

Transit and Transportation Investment Plan

May 2025



Table of Contents

Regional Trails and Greenways

Inti	roduction			
Тур	bes of Projects			
Imp	pacted Modes		5	
Pro	ject Categories		6	
	Roadways and Interchanges		7	
	Intersection Improvements		7	
	Transit Priority/Signal Upgrades		8	
	Interchange Improvements		9	
	Corridor Improvements		10	
	Corridor Improvements		10	
	Transformative and Innovative		11	
	Rice Creek Commons		11	
	Countywide Grant Program		12	
	Mobility Hubs		13	
	Downtown Vitality Investments		14	
	Union Depot and Railroad		15	
			15	
	Union Depot Improvements		15	
	Other		16	
	Mobility and Planning Studies		16	
	Staffing and Facilities		16	
	Tree Program		16	
	Targeted Investments		17	

17

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INTRODUCTION

Funding Reallocation

In September of 2024, Ramsey County released the following statement:

Ramsey County has made the difficult decision to end our work and cancel any future meetings on the Riverview Corridor project. This decision was based on feedback gained during a comprehensive public engagement process with community, businesses, and partners. Some were very supportive of streetcar, and some were very supportive of a bus alternative. During engagement sessions, issues were raised about potential construction impacts, safety and security concerns facing transit and communities overall, among other issues.

The county appreciates and takes community and partner feedback very seriously and thanks everyone for sharing their input. We will also be posting the most recent engagement analysis on our website soon so that will be available for review. While we believe in streetcar and believe it's a viable option, we want to ensure that it is complementary to the transformational investments already underway in the region. Should the time arise to carry this work forward, we would gladly revisit conversations.

In the meantime, we are grateful to our partners and the public who participated in this process, and we look forward to future collaborations. We believe by continuing to work together, listening to our community and partners, we can create a future where transportation is the bridge that connects people to opportunities, enhancing the quality of life and fostering inclusive growth for everyone.

The county had allocated approximately \$730 million in funding from the ½ cent local option sales tax and regional railroad authority levy towards completing the Riverview Corridor. With the removal of streetcar as an option, an opportunity to reallocate the funding across the county arose. In November 2024, the county board held a workshop to discuss this opportunity and the types of projects that could be advanced. At their December 17, 2024, meetings the county board and the regional railroad authority board directed staff to develop a more detailed transit and transportation investment plan. Work on this plan began in early 2025 with a series of internal staff workshops to identify potential projects (planned, identified, or new), project categories and a method of prioritization. Workshops occurred January 2025 through April with a focus on the following topics:

Workshop #1	Workshop #2	Workshop #3
January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
Topic: Potential project identification	Topic: Project confirmation, priority methodology	Topic: Funding amount allocation, draft plan

Project Cost Consideration

Some projects identified in this plan are also included in the Ramsey County All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan (All-Abilities Plan). The All-Abilities Plan focused on safety, multimodal, and preservation efforts – directing funds for rehabilitation and preservation projects rather than full roadway reconstructions. As part of this funding reallocation effort, these projects were expanded to include reconstruction. Costs listed in this plan are in addition to costs noted in the All-Abilities Plan.



PROJECT CATEGORIES

The county identified a variety of countywide project categories for funding, including Roadways and Interchanges, Corridor Improvements, Union Depot and Railroad Improvements, Transformative and Innovative Improvements, and Other Improvements. The remainder of this document is organized by those five project categories.

Roadways and Interchanges

These improvement projects are geographically restricted to a single location – such as an intersection, crossing improvements, signal upgrades, transit priority and multimodal improvements.

Corridor Improvements

Corridor improvement projects are not restricted to a single location and involve multiple miles of improvements – such as corridor reconstructions, pavement preservation, or multimodal improvements.

Transformative and Innovative

Improvements include projects that have the potential to improve the transportation network and economic vitality in Ramsey County. This includes things like grant programs that fund projects within Ramsey County, implementation of mobility hubs and transportation improvements supporting economic vitality.

Union Depot and Railroad

Improvements that maintain and improve the condition of Union Depot and its associated facilities including the building, bus loop, train deck and the track and signal system as well as countywide investments to improve safety and access through the removal of railroad barriers for pedestrians, bikes and automobiles and improvements to passenger rail service.

Other

Improvements that advance countywide mobility and resiliency goals. This includes regional trails, mobility studies, staffing and facility needs, a tree program and investments not part of other categories.



IMPACTED MODES

All categories have the potential to impact pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, passenger vehicles, freight, and rail. Each project will go through an analysis to determine its scope and modal prioritization consistent with the county's All-Abilities Transportation Policy and best practices. The following are brief descriptions of modal types that could be included in each project type:

Multimodal

Multimodal projects include those that improve or introduce facilities for those who walk, bike, and roll. These can include creation of trails, sidewalks and other infrastructure to improve opportunities for traveling throughout the county.

Transit

Infrastructure projects that improve, update, increase accessibility or assist with the introduction of hifrequency transit routes. This includes projects that relate directly to transit service – such as upgrades to stations – as well as indirect improvements to the transit system – such as installing Transit Priority Signals, which can improve transit timing and reliability.

Roadway

Roadway projects focus on direct improvements to the roadway surface and its supporting infrastructure to improve pavement quality, address safety concerns and/or address geometric needs. These projects have a primary benefit of improving ride quality and safety while providing an opportunity to positively impact transit and fill gaps in the multimodal network.

Railroad

Railroad projects focus improvements to the rail network to facilitate passenger rail and the removal of railroad barriers. These projects may include track capacity improvements, facility upgrades, and grade crossing improvements.



PROJECT LIST

The remainder of this document focuses on potential projects within the five project categories that could be advanced with reallocated Riverview funding. Each project has a "summary sheet" that includes high-level project planning information and potential projects. These summary sheets are meant to help guide Ramsey County as they program and plan for these projects while noting that further study and analysis will be needed. Below is an example of the summary sheets and what is included:

Project #. Project Name

Project Type: Roadways and Interchanges, Corridor Improvements, Transformative and Innovative, Union Depot and Railroad, or Other

Impacted Modes: Multimodal, Transit, Roadway, or Railroad

Location: (Extents, intersection, city, or county-wide)

Priority: Low, Medium, High*

Estimated Cost: Planning-level costs in 2025 dollars

Description: Brief overview of project need and work to be completed

*Project priority was determined by county staff based on current and future needs, impacted modes, estimated cost, and feasibility.

Projects are categorized by the five project types:



1. Intersection Improvements

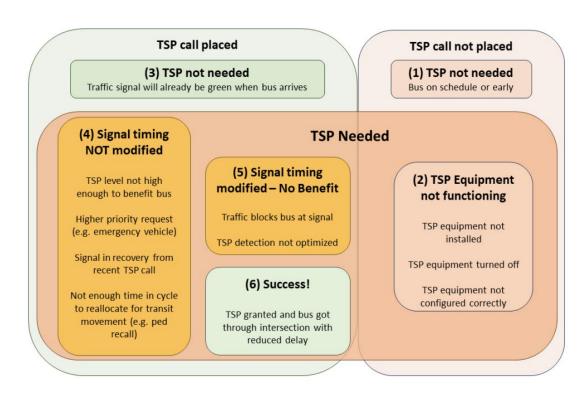
Project Type	Roadway & Interchanges				
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🗌 Railroad				
Location(s)	County-wide				
Priority	Medium				
Estimated Cost	\$12,000,000				
Description	 Implement intersection improvements to improve safety and mobility for all users with a priority on pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users consistent with the county's All-Abilities Policy. Improvements can include signal upgrades, pedestrian improvements, multimodal accessibility improvements, and addressing safety concerns at high-risk intersections. Key focus areas include: Transit Connectivity: Enhance connections to existing or planned transit routes. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety: Evaluate current pedestrian and bicycle connections, identify opportunities to expand sidewalks and crossings, consider adding separated bicycle facilities to ensure safer and more efficient travel for non-motorized users. Intersection Safety: evaluate the current design to ensure safety for vehicles traveling through the interchange. This task includes study of priority intersections, planning, project development and implementation. Expected Outcomes: Snelling Avenue @ Larpenteur Avenue. County Road E @ Various Intersections. Dale Street & Como Avenue. Highway 96 & Lexington Avenue. Highway 96 & Hamline Avenue. 				

2. Transit Priority/Signal Upgrades

Project Type	Roadway & Interchanges					
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🗌 Railroad					
Location(s) County-wide						
Priority	Medium					
Estimated Cost	\$1,000,000					
Description	 Improve transit operations within Ramsey County by implementing signal upgrades and transit signal priority (TSP) where appropriate. TSPs adjust traffic signal timing to favor transit vehicles, reducing the amount of transit vehicles that "just miss" a green light. Transit vehicles send priority requests, which then prompts the traffic signal to remain green or turn to green sooner allowing the transit vehicle to proceed through the intersection with less delay. Implementation of TSPs along Metro Transit routes have reduced traffic signal delay providing better on-time performance without negatively impacting traffic flow. Key Focus Areas: Transit Reliability: Prioritize intersections where Metro Transit has shown existing serviced is experiencing significant delay or where improvements could mitigate delay at other intersections that are not candidates for TSP. Transit Frequency: Prioritize intersections, planning, project development and implementation. Expected Outcomes: Improved safety and mobility for pedestrians and cyclists, enhanced transit connectivity, accessibility and reliability. Implementation will include: Hardware installation (detector cards, signal relays, etc.). TSP request scenario creation (granting or denying TSP requests). Example TSP scenario from Metro Transit on the following page: 					



Example TSP Scenario



3. Interchange Improvements

Project Type Roadway & Interchanges			
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🗌 Railroad		
Location(s)	County-Wide		
Priority	Medium		
Estimated Cost	\$250,000,000		
/			

4. Corridor Improvements

Potential locations include:

- Larpenteur Avenue.
- White Bear Avenue.



- Lexington Avenue.
- Transfer Road/Pierce Butler Route.
- Maryland Avenue.
- County Road B2.
- County Road B.
- Edgerton Street.
- McKnight Road.
- County Road 96.

5. Rice Creek Commons Spine Road

Project Type	Transformative & Innovative					
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🗌 Railroad					
Location(s)	Rice Creek Commons Spine Road					
Priority	High					
Estimated Cost	\$35,000,000					
Description						

6. Ramsey County Grant Program

Project Type	Transformative & Innovative	
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🖾 Railroad	
Location(s)	County-wide	
PriorityMediumEstimated Cost\$75,000,000 expended over 10 years		

7. Mobility Hubs

Project Type	Transformative & Innovative					
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🗌 Railroad					
Location(s)	County-wide					
Priority	Low					
Estimated Cost	\$2,000,000					

8. Downtown Investmen	hts

Project Type	Transformative & Innovative			
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🖾 Railroad			
Location(s)	St. Paul			
Priority	High			
Estimated Cost	\$150,000,000			
Description	 Transportation infrastructure projects that provide multi-modal transportation improvements to transformative and innovative economic development projects in and adjacent to downtown Saint Paul. Providing safe, reliable and efficient transportation connections to these developments is critical to ensuring their success and ultimately the vitality of downtown St. Paul. Potential Projects: RiversEdge. Multi-modal improvements that create a sense of space, positive experience and encourage people to explore all parts of downtown St. Paul and in the way people access and travel through it. Convenient, safe and reliability multi-modal accessibility. Amenities to public spaces that increase multimodal accessibility to all Ramsey County residents. Identification of areas in need of convenient, safe, and reliable multi-modal connections that encourage development/redevelopment that reinforces downtown St. Paul as a destination. Expected Outcomes: Funding to complete multimodal transportation and public space improvements to encourage access to transformative and innovative development projects in downtown St. Paul by walking, biking and transit. Provision of convenient, safe, and reliable multi-modal connections between major destinations. 			

9.	EV	Fleet	: Tra	nsition

Project Type	Transformative & Innovative
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🖾 Railroad
Location(s)	Countywide
Priority	Medium
Estimated Cost	\$1,000,000
Description	 An analysis of benefits and impacts of transitioning the Ramsey County fleet to electric vehicles. Key Focus Areas: Implications of transitioning to an electric vehicle fleet including number and type of vehicles, facility upgrades with a focus on necessary space, utility connections, maintenance changes and safety needs. Analysis of current and future electric vehicle capabilities and how these fit with current and future fleet needs. Analysis of where electric vehicles can currently replace internal combustion engine vehicles, where they are likely to in the near future and where it will be challenging for them to replace internal combustion engine vehicles. Expected Outcomes: A plan that provides guidance on transitioning the current Ramsey County Fleet to electric vehicles along with needed changes to county facilities and

an electric fleet.

staffing to accommodate the transition and operation and maintenance of

10. Union Depot

Project Type	Union Depot & Railroad
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🖾 Railroad
Location(s)	Union Depot
Priority	Medium
Estimated Cost	\$80,000,000
Description	 In 2012, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority renovated the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul into a multimodal transit and transportation hub. Improvements to the building and 33-acre property fostered greater regional and national transit and passenger rail connectivity as well as a welcoming space for public and private events. Improvements to Union Depot facilities, grounds, interior space and passenger rail connections are needed to maintain and improve upon Union Depot's position a premier multimodal transportation facility, event center and community gathering space. This project would include planning, design and implementation of identified improvements. Potential projects include (but are not limited to): Union Depot flood mitigation. Union Depot building and train deck preservation. Union Depot building and train deck preservation. Union Depot track, signal, platform and facility improvements related to passenger rail service. Passenger rail track and service-related improvements necessary for passenger trains to access Union Depot. Key Focus Areas: Union Depot's interior and exterior. 33 acres of property owned by the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority including the train deck, railroad infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit infrastructure and parking lots. Expected Outcomes: Continuation of Union Depot as a hub for transit and transportation, public and private events and as a gathering space for the community. Reduced reliance on automobiles for trips by providing safe, reliable and efficient multimodal connections to the regional transit system and national passenger rail network.

11. Railroad Barriers

Project Type	Union Depot & Railroad
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🖾 Railroad
Location(s)	Countywide
Priority	Medium
Estimated Cost	\$20,000,000
Description	 Improvements to reduce the physical barriers to walking, biking and motorized transportation that railroads can create in communities due to limited crossings, crossing locations, type of crossing, and/or crossing design. This project includes study, planning, and implementation of identified improvements. Grade crossing analyses. Grade crossing improvements including crossing realignment, relocation, resurfacing, lights and gates and channelization. Technology improvements to facilitate increase safety at crossings. Grade separations for sidewalks, trails and motorized traffic. Potential project improvements include: Larpenteur Avenue east of Rice Street at CPKC crossing. Como Avenue @ BNSF crossing. Victoria Street @ CPKC crossing. Shepard Road and Eagle Parkway @ CPKC crossing. Key Focus Areas: Analysis of railroad crossings along railroad corridors for safety, permeability, and design considerations. High volume at-grade crossings. Crossings near rail yards and rail spurs that can be subject to increased delay due to low speed and frequent freight train movements. Expected Outcomes: Improved crossings will be safer, reduce delay and afford more connectivity within and between communities. Accommodation of all modes at railroad crossings.

12. Staffing and Facilities

12. Staffing and Facilities	
Project Type	Other
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🖾 Railroad
Location(s)	NA
Priority	High
Estimated Cost	\$100,000,000
Description	 completed by Ramsey County. Key Focus Areas: Analyze staffing levels for delivery of a larger and more intensive multimodal transportation program. Analyze facility needs necessary to deliver and maintain a larger and more intensive multi-modal transportation program. Expected Outcomes: Identification of long-term staffing levels and the hiring of staff necessary to efficiently and effectively deliver the larger multi-modal transportation program. Identification of the long-term facility needs to accommodate a larger staff presence for development and delivery of projects, their construction and their maintenance.

13. Planning Studies

Project Type	Other
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🖾 Railroad
Location(s)	NA
Priority	High
Estimated Cost	\$10,000,000
Description	 Oversee and facilitate planning studies throughout Ramsey County – particularly focused on projects identified in this funding reallocation plan. Key Focus Areas: Initiating and maintaining county-wide studies to ensure relevant and timely data for the identification of projects that would meet the project categories identified in this plan. Expected Outcomes: Identification of projects by funding category identified in this plan. Completion of the technical analysis needed to prepare identified projects for design and construction under the project categories identified in this

plan.

OTHER



14. Tree Program

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Project Type	Other
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🖾 Transit 🖾 Roadway 🗌 Railroad
Location(s)	County-wide
Priority	Medium
Estimated Cost	\$5,000,000
Description	 Ensure dead trees within Ramsey County right-of-way are removed alongside appropriate replanting. Key Focus Areas: Developing a program for removal of dead, structurally compromised and diseased trees from county-owned right-of-way. Replacement of removed trees and a focus on planting and replanting in areas of highest need (e.g. heat islands). Expected Outcomes: A tree removal and replacement plan. Removal and replacement of dead, structurally compromised and diseased trees in county right-of-way and their replacement. Identification of when tree removal and replacement costs are eligible by funding source. Reduction in the heat island effect.

OTHER

15. Regional Trail & Greenway Improvements

Project Type	Other
Impacted Modes	🛛 Multimodal 🗌 Transit 🗌 Roadway 🗌 Railroad
Location(s)	County-wide
Priority	Medium
Estimated Cost	\$20,000,000
Description	 Address known trail and greenway gaps and needed improvements as identified in the Countywide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. Improvements to include planned extensions, gap closures, and creation of new trails. Potential locations include (not limited to): Bruce Vento Regional Trail. Trout Brook Regional Trail. Birch Lake Regional Trail. Lake Links Regional Trail. County Road H2 Trail. Key Focus Areas: Updating of the 2014-2015 Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan including the identification of potential county projects. Removal of gaps in the existing trail and greenway network. Expected Outcomes: Analysis of a prioritized set of county projects through planning, design and construction. Reduction in the number of trail and greenway gaps in Ramsey County.

OTHER