
Sponsor: Public Works

Meeting Date: 5/27/2025

Title: Approval of the Transit and Transportation Investment Plan

File Number: 2025-181

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 the Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax (Sales and Use Tax) imposed through the Ramsey County Board.

In September 2024, Ramsey County made the decision to end its work related to the Riverview Corridor Project. A total of \$730 million combined funding had been allocated from the ½ percent Sales and Use Tax and RCRRA levy towards completion of the project. With the end of the county's work on the project, the opportunity to reallocate the funding arose.

At the November 19, 2024, Transportation Funding Workshop, commissioners discussed the opportunity to reallocate funds from the Riverview Corridor to countywide projects and the eligible uses of the funds. This was followed by county board and RCRRA meetings on December 17, 2024, where the board and RCRRA directed 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.
- 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.

Between January and April, a series of internal workshops were held to identify potential projects and project categories for the transit and transportation investment plan. These workshops resulted in the development of a draft plan that included the following project categories:

- Roadways and Interchanges.
- Corridor Improvements.
- Transformative and Innovative.
- Union Depot and Railroad.
- Other.

All project categories have the ability to positively impact multimodal (pedestrian and bicycle) and transit, through specific projects, however, the Transit and Transportation Investment Plan does not select individual projects. Selection of specific transportation projects is informed by the project categories, the All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan, practical and real-world considerations, and ends with the annual adoption of the county's Transportation Improvement Program.

The project categories, illustrative projects by category and approach to project selection were presented at the April 8, 2025, board workshop on transportation funding. At the end of the workshop the board directed staff to bring the required board actions to the county board and

RCRRA board to complete the reallocation of Riverview Corridor funds to countywide projects consistent with the Transit and Transportation Investment Plan and All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan. The board emphasized the need to improve transit accessibility, reliability, and frequency throughout the county as part of reallocating the funding.

Approval of the Transit and Transportation Plan will provide guidance for the utilization of Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax funds on projects that advance countywide transportation infrastructure investment.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve the Transit and Transportation Investment Plan.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Xiong, seconded by Commissioner Miller.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Jebens-Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

By: _____



Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County
Board