



Regional Railroad Authority Agenda

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

August 26, 2025 - 10 a.m.

Council Chambers - Courthouse Room 300

ROLL CALL

1. **Agenda of August 26, 2025 is Presented for Approval** [2025-325](#)
Sponsors: County Manager's Office
Approve the agenda of August 26, 2025.
2. **Minutes from August 19, 2025 are Presented for Approval** [2025-326](#)
Sponsors: County Manager's Office
Approve the August 19, 2025 Minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

3. **Use of Fund Balance - Union Depot Insurance Premiums** [2025-306](#)
Sponsors: Public Works
Approve the transfer of \$800,000 from Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority tax levy fund balance to the 2025 Multimodal Planning operating budget to be used for the cost of insurance premiums related to increased rail liability coverage.

CORRIDOR UPDATES

ADJOURNMENT



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

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

Item Number: 2025-325

Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title

Agenda of August 26, 2025 is Presented for Approval

Recommendation

Approve the agenda of August 26, 2025.



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

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

Item Number: 2025-326

Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title

Minutes from August 19, 2025 are Presented for Approval

Recommendation

Approve the August 19, 2025 Minutes.

Attachments

1. August 19, 2025 Minutes

Regional Railroad Authority

Minutes

August 19, 2025 - 10 a.m.

Council Chambers - Courthouse Room 300

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority met in regular session at 10:48 a.m. with the following members present: Jebens - Singh, McGuire, Miller, Xiong and Chair Ortega. Commissioner Moran missed roll call and approval of the first two items, arriving at 10:50 a.m. Commissioner McMurtrey was excused. Also present were Ling Becker, County Manager, and Scott Schwahn, Assistant County Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

Excused: McMurtrey

1. Agenda of August 19, 2025 is Presented for Approval [2024-581](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the agenda of August 19, 2025.

Motion by Jebens-Singh, seconded by Xiong. Motion passed.

Aye: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, Miller, Ortega, and Xiong

Excused: McMurtrey

Absent: Moran

2. Minutes from June 10, 2025 are Presented for Approval [2024-606](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the June 10, 2025 Minutes.

Motion by Xiong, seconded by McGuire. Motion passed.

Aye: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, Miller, Ortega, and Xiong

Excused: McMurtrey

Absent: Moran

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

3. Transit Impacts Research Program Presentation and 2025 Funding Request [2025-275](#)

Sponsors: Public Works

Approve the expenditure of \$30,000 for Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority's share of the Transit Impacts Research Program for 2025.

Presented by Eric Lind, Director of the Accessibility Observatory at the Center for Transportation Studies of the University of Minnesota. Discussion can be found on archived video.

Motion by Xiong, seconded by Miller. Motion passed.

Aye: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

Excused: McMurtrey
Resolution: R2025-012

CORRIDOR UPDATES

No updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ortega declared the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: 2025-306

Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

Sponsor: Public Works

Title

Use of Fund Balance - Union Depot Insurance Premiums

Recommendation

Approve the transfer of \$800,000 from Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority tax levy fund balance to the 2025 Multimodal Planning operating budget to be used for the cost of insurance premiums related to increased rail liability coverage.

Background and Rationale

On March 19, 2024, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) approved the First Amendment to the Operating Agreement with National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) for passenger rail service at Union Depot. One of the changes provided by the amendment was the removal of Amtrak's exclusive use of the track and platform for passenger rail service. This removal coincided with an increase in risk associated with third party liability for Union Depot.

On November 19, 2024, the RCRRA accepted a grant award and approved a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Union Depot Rail Insurance grant to provide up to \$1,000,000 in state funds for the purchase of increased rail liability insurance coverage. These funds allowed RCRRA to procure an additional \$125 million of liability coverage, increasing total liability coverage to \$175 million. This was a one-time grant that was expended in 2024. The 2025 state legislature did not provide additional state funds nor are additional funds expected in future years.

In consultation with Enterprise Risk Management, it was determined that \$175 million in coverage is the appropriate level of insurance for Union Depot based upon changes to the lease and operating agreements in 2024. The increased costs associated with the new level of coverage was not budgeted in the 2024-2025 approved budget or the 2025 supplemental budget. This request for use of fund balance will allow RCRRA to maintain liability coverage of \$175 million. The cost to maintain this level of coverage will be included in future proposed budgets.

County Goals (Check those advanced by Action)

☐ Well-being

☐ Prosperity

☐ Opportunity

☒ Accountability

Racial Equity Impact

Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority strives to build a robust, multimodal, public transportation system that is connected to long-distance transportation services such as intercity bus and passenger train. Union Depot is the Twin Cities premier transportation hub and is the only intercity passenger train station in the Twin Cities. Maintaining multimodal transit and transportation services at Union Depot provides access to those resources in one location for all to use. Additional intercity passenger train service provides more affordable and accessible travel options that are better connected to urban centers and other destinations.

Community Participation Level and Impact

Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority facilitates community participation in the development of additional intercity passenger train services and investments through the Great River Rail Commission (Commission). RCRRA is a member and fiscal agent to the Commission, where Minnesota Department of Transportation staff provide updates and respond to questions at all Commission meetings.

☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower

Fiscal Impact

The funding for this request is coming from the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority tax levy fund balance. Adequate fund balance is available to accommodate this request.

Total Union Depot insurance premiums for 2025 are estimated at \$2,300,000. With a budget of only \$850,000, this results in an estimated unfavorable variance of \$1,450,000. The requested use of fund balance does not represent the full cost of the insurance premium but will be combined with other estimated favorable budget variances that will help offset the unfavorable variance for Union Depot insurance premiums. The increased costs to maintain the current level of liability coverage will be included in future proposed budgets.

Last Previous Action

On November 19, 2024, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority accepted a \$1 million grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to allow for the purchase of an additional \$125 million of liability coverage, increasing total liability coverage to \$175 million (Resolution R2024-020).

Attachments

None.