
Sponsor: Public Works

Meeting Date: 11/19/2024

Title: Grant Award from the Minnesota Department of Transportation
for the Union Depot Rail Insurance Grant

File Number: 2024-493

Background and Rationale:

On March 19, 2024, via board resolution R2024-006, 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 the 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. RCRRA currently maintains a \$50 million liability policy which it has sought to increase with the arrival of the Borealis service. In 2024, the Minnesota State Legislature awarded \$1 million to the RCRRA to help offset insurances costs related to increased passenger rail activity at Union Depot. This funding will allow the RCRRA to procure an additional \$125 million of liability policy coverage, increasing total liability coverage to \$175 million.

To access the \$1 million in state funding, RCRRA needs to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Acceptance of the grant award and approval of the grant agreement with MnDOT will allow RCRRA to access these funds for the purchase of increased rail liability coverage for twelve months starting in September 2024.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority resolved to:

1. Accept grant award and approve 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.
2. Authorize the Chair to execute the agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to the grant agreement in a form approved by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.
4. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to the grant agreement in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of available funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Reinhardt, seconded by Commissioner Frethem.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Frethem, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: _____



Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County
Board