

RAMSEY COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

February 2, 2010

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority met with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, McDonough – 6. Absent: Parker - 1. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, and David MacMillan, Assistant County Attorney.

Chair McDonough called the meeting to order at 9:55 AM.

AGENDA

Commissioner Rettman moved approval of the Agenda of the February 2, 2010 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Ortega, Reinhardt, McDonough – 6. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Minutes of the January 26, 2010 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Ortega, Reinhardt, McDonough – 6. Nays – 0.

1. Ratification of Report of Contracts

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Ortega, Reinhardt, McDonough – 6. Nays – 0. (R10-14)

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 4.3.50A requires a report of all contracts approved by the County Manager; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority hereby approves the Quarterly Report of Contracts for the period of October 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

2. Ratification and confirmation of the Ramsey County Manager signature on Acknowledgement of Concourse Structure Possession Date

Chair McDonough explained that while the post office will continue to utilize the track and platform area for their operations, this is to declare that possession of the concourse has officially been transferred to Ramsey County.

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Ortega, Reinhardt, McDonough – 6. Nays – 0. (R10-15)

WHEREAS, In October, 2007, by Resolution No. R07-44, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) entered into a purchase agreement and contract for deed with the United States Postal Service (USPS) for the purchase of The Union Depot Concourse and related property for the development of a multi-modal transit center in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 6.1 of the contract for deed, the RCRRA may acquire possession of the Concourse Structure prior to Deed Effective date as identified in the contract for deed by performing certain acts and by executing a written "Acknowledgement of Concourse Structure Possession Date"; and

WHEREAS, On January 12, 2010, the RCRRA entered into a contract for the design and rehabilitation of the Concourse Structure; and

WHEREAS, Due to the possible availability of Federal Funds the design and rehabilitation of the Concourse Structure is subject to a very fast timetable and design and construction must begin without delay; and

WHEREAS, The Contractor for the RCRRRA needed access to the Concourse Structure to conduct tests and surveys as early as possible; and

WHEREAS, There was an urgent need to obtain signature of an official of the RCRRRA to the Acknowledgement of Concourse Structure Possession Date to allow the RCRRRA'S contractor access to the structure to conduct tests and surveys; and

WHEREAS, Due to the urgency of the need for action and on advice of the County Attorney, the Ramsey County Manager on January 21, 2010, signed the Acknowledgement of Concourse Possession Date, attached hereto as exhibit A, on behalf of the RCRRRA; and,

WHEREAS, It is desirable that the RCRRRA ratify and confirm the actions of the Ramsey County Manager; and

WHEREAS, additional documents in the form of licenses or permits between the RCRRRA and USPS will be necessary to permit the RCRRRA contractors to enter on to The Union Depot site for testing purposes, and the contents and nature of such documents will require expedited signature and approval by the RCRRRA or its designee; Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority ratifies and confirms the authority of the Ramsey County Manager to sign the Acknowledgement of Concourse Possession Date attached hereto as Exhibit A, dated January 21, 2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the Ramsey County Manager to execute and deliver all documents necessary to obtain access to The Union Depot site for purposes of survey, testing, or other purposes related to the development of The Union Depot as a multi-modal transit hub, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's office.

3. Authorize a contract for the Economic and Development Potential Study for The Union Depot

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

Commissioner Rettman asked if this contract was in conflict with Mortenson Construction's contract and how much of the area will be studied.

Chair McDonough said this is not part of the Mortenson contract but HR& A Advisors will coordinate with Mortenson on this study.

Steve Morris, Transit Project Manager for the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, stated that the study will consider the downtown development work done by the City but focus on development opportunities for The Union Depot property.

Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Ortega, Reinhardt, McDonough – 6. Nays – 0. (R10-16)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRRA) has worked to advance The Union Depot Multi-Modal Transit and Transportation Hub (Depot) to the benefit of the citizens of Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, The RCRRRA has expressed an interest in examining the economic impact and development potential of the Depot; and

WHEREAS, The Economic Analysis and Development Potential study will describe the economic environment in which the Depot will operate as a regional multi-modal transit hub and develop specific strategies that optimize future development opportunities within and adjacent to the Depot, and

WHEREAS, The Red Rock Corridor Commission in Resolution 2009-14 authorized the RCRRA the use of \$170,000 in 5339 federal funds for the completion of this study, and

WHEREAS, RCRRA approved a Subrecipient Agreement with the Metropolitan Council to access federal 5339 funds from the Federal Transit Administration; and

WHEREAS, In resolution R09-12, the RCRRA agreed to contribute up to \$42,500 covering the 20% match to federal funds for the completion of this study; and

WHEREAS, In resolution R09-47, RCRRA authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals for an Economic Analysis and Development Potential study of The Union Depot Multimodal Transit and Transportation Hub; and

WHEREAS, A Proposal Review Committee ("PRC"), comprised of staff members from RCRRA, City of St. Paul, Metropolitan Council, Washington County RRA and Dakota County RRA was formed to review proposals from six firms; and

WHEREAS, The PRC interviewed three consultant firms and recommended the selection of HR&A to complete an Economic Analysis and Development Potential study for the Depot on behalf of RCRRA; and

WHEREAS, In resolution R10-12, RCRRA approved the selection of HR&A Advisors Inc and authorized staff to enter into contract negotiations for completion of an Economic Analysis and Development Potential Study for The Union Depot; Now Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) authorize the County Manager to execute a contract with HR&A Advisors Inc, 99 Hudson Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10013, for completion of an Economic Analysis and Development Potential Study for The Union Depot for a not-to-exceed price of \$212,500, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office, Regional Railroad Authority, and Budgeting and Accounting.

4. Authorize RCRRA funding to the Metropolitan Council for the third Central Corridor infill Station

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

Commissioner Bennett asked if there are plans to create any parking at this station. He also asked if the change in the Cost-Effectiveness Index (CEI), which is now allowing them to move forward with the infill station, would also allow them to add parking.

Chair McDonough said there have been discussions at the Project Office about the parking issue but there is nothing in the project budget that specifically addresses this. This has been an important issue for the community living there as well as Ramsey County. He did not know how the new CEI might affect their ability to add parking around the station.

Commissioner Rettman commented that Ramsey County is paying for the station, but the Metropolitan Council is responsible for dealing with the parking issue.

Commissioner Carter agreed that the partners in this project are responsible for their share of the work, and Ramsey County needs to continue to advocate that this partnership manifest the real commitments to this project.

Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Ortega, Reinhardt, McDonough – 6. Nays – 0. (R10-17)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) has advocated for Central Corridor light rail stations at Western, Victoria and Hamline to benefit the citizens of Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, The stations were included in the Supplemental and Final Environmental Impact Statements for the project; and

WHEREAS, An Environmental Assessment of including the three stations in the initial project is being conducted; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Transit Administration's Cost-Effectiveness Index (CEI) that prevented including the stations in the original project has been rescinded; and

WHEREAS, A funding agreement has been reached with the project partners that allows all three stations to be constructed as part of the initial project; Now Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority commit \$520,000 to the Central Corridor project to provide its share of the cost for the three infill stations.

Chair McDonough commented on the recent announcements for federal funding toward rail projects. There was the announcement of \$820 million for the build-out of the Milwaukie to Madison portion of the High Speed Rail corridor; the Wisconsin Department of Transportation received \$400,000 and the Minnesota Department of Transportation received \$600,000 to continue planning for the Madison to St. Paul portion of the High Speed Rail corridor. Also, it was announced yesterday that the President's proposed 2011 budget will contain a line item of \$45 million for the Central Corridor, and recommendation to move forward on a full funding grant agreement, which should come in September according to the FTA. He said the availability of the federal funds toward this project not only minimizes the risk of the action Ramsey County took last week to move the project forward financially under the Letter of No Prejudice, but it also implies the commitment of this Administration to get them to a full funding grant agreement this September.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair McDonough declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.