



Regional Railroad Authority Agenda

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

December 17, 2024 - 10:45 a.m.

Council Chambers - Courthouse Room 300

ROLL CALL

1. **Agenda of December 17, 2024 is Presented for Approval** [2024-689](#)
Sponsors: County Manager's Office
Approve the agenda of December 17, 2024.
2. **Minutes from November 26, 2024 are Presented for Approval** [2024-690](#)
Sponsors: County Manager's Office
Approve the November 26, 2024 Minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

3. **Reallocation of Riverview Corridor Funds** [2024-681](#)
Sponsors: Public Works
 1. Direct Public Works staff to develop a refined transportation improvement plan utilizing Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Property Tax Levy and Ramsey County Local Option Sales Tax funds previously identified for the Riverview Corridor.
 2. Direct Public Works staff to develop a detailed transit and transportation investment plan based upon the reallocation of Riverview Corridor funds consistent with the investment categories presented at the November 19, 2024, board workshop for Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority discussion and approval in the Spring of 2025.
4. **Transfer of Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Funds for Union Depot Facility Improvements** [2024-683](#)
Sponsors: Public Works
 1. Authorize the County Manager to transfer up to \$3,000,000 from Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority fund balance to the 2025 Union Depot operating budget for operational and capital maintenance costs for near-term improvements.
 2. Authorize the County Manager to establish a project budget for Union Depot Facility Improvements of up to \$6,000,000, utilizing up to \$3,000,000 of Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority fund balance and up to \$3,000,000 of Transit and Transportation Improvement fund balance in the Union Depot operating budget.
 3. Authorize the County Manager to account for the operational and capital maintenance costs in the Union Depot operating budget.

POLICY ITEM

5. **Approval of the 2025 Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Supplemental Budget and the 2025 Tax Levy** [2024-655](#)

Sponsors: Public Works

1. Approve and adopt the 2025 budget of \$21,147,595 with all the changes noted in the attached budget addenda.
2. Approve and adopt the 2025 tax levy of \$36,219,703, a 6.01% increase over the 2024 Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority tax levy.

CORRIDOR UPDATES

ADJOURNMENT



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

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

Item Number: 2024-689

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title

Agenda of December 17, 2024 is Presented for Approval

Recommendation

Approve the agenda of December 17, 2024.



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

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

Item Number: 2024-690

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title

Minutes from November 26, 2024 are Presented for Approval

Recommendation

Approve the November 26, 2024 Minutes.

Attachments

1. November 26, 2024 Minutes



Regional Railroad Authority

Minutes

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

November 26, 2024 - 10 a.m.

Council Chambers - Courthouse Room 300

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority met in regular session at 10:03 a.m. with the following members present: Frethem, McGuire, Reinhardt, Xiong and Chair Ortega. Absent was Commissioner Moran. Also present were Ling Becker, County Manager.

ROLL CALL

Present: Frethem, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong
Absent: Moran

1. Agenda of November 26, 2024 is Presented for Approval [2024-644](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the agenda of November 26, 2024.

Motion by Reinhardt, seconded by Xiong. Motion passed.

Aye: Frethem, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: Moran

2. Minutes from November 19, 2024 are Presented for Approval [2024-643](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the November 19, 2024 Minutes.

Motion by McGuire, seconded by Xiong. Motion passed.

Aye: Frethem, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: Moran

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

3. Second Amendment to the Capital Grant Agreement with the Metropolitan Council and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority for the Project Development Phase of the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project [2024-629](#)

Sponsors: Public Works

1. Approve the Second Amendment to the Capital Grant Agreement (#211040) for the Project Development Phase by and among the Metropolitan Council, Ramsey County, and the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority for the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project.
2. Approve and authorize expenditures to a maximum of \$3,640,000 for the second grant activity period commencing on December 9, 2024, and concluding on December 31, 2025.
3. Approve and authorize the carryover of any unexpended funds from the first grant activity period into the second grant activity period, subject to expenditure in accordance with all applicable eligibility requirements and within the established

- expenditure cap.
4. Approve and authorize expenditures during the period the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project is outside the Capital Investment Grant Program notwithstanding that such expenditures will not be eligible for reimbursement or federal match thereunder.
 5. Authorize the Chair to execute the Second Amendment.
 6. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements and contracts in accordance with procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of funding.

Motion by Xiong, seconded by Frethem. Motion passed.

Aye: Frethem, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: Moran

Resolution: R2024-021

CORRIDOR UPDATES

Discussion can be found on archived video.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ortega declared the meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Item Number: 2024-681

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

Sponsor: Public Works

Title

Reallocation of Riverview Corridor Funds

Recommendation

1. Direct Public Works staff to develop a refined transportation improvement plan utilizing Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Property Tax Levy and Ramsey County Local Option Sales Tax funds previously identified for the Riverview Corridor.
2. Direct Public Works staff to develop a detailed transit and transportation investment plan based upon the reallocation of Riverview Corridor funds consistent with the investment categories presented at the November 19, 2024, board workshop for Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority discussion and approval in the Spring of 2025.

Background and Rationale

Transit and transportation initiatives in Ramsey County are funded through two sources: a property tax levy through the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) and a sales and use tax imposed through the Ramsey County Board. At the November 19, 2024, Transportation Funding Board Workshop, commissioners expressed their desire to provide guidance for the reallocation of funding designated to the Riverview Corridor to countywide transportation improvements prior to county staff developing and presenting a formal reallocation plan to both boards in the Spring of 2025.

Ramsey County has been actively planning for the implementation of transit and transportation initiatives for over 25 years leading to the successful implementation of Union Depot, METRO Green Line, Borealis passenger rail and the opening of METRO Gold Line in March 2025. Funding for transit and transportation helps Ramsey County reach its goals in prosperity and opportunity by proactively seeking to improve transit and multimodal transportation options throughout the county and region. Providing fast, frequent, and reliable transit connections between areas of concentrated poverty and employment, health care, shopping, recreation and education reducing the time and monetary burden on these communities to undertake daily activities. Increasing the coverage and removing gaps in the multimodal network allows more trips to be made by walking and biking which can improve overall health by making safer and more convenient to be physically active. Additionally, focusing on how walking and biking can connect to transit, commonly known as the first and last mile, can make more destinations accessible further reducing the cost burden of automobile ownership.

The RCRRA was formed by the Ramsey County Board in 1987 and in 2007 it adopted a capital improvement plan to guide expenditures of its property tax levy. The capital improvement plan has guided the development of the Union Depot, Green, Gold, and Purple Lines, the Riverview Corridor, and passenger and freight activities. In 2017, the Ramsey County board enacted a ½ cent sales and use tax for transit and transportation improvements (Resolution B2017-143). This resolution prioritized sales tax funding for the construction and operation of the Green, Gold, and Purple Lines as well as the Riverview Corridor. Additionally, the board authorized the use of funds for the Ramsey County All Abilities Transportation Plan and 2017 to 2021 Transportation Improvement Program if revenue exceeded what was needed to build and operate the transit

projects.

In September 2024, Ramsey County ended work on the Riverview Corridor creating an opportunity to reallocate \$730 million in funding identified for its implementation. At the November 19, 2024, county board workshop commissioners discussed options for the possible reallocation of this funding consistent with the goals of the Ramsey County All Abilities Transportation Network which includes a transportation hierarchy of pedestrians, people who bike, people who use transit, drivers/parkers, and freight operators. The Board broadly supported the following investment categories as presented.

- Transit.
- Multimodal Improvements.
- Railroad Improvements and Expansions.
- Roadway Improvements.
- Property Acquisition.
- Transformative Infrastructure.

At the conclusion of the workshop, commissioners expressed their support for the reallocation of Riverview Corridor funding and directed staff to bring a resolution before the RCRRA and Ramsey County boards in December directing staff to develop a detailed transit and transportation investment plan based upon the reallocation of the Riverview Corridor funds consistent with the investment categories presented at the workshop and to bring this plan to the boards for discussion and approval in the Spring of 2025.

At the same workshop, there was acknowledgement of significant opportunities to leverage momentum at Union Depot. The board requested a recommendation for the immediate allocation of funding for the implementation of short-term improvements at Union Depot including, but not limited to, wayfinding, signage modernization and capital maintenance.

The board provided further direction to staff that the transportation plan should emphasize the priorities established in the Ramsey County All Abilities Transportation Plan, clarify which funding responsibilities (Ramsey County, RCRRA, or Metropolitan Council) and clarify transportation investments to foster climate resiliency and assist in the initial transition of portions of county fleet away from fossil fuels.

County Goals (Check those advanced by Action)

- Well-being Prosperity Opportunity Accountability

Racial Equity Impact

Transportation provides access to jobs, workforce training opportunities, education, healthcare, recreation, shopping, and other key destinations regionally and nationally. Improving Ramsey County’s transportation system to prioritize people who walk, bike and ride transit over automobiles and freight will ensure that the needs of all residents are met while improving resident safety and prosperity. As the most diverse county in Minnesota, Ramsey County is pursuing the implementation of transportation investments that provide reliable, low-cost, and high amenity transportation to reduce and eliminate transportation barriers for transit-dependent households, areas of racially concentrated poverty and areas of low income. Reducing these barriers by elevating pedestrian, bicycle and transit investments over automobile focused investments will reduce the financial and environmental cost on these groups by improving access to fast, frequent and reliable transit, improving pedestrian infrastructure including safer street crossings and providing bicycle focused infrastructure will provide residents with convenient alternatives to driving allowing them to choose the best transportation for them.

Community Participation Level and Impact

Community engagement is essential to informed and transparent decision making and has occurred through the development of Ramsey County’s transportation projects. Public Works engages with community members

and organizations on transit and transportation projects as part of project development and the development of long-range plans. This engagement has led to common themes including: “Safety should be key in priorities projects”, “Improvements to multimodal facilities are important, but should be balanced with roadway improvements”, “increase multimodal infrastructure in suburban areas”, “Providing a safe and accessible system in a state of good repair is a priority”, “Speeding is a concern” and “vehicular travel efficiency needs to be balanced with multimodal safety”.

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

Fiscal Impact

This request for board action is about the board giving guidance on reallocating funds currently budgeted for transit projects and associated multimodal transportation work. The funds under discussion are budgeted and can be reasonably projected for these uses.

Last Previous Action

On November 19, 2024, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners held a workshop to discuss the reallocation of Riverview Corridor funding. At the conclusion of the workshop staff was directed to bring a resolution directing staff to develop a transportation investment plan and to bring this plan and the reallocation of Riverview Corridor funding, to the boards for discussion and approval in the Spring of 2025.

On December 12, 2023, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Board of Commissioners accepted and approved the certification of the 2024-2025 Regional Railroad Authority Budget and the 2024 Tax Levy (Resolution R2023-015).

Attachments

None.

Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: 2024-683

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

Sponsor: Public Works

Title

Transfer of Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Funds for Union Depot Facility Improvements

Recommendation

1. Authorize the County Manager to transfer up to \$3,000,000 from Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority fund balance to the 2025 Union Depot operating budget for operational and capital maintenance costs for near-term improvements.
2. Authorize the County Manager to establish a project budget for Union Depot Facility Improvements of up to \$6,000,000, utilizing up to \$3,000,000 of Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority fund balance and up to \$3,000,000 of Transit and Transportation Improvement fund balance in the Union Depot operating budget.
3. Authorize the County Manager to account for the operational and capital maintenance costs in the Union Depot operating budget.

Background and Rationale

In 2012, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) renovated the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul into a multi-modal transit and transportation hub. The renovation included rail and bus improvements fostering greater regional and national connectivity along with building improvements to provide a welcoming space for transit and transportation users as well as providing event space that has been thoroughly programmed throughout the years. Union Depot is approaching 15 years since its renovation and needs additional resources to continue its service as a hub for transit and transportation, public and private events and as a gathering space for the community.

The Union Depot hosts a multitude of indoor/outdoor events, including public events, private events, arts and cultural festivals, concerts, yoga classes, games, tours and more. Events at Union Depot are typically scheduled for more than 200 days out of the year and growing. The biggest events including the annual Hub for the Holidays, Train Days and Doggie Depot drawing approximately 170,000, 15,000 and 6,000 people annually. An increase in funding would allow for a higher level of maintenance associated with the desire to increase activities beyond current levels prior to staff developing and presenting a transit and transportation plan that reallocates Riverview Corridor funds to the board in Spring of 2025.

Activities anticipated to be funded via the additional funds include:

- Resiliency
 - Flood wall mitigation in Lot B
 - Energy initiatives and LED lighting
- Transportation
 - Bus and train deck structural improvements
- Building
 - Historic building preservation
 - Enhancements to public and event space, technology and wayfinding
 - Security system upgrades

- Strategic Marketing
 - Increased marketing activities to catalyze Union Depot’s role in the activation of downtown St. Paul and the greater East Metro.

Maximization of the near-term impact of these funds on Union Depot operations and capital maintenance will be done through the coordination of Public Works, Property Management, Community and Economic Development and the County Manager.

County Goals (Check those advanced by Action)

- Well-being
 Prosperity
 Opportunity
 Accountability

Racial Equity Impact

Transportation provides access to jobs, workforce training opportunities, education, healthcare, recreation, shopping, and other key destinations regionally and nationally. Improving Ramsey County’s transportation system to prioritize people who walk, bike and ride transit over automobiles and freight will ensure that the needs of all residents are met while improving resident safety and prosperity. As the most diverse county in Minnesota, Ramsey County is pursuing the implementation of transportation investments that provide reliable, low-cost, and high amenity transportation to reduce and eliminate transportation barriers for transit-dependent households, areas of racially concentrated poverty and areas of low income. Reducing these barriers by elevating pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and passenger rail investments over automobile focused investments will reduce the financial and environmental cost on these groups by improving access to fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail and transit while improving pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to provide residents with safe and convenient alternatives to driving allowing them to choose the best transportation option for them.

Community Participation Level and Impact

Community engagement is essential to informed and transparent decision making and has occurred through the development of Ramsey County’s transportation projects. Public works engages with community members and organizations on transit and transportation projects as part of project development and the development of long-range plans. This engagement has led to common themes including: “Safety should be key in priorities projects”, “Improvements to multimodal facilities are important, but should be balanced with roadway improvements”, “increase multimodal infrastructure in suburban areas”, “Providing a safe and accessible system in a state of good repair is a priority”, “Speeding is a concern” and “vehicular travel efficiency needs to be balanced with multimodal safety”.

- Inform
 Consult
 Involve
 Collaborate
 Empower

Fiscal Impact

The funding for this request will be a transfer of up to \$3,000,000 in fund balance from the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Tax Levy fund. Adequate funding is available to accommodate this request. These funds will be allocated to the 2025 Union Depot operating budget for operational and capital maintenance costs.

Last Previous Action

None.

Attachments

None.



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

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

Item Number: 2024-655

Meeting Date: 12/17/2024

Sponsor: Public Works

Title

Approval of the 2025 Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority Supplemental Budget and the 2025 Tax Levy

Recommendation

1. Approve and adopt the 2025 budget of \$21,147,595 with all the changes noted in the attached budget addenda.
2. Approve and adopt the 2025 tax levy of \$36,219,703, a 6.01% increase over the 2024 Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority tax levy.

Background and Rationale

The proposed 2025 Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) budget is \$21,147,595. The RCRRA certified a proposed maximum tax levy of \$36,219,703 for 2025 on September 24, 2024, which represents an increase of 6.01% from 2024 and is the maximum allowed under state law.

	RCRRA OPERATIONS	CIP	2025 RCRRA TOTAL
Budget	\$14,897,595	\$ 6,250,000	\$21,147,595
Revenues -	\$ 2,561,032	\$	\$ 2,561,032
Fund Balance +	<u>\$16,999,295</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$16,999,295</u>
Subtotal	\$29,335,858	\$ 6,250,000	\$35,585,858
Estimated Tax Delinquency +	\$ 522,522	\$ 111,323	\$ 633,845
Total Tax Levy	\$29,858,380	\$ 6,361,323	\$36,219,703

County Goals (Check those advanced by Action)

- Well-being
 Prosperity
 Opportunity
 Accountability

Racial Equity Impact

The 2025 RCRRA supplemental budget and tax levy allows the RCRRA to deliver projects that have a positive impact on users of all races and abilities. RCRRA transit projects are part of the Ramsey County All Abilities Transportation Network, whose policy is a commitment to creating and maintaining a transportation system that provides equitable access for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, health, education, abilities, and economics.

Community Participation Level and Impact

The development of the county's transitway projects can be used as a model of highly effective, transparent, and creative community engagement to connect with and hear a range of different voices and perspectives for

the projects. Community engagement is embedded into the process and occurs throughout the lifecycle of the projects.

There were two public hearings held to receive public testimony on the 2025 supplemental budget. One was on September 17, 2024 at the Saint Paul City Hall - Ramsey County Courthouse and the second was held on December 11, 2024 at the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, 270 Kent St., Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The information on the 2025 proposed supplemental budget and proposed tax levy is available at: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/budget-finance>

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

Fiscal Impact

RCRRA approval and adoption is required for the 2025 RCRRA supplemental budget and the 2025 RCRRA proposed tax levy. The amounts approved with this action are reflected in the 2025 proposed supplemental budget as presented to the Ramsey County Board.

Last Previous Action

On September 24, 2024, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approved setting the 2025 proposed maximum tax levy of \$36,219,703 (Resolution R2024-017).

On September 17, 2024, the County Manager and service teams presented the 2025 supplemental budget and performance measures to the Budget Committee of the Whole.

On September 16, 2024, the County Manager and service teams presented the 2025 supplemental budget and performance measures to the Budget Committee of the Whole.

On August 27, 2024, the County Manager presented the 2025 supplemental budget and performance measures to the Board of Commissioners.

Attachments

1. 2025 Budget Addenda - RCRRA

2024-2025 Budget Addenda - Regional Rail Authority

	2025 Budget				
	<i>FTEs</i>	<i>Appropriations</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Fund Balance</i>	<i>Levy</i>
2024-2025 County Manager Proposed Budget, 12/13/2023		21,147,595	2,561,032	(17,065,168)	35,651,731
** No September Addenda Items Presented for Consideration **	-	21,147,595	2,561,032	(17,065,168)	35,651,731

Administrative budget addenda recommended to adjust the 2024-25 County Manager Proposed Budget
Regional Rail Authority

Adjustment for final calculation of the RCRRRA Maximun Tax Levy for 2025				65,873	(65,873)
--	--	--	--	--------	----------

Commissioner budget addenda recommended to adjust the 2024-25 County Manager Proposed Budget

** No commissioner addenda items

2024-25 Budget as Approved by the County Board	-	21,147,595	2,561,032	(16,999,295)	35,585,858
Total adjustments from the previously Approved 2025 Budget	-	-	-	65,873	(65,873)