

RAMSEY COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY

November 2, 2010

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority met with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, McDonough – 7. Absent: 0 Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, and Gary Davis, Assistant County Attorney.

Chair McDonough called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

AGENDA

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Agenda of the November 2, 2010 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough – 7. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Minutes of the October 12, 2010 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rettman. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough – 7. Nays – 0.

1. Revision to funding contributions for Red Rock Corridor studies

Commissioner Rettman moved approval of the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough – 7. Nays – 0. (R10-50)

WHEREAS, The Red Rock Corridor originates in Hastings travels north to the Union Depot in St. Paul and on to Minneapolis generally following Trunk Highway 61, Interstate 94, and the freight tracks; and

WHEREAS, The Red Rock Corridor Commission (“RRCC”) was formed in 1998 by a Joint Powers Agreement to address the transportation needs of the Red Rock Corridor; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (“RCRRA”) is a member of the RRCC; and

WHEREAS, The RRCC was granted State bond funds in 2005 and 2006 totaling \$1,000,000 through the Metropolitan Council (“Met Council”) for completion of environmental and engineering work for the Red Rock Corridor; and

WHEREAS, On April 30th, 2009 the RRCC approved by Resolution (2009-02) the distribution of the \$1,000,000 in state bond funds to the RCRRA for the reimbursement of eligible preliminary work for the Union Depot; and

WHEREAS, In resolution R09-12, the RCRRA agreed to provide up to \$762,500 covering the 20% match to federal funds for the completion of the Economic Analysis and Development Potential Study of the Union Depot, Coordination of Corridors into Downtown St. Paul, East Metro Highway Analysis and East Metro Rail Capacity and Engineering Improvements studies; and

WHEREAS, The RRCC has identified \$3,050,000 in federal 5339 funds to cover the remaining 80% of the studies’ costs; and

WHEREAS, Due to pre-design requirements governing the use of state bonds, the Union Depot is no longer an eligible project to utilize Red Rock state Bonds; and

WHEREAS, This development required the RRCC to develop an action plan for use of these state bond funds before they expire at the end of 2010. Now Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority supports the Red Rock Corridor Commission's recommendation to revise the use of state bond funds and RCRRA levy for Red Rock studies, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves the distribution of up to \$600,000 of the \$1,000,000 in State bond funds to the City of Hastings to be used for eligible work for the design and construction of the Park-and-Ride in Hastings; provided that said funds can be obligated prior to their expiration on December 31, 2010, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves the distribution of up to \$400,000 of the \$1,000,000 in State bond funds to RCRRA to be used as the local match for the East Metro Rail Capacity and Engineering Improvements Study that is being led by RCRRA on behalf of the RRCC, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves the adjustments to funding contributions for Red Rock Corridor studies made by partner Regional Railroad Authorities, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves the use of levy funds in an amount up to \$42,500 to match federal funds for the Economic Analysis and Development Potential Study of the Union Depot, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves the use of levy funds in the amount up to \$59,375 or 25% of the local match to federal funds for the Southeast Station Area and Site Master Planning Study, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the County Manager to make any necessary budget adjustments in a form approved by Budgeting and Accounting.

2. Approval of a Subrecipient Agreement with the Metropolitan Council for the East Metro Rail Capacity Study

Commissioner Rettman moved approval of the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough – 7. Nays – 0. (R10-51)

WHEREAS, the Red Rock Corridor originates in Hastings travels north to the Union Depot in St. Paul and on to Minneapolis generally following Trunk Highway 61, Interstate 94, and the freight tracks; and

WHEREAS, the Red Rock Corridor Commission ("Commission") was formed in 1998 by a Joint Powers Agreement to address the transportation needs of the Red Rock Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority is a member of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, The railroad capacity constraints in the east metro are an obstacle to achieving RCRRA's vision for the Union Depot and the build-out of the Red Rock Corridor; and

WHEREAS, A study of east metro rail capacity would be beneficial to identifying improvements required for enhanced freight capacity and for the implementation of increased Amtrak, commuter, inter-city, and high speed rail service to the Union Depot; and

WHEREAS, The Commission in Resolution 2009-13 authorized the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority the use of \$1,600,000 in 5339 federal funds for the completion of a rail capacity study; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approved in Resolution R09-039 a Subrecipient Agreement with the Metropolitan Council to access federal 5339 funds from the Federal Transit Administration; and

WHEREAS, In 2005 and 2006, the Commission was granted bond funds from the State of Minnesota totaling \$1,000,000 for completion of environmental and engineering work along the Red Rock Corridor, and

WHEREAS, The Commission approved the distribution of up to \$400,000 in state bond funds to cover the 20% match to federal funds for the completion of East Metro Railroad Capacity Analysis, and

WHEREAS, State bond funds will be reimbursed to the RCRRA through a Subrecipient Agreement with the Metropolitan Council. Now Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves Subrecipient Agreement SG-2010-101 with the Metropolitan Council to provide up to \$400,000 in state funds for the East Metro Railroad Capacity Analysis, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorize the Chair to execute Subrecipient Agreement SG-2010-101, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorize the County Manager to make any necessary budget adjustments in a form approved by Budgeting and Accounting.

CORRIDOR UPDATES

Central Corridor

Chair McDonough said the Metropolitan Council awarded the last major contract for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project for the operations and maintenance facility. This contract is about 10% under the projected budget.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair McDonough declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.