



Regional Railroad Authority Agenda

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

August 19, 2025 - 10 a.m.

Council Chambers - Courthouse Room 300

ROLL CALL

1. **Agenda of August 19, 2025 is Presented for Approval** [2024-581](#)
Sponsors: County Manager's Office
Approve the agenda of August 19, 2025.
2. **Minutes from June 10, 2025 are Presented for Approval** [2024-606](#)
Sponsors: County Manager's Office
Approve the June 10, 2025 Minutes.

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.

CORRIDOR UPDATES

ADJOURNMENT



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

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

Item Number: 2024-581

Meeting Date: 8/19/2025

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title

Agenda of August 19, 2025 is Presented for Approval

Recommendation

Approve the agenda of August 19, 2025.



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

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

Item Number: 2024-606

Meeting Date: 8/19/2025

Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Title

Minutes from June 10, 2025 are Presented for Approval

Recommendation

Approve the June 10, 2025 Minutes.

Attachments

1. June 10, 2025 Minutes.

June 10, 2025 - 10 a.m.

Council Chambers - Courthouse Room 300

The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority met in regular session at 10:46 a.m. with the following members present: Jebens - Singh, McGuire, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Xiong and Chair Ortega. Also present were Ling Becker, County Manager, and Kathleen Ritter, Assistant County Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

ROLL CALL

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

1. Agenda of June 10, 2025 is Presented for Approval [2025-221](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the agenda of June 10, 2025.

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

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

2. Minutes from May 27, 2025 are Presented for Approval [2025-222](#)

Sponsors: County Manager's Office

Approve the May 27, 2025 Minutes.

Motion by Moran, seconded by Miller. Motion passed.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

3. Support for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Extension [2025-218](#)

Sponsors: Public Works

1. Support the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Extension (Project), contingent upon:
 - a. Metro Transit's implementation of a structured monitoring plan to track the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Extension Project's impact on METRO Gold Line including its impact on ridership, travel time reliability, service levels, and user experience. The monitoring plan must include pre and post METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Extension Project ridership, pre and post Project travel time, pre and post Project service levels and surveys of pre and post Project riders' experiences for Metro Transit Route 94 and METRO Gold Line.
 - i. Ridership patterns on existing Route 94, METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit, and proposed Gold Line Extension.
 - ii. Reliability metrics such as on-time performance and travel time variability.
 - iii. Rider experience, including surveys before and after implementation.
 - iv. Service levels, to ensure that transit service is maintained or

enhanced as part of the Gold Line Extension.

v. This effort will include:

1. A baseline phase, once Gold Line ridership stabilizes in 2025.
 2. If Metro Transit Network Now service changes are implemented on Route 94. Otherwise, the baseline phase will be based on the current Route 94 in 2025.
 3. A post-implementation phase, after the extension is in full service.
 4. A plan will be created in collaboration with Ramsey County staff.
- b. Permanent Snelling Avenue station consistent with station design and amenities provided at METRO Gold Line stations between St. Paul and Woodbury to ensure a consistent and seamless rider experience.
 - c. Improvement to travel time reliability along I-94 through the adoption of near term and long-term strategies by Metro Transit and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to improve bus travel time reliability through options such as restriping and bus only shoulders.

Presented by Mike Rogers, Deputy Director of Public Works. Discussion can be found on archived video.

Motion by Xiong, seconded by McMurtrey. Motion passed.

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

Resolution: R2025-011

CORRIDOR UPDATES

No updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ortega declared the meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: 2025-275

Meeting Date: 8/19/2025

Sponsor: Public Works

Title

Transit Impacts Research Program Presentation and 2025 Funding Request

Recommendation

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

Background and Rationale

The Transit Impacts Research Program (TIRP) studies the economic and community impacts of transitway projects. The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA), an active participant in the program since 2008, along with other local governments, and the University of Minnesota support various research initiatives through the TIRP. The 2025 TIRP funding request to RCRRA is in the amount of \$30,000 to help support a research project called "Workers as Co-designers of Workforce Development: Lessons for Transit Workforce Planning." This research aims to assist regional transit agencies in improving hiring, retention, and leadership promotion through worker-informed co-design processes. It establishes a foundation for agencies to involve frontline workers, such as drivers and mechanics, as continuous partners in the co-creation and evaluation of evolving transit workforce solutions.

On November 12, 2024, Professor Jason Cao of the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs presented to the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority on recent research funded by TIRP.

Continued research will take advantage of skills at the University of Minnesota to provide useful information for decisions on transitway development. Additional information about the Transit Impacts Research Program can be found on their website:

<https://www.cts.umn.edu/programs/tirp>

County Goals (Check those advanced by Action)

☐ Well-being

☒ Prosperity

☒ Opportunity

☒ Accountability

Racial Equity Impact

Throughout Ramsey County and the Twin Cities metro, transitways provide reliable, low-cost, and high-amenity transportation options. These transitways serve many transit-dependent households and areas of racially concentrated poverty. Additionally, transitways provide access to jobs, workforce training opportunities, and other key destinations. Regional transit providers have struggled with challenges recruiting and retaining the workforce to operate and maintain this critical infrastructure. The \$30,000 in funding will help these providers work collaboratively with their workforce to improve recruiting and retention, including in marginalized communities, and equitably meet the needs of the public.

Community Participation Level and Impact

Research done by the Transit Impacts Research Program includes qualitative and quantitative methods of gathering input from those who currently use or benefit from transitway projects, as well

as those in need of improved access.

☒ Inform

☒ Consult

☐ Involve

☐ Collaborate

☐ Empower

Fiscal Impact

Funding in the amount of \$30,000 is available in the 2025 Multimodal Planning operating budget.

Last Previous Action

On November 12, 2024, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorized \$30,000 for the TIRP program in 2024 (Resolution R2024-019).

Attachments

1. Presentation
2. Letter

Transit Impacts Research Program: 20 Years of Collaborative Regional Research

Eric M. Lind

UMN Center for Transportation Studies

Ramsey County Board Presentation

19 Aug 2025

About Center for Transportation Studies

CTS cultivates improvements and innovation in transportation through research, engagement, and education



- University-wide center
- ~30 staff
- Education (K-12 to Professional)
- Outreach & events
- **Research coordination**



Transit Impacts Research Program (TIRP)

- Launched 2006 as Transitway Impacts Research Program
- Collaboration between:
 - Ramsey County
 - Washington County
 - Hennepin County
 - Met Council
 - University of Minnesota
 - Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)





How TIRP Works

Funding & Contracting

- Counties* + Met Council fund
- CTS facilitates (in-kind contribution)
- UMN Researchers investigate

Guidance & Direction

- Program Management Team (each funder + CTS)
- Project Technical Advisory Panels
- 18 – 24 month research projects

TIRP Research Examples



Transit Impacts Research Program

Research at a Glance

A research program developed through collaboration between Twin Cities public agencies and the University of Minnesota

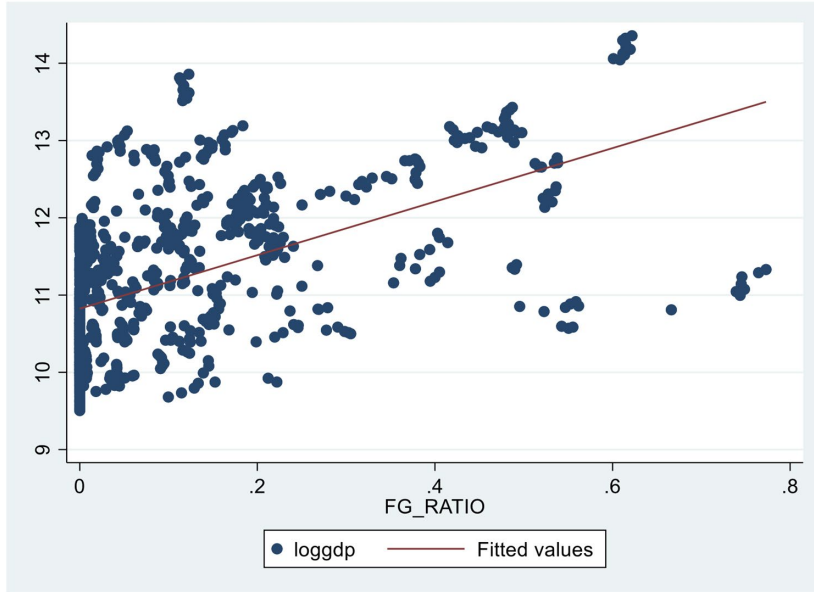
The Transit Impacts Research Program studies the contributions of transit to mobility, economic development and job access, equity and opportunity, public well-being and safety, and sustainability. The program aims to provide information to optimize transportation investments, regional connectivity, and system effectiveness.

Project Title	End Date	Principal Investigator
Active Research		
Workers as Co-designers of Workforce Development: Lessons for Transit Workforce Planning		Nichola Lowe
Strategies for Promoting Rider Connections to Suburban Transitways Stations		Jason Cao
Completed Research		
Value of Dedicated Right-of-Way: Transit Service Reliability and User Impacts	2025	Yingling Song
Transfer Behavior and Off-Peak Commutes	2024	Alireza Khani
The Values of Dedicated Right of Way to Transit Ridership and Carbon Emissions	2024	Jason Cao
Assessing the Effects of Highway Improvements on Adjacent Businesses	2023	Yingling Fan
Transitway Development and Commercial Gentrification	2022	Yingling Fan
Addressing Accessibility and Equity Along Transitways: Toward a Mixed Methods Toolkit	2021	Tom Fisher
Impact of Transitways on Travel on Parallel and Adjacent Roads and Park-and-Ride Facilities	2021	Alireza Khani
Value of Transitways to Regional Economies: National and Twin Cities Perspectives	2019	Yingling Fan
Multimodal Connections with Transitways: Ridership, Access Mode and Route Choice Implications	2019	Yingling Fan
After Study of the Bus Rapid Transit 'A Line' Impacts	2019	Alireza Khani
Those Who Need It Most: Maximizing Transit Accessibility and Removing Barriers to Employment in Racially Concentrated Areas of Poverty	2017	Yingling Fan
Exploring Walking Tolerance of Transitway Users	2017	Jason Cao
Specific Strategies for Achieving Transit-Oriented Economic Development: Applying National Lessons to the Twin Cities	2017	Yingling Fan
Transit Station and Stop Design and Travel Time Perceptions	2016	Yingling Fan
Exploring Strategies for Promoting Modal Shifts to Transitways	2015	Jason Cao
The Effects of Transitways on Auto Ownership and Auto Use: Evidence from the Hiawatha LRT	2015	Jason Cao
Economic Development Impacts of Bus Rapid Transit	2015	Andrew Guthrie



z.umn.edu/TIRP

The Value of Transitways to the Regional Economy



- US: Increased proportion of fixed guideway -> higher GPD per region
- In MSP, current & future transitways support equitable access

Commercial Changes Following Transitway Construction

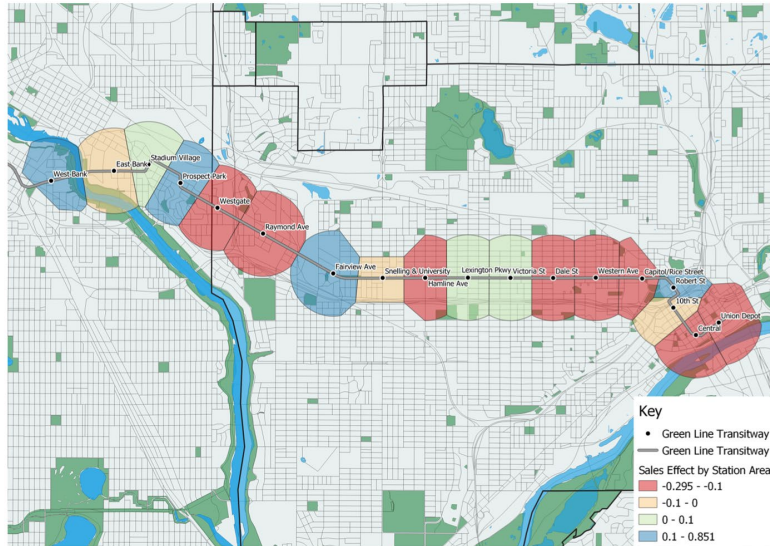


FIGURE 7.1: 2017 Sales Effects of the Green Line on Single Location Firms by Station Area

- Single-location firms most impacted by Green Line construction
- Impacts differ by station area
- Similar MnDOT study on highway construction impacts

Design of Transit Stations Impacts Perception of Wait Time

- Observed and asked:
How long did you wait?
- Shelter, bench, real-time information made wait *seem* shorter to riders
- Applied research: Findings put into practice for A Line, subsequent BRT lines

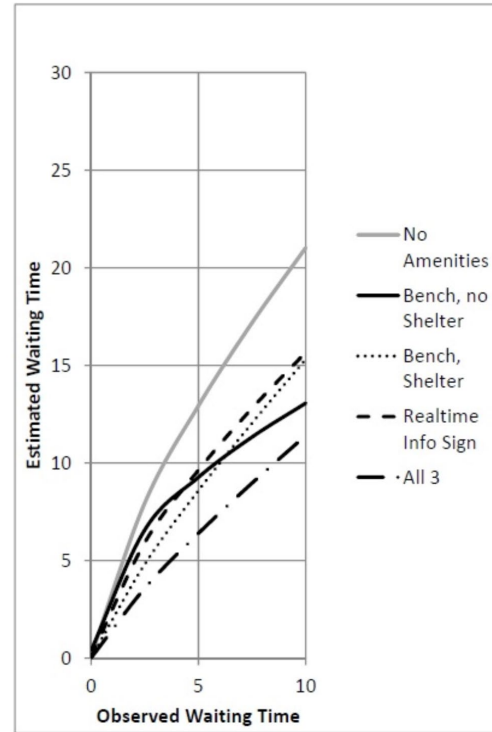


Figure 4-9: Model predictions, stop amenities

Designing Transit to Connect Low-Income Workers to Jobs

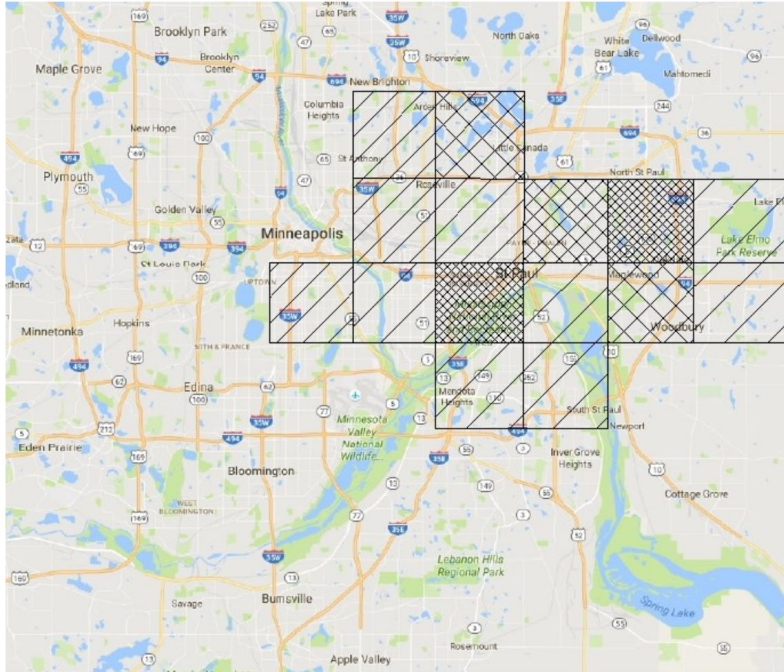


Figure 4-20: West Side Saint Paul

- Surveyed residents of areas of concentrated poverty about daily travel
- Some areas had very low mobility (stuck to neighborhood)
- **Key: concentrating jobs along transitways**

What Happened to Snelling Ave Traffic with the A Line?

- A Line has no impact on typical traffic operations
- A Line has minimal impacts under max traffic (State Fair) operations

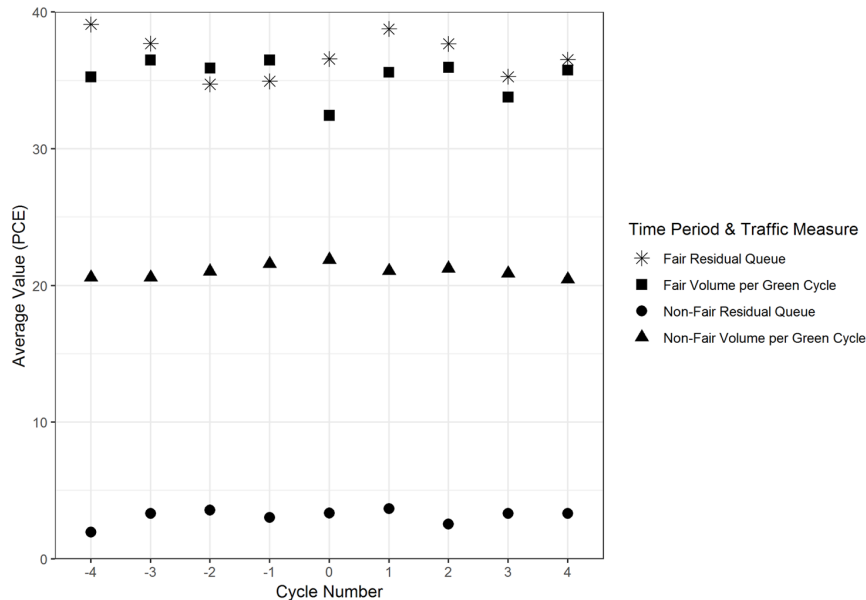


Figure 7: Traffic conditions as a function of cycle number (Snelling and University)



Current TIRP Research Projects

- Suburban connections

- Strategies for Promoting Rider Connections to Suburban Transitway Stations
- Prof. Jason Cao, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- 2024-2026

- Transit workforce

- Workers as co-designers of Workforce Development: Lessons for Transit Workforce Planning
- Prof. Nichola Lowe, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- 2025-2027



Up Next for TIRP

- October: TIRP PMT
 - Review ongoing work
 - Discuss and prioritize future research
- 2026: TIRP @ 20
 - To be celebrated as part of CTS 40th Anniversary
 - Research highlights, impacts, people and careers



Thank You!

Questions, Discussion, Research Ideas?

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Center for Transportation Studies

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July 7, 2025

Jennifer Jordan
Transit Project Manager
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority
Union Depot, 214 4th Street E. Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Jennifer,

On behalf of the University of Minnesota, we sincerely thank you for your past funding contributions to the Transit Impacts Research Program (TIRP) administered by the Center for Transportation Studies. With your support, TIRP continues to be a driving force for informed local and national-level policy discussions related to economic, community and transportation impacts surrounding transit development.

Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority has committed \$30,000 in funding to support TIRP in 2025. This funding will help support a research project called "Workers as Co-designers of Workforce Development: Lessons for Transit Workforce Planning." The TIRP Program Management Team (PMT) selected this topic, and worked directly with PI Nichola Lowe (Humphrey School of Public Affairs) to finalize the scope.

Hennepin County has offered to continue acting as the program's fiscal agent for county funds. Please send your contribution to Hennepin County at the address below per the attached invoice prepared by Hennepin County.

Hennepin County Treasurer
300 South 6th Street, MC 683
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Thank you for your past and continued generous contributions to this program. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Eric Lind, PhD
PMT Chair, Transit Impacts Research Program
Director, Accessibility Observatory

cc: Ethan Osten, Ramsey County
Jordan Preuss, Ramsey County