610, Partial Payment No. 11 in the amount of \$2,709.88 and Invoice No. 03652, Partial Payment No. 12 in the amount of \$3,954.38 attachments thereto, provide the correct documentation of payments due Tunheim Partners through February 2006; Now, Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, Payment to Tunheim Partners in the amount of \$6,664.26 for services rendered through February 2006 is hereby ratified.

POLICY AGENDA

5. Approve lease LNE028 for Gladstone Lumber Mart in Maplewood—Alicia Vap

A motion was made by Commissioner Rettman, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt, to approve lease LNE028 for Gladstone Lumber Mart in Maplewood.

Roll call vote was taken:

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0
Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, The Northeast Corridor right of way, extending from Kellogg Boulevard in St. Paul to Beam Avenue in Maplewood was acquired by Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority and Gladstone Lumber Mart entered into lease LNE023 in 1994 for retail, warehousing, and storage at 1870 English Street in Maplewood, which expired in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Gladstone Lumber Mart has a continued desire to lease the 46,338 square feet in Maplewood from Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority; Now, Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves Lease 028 with Gladstone for the continued operation of their window and door business located at 1870 English Street in Maplewood, and authorizes the Chair to sign the Lease.

6. Authorize staff to negotiate a contract with DMJM+Harris for Union Depot project coordination services

A motion was made by Commissioner McDonough, seconded by Commissioner Parker, to authorize staff to negotiate a contract with DMJM+Harris for the Union Depot project coordination services.

Commissioner Rettman requested clarification regarding the second party interviewed for the Union Depot project coordination services. Kathy DeSpiegelaere stated that the second party was URS.

David Block, Chair of the LOCATE Task Force, stated that the Union Depot project requires many different disciplines. The RFP was issued, four firms responded and two firms were selected for interviews. Mr. Block noted that after interviews, LOCATE recommended using DMJM+Harris.

Commissioner Rettman asked for clarification regarding travel and other direct expenses that did not appear to be part of the proposal. Ms DeSpiegelaere commented that the direct expenses were included in the proposals and that the contract, if authorization is given, would be written to reflect this.

Commissioner Rettman asked why the other proposals, which were substantially lower in cost, were not considered. Ms DeSpiegelaere commented that scope of work was either not understood or was not addressed in the other proposals provided.

Commissioner Rettman also noted that DMJM+Harris currently has a contract with RCRRA on the Central Corridor and requested the amount paid to DMJM+Harris. Commissioner Rettman also asked Ms DeSpiegelaere to clarify who will be staffing the Union Depot project. Ms DeSpiegelaere commented that given the size of the Union Depot project, there should be no sharing of staff.

Roll call vote was taken:

Ayes – 7, Nays – 0
Motion accepted.

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorized staff to issue a request for proposals for Union Depot project coordination services; and

WHEREAS, Four proposals were received and two firms were interviewed by the members of FIND, and

WHEREAS, FIND recommended to LOCATE and LOCATE recommends to Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority that staff be authorized to negotiate a contract with the firm of DMJM Harris/AECOM;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes its staff to negotiate a contract with DMJM Harris/AECOM in an amount not to exceed \$1,244,208 for a two year term; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the contract, when negotiated, will be returned to the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority for approval.

7. Corridor Updates—Kathy DeSpiegelaere

Ms DeSpiegelaere noted that the state bonding bill included an amount for a feasibility study on the Robert Street Corridor.

An Alternatives Analysis for the Red Rock Corridor is on hold because of model updates that are needed. The model updates for Red Rock are anticipated to be completed after the North Star Corridor updates have been done.

The Rush Line Corridor is currently looking at passenger service between St. Paul and Duluth. There are also Park and Pool lots being undertaken in Washington and Chisago Counties.

The Union Depot negotiations continue with the Post Office to purchase the building. Environmental and engineering work is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2006.

The Central Corridor has issued its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which has been signed and distributed. The next steps were included in the documentation issued to RCRRA. Ms DeSpiegelaere noted that an additional public hearing was added to the schedule; the public hearings will be held the week of May 22, 2006.

8. Other Business – Commissioner Toni Carter

A motion was made by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Rettman, that RCRRA engage in negotiation with FTA and Metropolitan Council to extend the public comment period for the Central Corridor DEIS from 45 days to 60 days.

Commissioner Reinhardt added that the language should include a statement that the project's schedule for New Starts submitted to the FTA by June 30, 2006 would not be jeopardized as a result of the fifteen-day extension. She clarified her amendment to state that there be negotiations with the Metropolitan Council for an additional 7 to 15 days for public comments.

Commissioner Carter restated her motion to say that the public comment period will end on the 5th of June, as scheduled, but that all other comments received by June 20 will be considered as we move the DEIS forward to the FTA, at the same weight that comments received by June 5th. Commissioner Carter also stated that the comments period would be ended on schedule and the locally preferred alternative would be forwarded on as planned, and that RRA simply ask that Metropolitan Council keep the period for receipt of comments open until June 20th.

Roll call vote was taken; Commissioners Bennett, McDonough, Parker, Reinhardt, and Ortega voted no:

Ayes – 2: Nays – 5
Motion Declined

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.