



# Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-9200

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November 19, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.

Courthouse Room 220

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## WORKSHOP

1. **Presentation: Transportation Funding Workshop**

[2024-471](#)

Sponsors: Public Works



# Board Workshop / Discussion

## Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-9200

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**Item Number:** 2024-471

**Meeting Date:** 11/19/2024

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**Sponsor:** Public Works

**Title**

Presentation: Transportation Funding Workshop

**Attachment**

1. Presentation



November 19, 2024

# Transportation Funding Workshop





## Workshop Purpose

*Receive Board feedback and direction on proposed transit investment program.*

### Goals:

- Provide Board guidance to develop a new transportation program utilizing reallocated project funds.
- Receive feedback on a framework for a new transportation investment plan with subsequent Board consideration for Spring, 2025.





## Workshop Agenda

Receive Overview of Transportation Funding Sources

Review Current Transitway Program and Available Funds for Reallocation

Present “Future-State” Program Framework that meets Funding Eligibility and County Goals

Next Steps, Discussion & Direction

# Overview of Transportation Funding Sources





## 1. Ramsey County Transportation Sales Tax

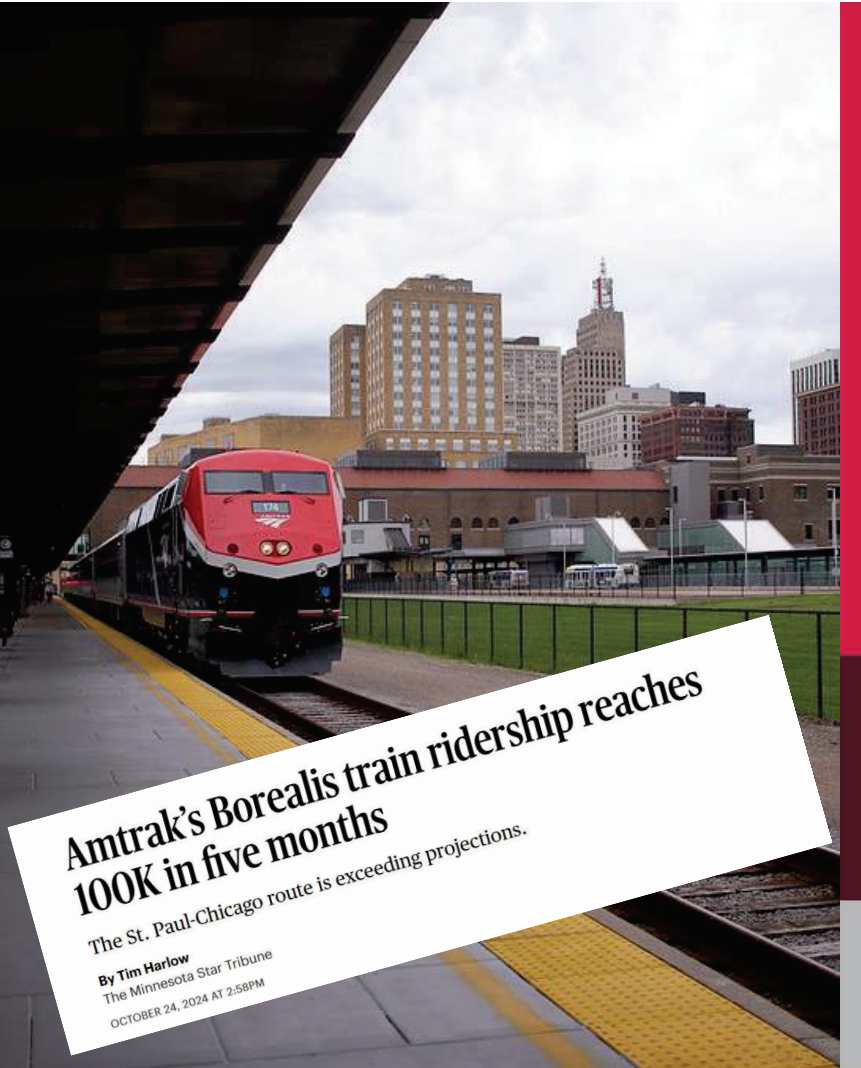
- Authorized by the County Board in June, 2017 (B2017-143).
- ½ percent sales tax for transit and transportation improvements.
  - Transitways (Green, Gold, Purple and Riverview)
  - Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trail projects
  - Transportation and Roadway Projects
  - \$53 million annually





## Ramsey County Transportation Sales Tax

- **Limitations on Eligibility:**
  - Must be used for specific transportation project(s).
  - Transit capital and operations.
  - Capital costs for buildings and facilities associated with maintaining transportation and transit projects.



## 2. Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) Levy

- Organized in 1987 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 398A.
- Broad statutory powers include:
  - Railroad Acquisition and Operation.
  - Bus Rapid Transit Development.
  - Property Acquisition.
- Construed liberally and broadly interpreted.
- Not considered a limitation on powers.
- RRA statute prevails in a conflict with other statutes.
- \$29 million annually





## Regional Railroad Authority Levy

- **Limitations on Eligibility:**
  - 10% cap on capital funding for light rail or commuter projects.
  - Cannot be used for operations and maintenance of light rail or commuter rail.
  - Spending must be on railroad (freight or passenger) or bus rapid transit projects.

# Review Current Transitway Program & Available Funds for Reallocation







## Current Transitway Program

- **Gold Line** connects Woodbury to downtown St. Paul generally along I-94 and opens in March 2025.
- **Purple Line** connects Maplewood to downtown St. Paul generally along White Bear Ave., Maryland Ave. and Phalen Blvd. Maplewood withdrew support in September 2024.
- **\*Riverview** connects Bloomington to downtown St. Paul generally along W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

*\*Ramsey County has withdrawn its support effective September 2024. As a result, program funding is now available to be deployed to other priorities.*

## Current Transitway Program Funding

Transit Project	Funding Source	Funds Budgeted
Green Line	Regional Rail Authority (RRA)/ Transportation Sales Tax	-
Gold Line	Regional Rail Authority (RRA)/ Transportation Sales Tax	\$21 million
Purple Line	Regional Rail Authority (RRA)/ Transportation Sales Tax	\$205 million
Union Depot	Regional Rail Authority (RRA)/ Transportation Sales Tax	\$153 million
*Riverview	Regional Rail Authority (RRA)/ Transportation Sales Tax	\$730 million revenue available for reallocation

# “Future-State” Transit Program Framework







## Potential Program Elements Within Eligibility

- Transit
- Multimodal Improvements
- Railroad Improvements & Expansions
- Roadway Improvements
- Property Acquisition
- Transformative Infrastructure



## Transit Improvements – ~\$20 million

- Future Transitway Support
  - Intersection reconstruction
    - Snelling @ Larpenteur
    - Cty E @ various (A Line extension to Rice Creek Commons)
    - Cty C @ various (ABRT to Rosedale Center and Little Canada)
  - Signal priority in conjunction with intersection work
  - Signal upgrades in conjunction with intersection work





Seattle, WA

## Multimodal Improvements – ~\$230 million

- Street reconstruction
  - Leverage non-county funds.
  - Focus on safety, speed reduction, mobility improvements and multimodality.
- *Example Corridor Projects.*
  - White Bear Avenue (St. Paul, Maplewood).
  - Larpenteur Avenue (Roseville, St. Paul, Little Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood).
  - Lexington Avenue (Shoreview, Arden Hills).
  - Pierce Butler Route (St. Paul).



Detroit, MI

## Multimodal – ~\$40 million

- Investments in Sidewalks and Trails
  - Expand the network.
  - Address gaps.
  - Enhance ADA improvements.
  - Develop Greenways.
  - Corridor purchase and development.
    - Rail corridors.
    - Powerline/pipeline easements.



## Railroad – ~\$180 million

- Union Depot Investments.
  - Track, signal and platform build out.
  - Flood mitigation.
  - Building and Train Deck Preservation.
  - Event Space Enhancement.
- Passenger Service.
  - Advance 2-3 different additional routes.
- Freight Rail Capacity
  - Westminster Grade Separation.
  - Grade Crossing Improvements.





## Roadway – ~\$100 million

- Interchanges/Overpasses.
  - Will seek funding sources in addition to county funds.
- 5 interchanges – examples include:
  - Lexington at 94.
  - White Bear Ave at 94.
  - Edgerton at 36.
  - Long Lake Road at 694.
  - Snelling at 94.



## Property Acquisition – ~\$30 million

- Railroad Corridors.
- Intersections that require additional right-of-way.
- Greater strategic transit-oriented development.
- Greenways.
- Mobility Hubs.





Charlotte, NC

## Transformative Infrastructure – ~\$130 million

- RiversEdge Public Realm.
  - Fund a portion of structure over the railroad.
- Extension of Midtown Greenway.
- EV Fleet Transition.
  - Public Works/Parks Facilities.
    - Addition of electrical components.
    - Expansion of fleet area.
    - Would require multiple locations.



## Next Steps

- Discuss Board direction on investment opportunities and Future State Framework
- Return with a refined budget and presentation early 2025 for Board consideration

*Questions & Discussion*