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**Sponsor:** Public Works

**Meeting Date:** 6/10/2025

**Title:** Eligible Projects for the Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Funding

**File Number:** 2025-217

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**Background and Rationale:**

To provide a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation system, the Ramsey County Board approved the imposition of a one-half percent sales tax and \$20 excise tax on new vehicles in Ramsey County, Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax (Sales and Use Tax), for specific transportation projects consistent with the requirements of Minnesota Statute 297A.993 on June 13, 2017, by Resolution B2017-143. State statute allows new projects to utilize Sales and Use Tax funding following a public hearing and a resolution passed by the county board.

The Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Capital Improvement Plan was updated to reflect changes in project eligibility since 2017.

On June 3, 2025, the Ramsey County Board held a public hearing to solicit comments from the public on the Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Capital Improvement Plan. This updated plan contained the removal of projects and the addition of new projects.

Removal of the following projects:

- METRO Green Line operating costs.
- METRO Gold Line operating costs.
- Riverview Corridor capital and operating costs.
- 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.

Addition of new projects:

**a. Roadways and Interchanges**

- i. Lexington Avenue at CSAH 96 - Arden Hills and Shoreview.
- ii. Hamline Avenue at CSAH 96 - Arden Hills.
- iii. Snelling Avenue at Larpenteur Avenue - Falcon Heights.
- iv. Rice Creek Commons Spine Road at CSAH 96 - Arden Hills.
- v. White Bear Avenue at I-94 - Saint Paul.

**b. Corridor Improvements**

- i. White Bear Avenue: Beam Avenue to I-94 - Maplewood and Saint Paul.
- ii. Maryland Avenue: Johnson Parkway to White Bear Avenue - Saint Paul.
- iii. Larpenteur Avenue/Parkway Drive: Hennepin County Line to Hwy 61- Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Roseville, and Saint Paul.
- iv. Lexington Avenue: CSAH 96 to County Road J - Arden Hills and Shoreview.

**c. Transformative and Innovative**

- i. Rice Creek Commons Spine Road - Arden Hills.
- ii. County Fleet Electric Vehicle Transition - Countywide.
- iii. RiversEdge Transportation Infrastructure - Saint Paul.

**d. Union Depot and Railroad**

- i. Union Depot Track Three Extension - Saint Paul.
- ii. Union Depot Train Deck Repairs and Modernization - Saint Paul.
- iii. Union Depot Facility Modernization - Saint Paul.
- iv. County Road C Bridge over BNSF railroad - Roseville.
- v. Victoria Street at CPKC railroad - Shoreview.
- vi. Larpenteur Avenue at CPKC railroad - Maplewood and Saint Paul.

**e. Other**

- i. Purple Line Corridor - Maplewood and Saint Paul.
- ii. Bruce Vento Regional Trail Extension - White Bear Lake.
- iii. Trout Brook Regional Trail Extension - Little Canada, Maplewood, Saint Paul, and Vadnais Heights.
- iv. All Projects contained in the 2024-2028 Ramsey County Transportation Improvement Program.

The Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Capital Investment Plan is not inclusive of every project discussed in the Ramsey County Transit and Transportation Investment Plan or by the board at its November 19, 2024, and April 8, 2025, workshops, but identifies eligible projects based on county board discussion, project readiness, and alignment with county plans. Identification of projects for inclusion in the Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Capital Investment Plan is predicated on their alignment with the county's strategic priorities and guiding plans. To ensure the greatest benefit possible is provided, while ensuring consistency with Ramsey County's strategic priorities, the following guiding principles will be utilized:

- Funding will be spent countywide, with a primary focus on the county transit and transportation system.
- Funding will be used to advance the county's All-Abilities Transportation Policy.
- Funding will be used to grow economic competitiveness by improving mobility between housing, jobs, essential services, and community amenities.
- Funding will focus on increasing access and reducing barriers to multimodal transportation options.
- Funding will be used to mitigate the impacts of climate change and improve transportation infrastructure resiliency.

Ramsey County will utilize its Transit and Transportation Investment Plan, [Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion Plan](https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/economic-development-initiative/economic-competitiveness-inclusion-plan) <<https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/economic-development-initiative/economic-competitiveness-inclusion-plan>>, [All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan](https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/multi-modal-planning/all-abilities-2050-transportation-plan) <<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/multi-modal-planning/all-abilities-2050-transportation-plan>>, and the [Climate Equity Action Plan](https://www.ramseycounty.us/climate-action/climate-equity-action-plan) <<https://www.ramseycounty.us/climate-action/climate-equity-action-plan>> as guiding plans as they are dynamic documents that will be reviewed regularly and updated as needed to ensure they evolve to meet the changing needs and priorities of Ramsey County. The Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Capital Improvement Plan is a living document and the inclusion of additional projects in the plan will be at the discretion of the county board following a public hearing and adoption of a resolution on their eligibility consistent with Minnesota Statute 297A.993.

Adoption of the Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Capital Improvement Plan will make the projects within it eligible for Sales and Use Tax funding. Programming of the projects will be done through the Ramsey County Transportation Improvement Program adopted annually by the Ramsey County Board.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the removal of the following projects from the Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Capital Improvement Plan.
  - a. METRO Green Line: Operating.
  - b. METRO Gold Line: Operating.
  - c. Riverview Corridor: Capital and Operating.
  - d. Ramsey County 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program.
2. Approve the addition of the following projects to the Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Capital Improvement Plan.
  - a. **Roadways and Interchanges**
    - i. Lexington Avenue at CSAH 96 - Arden Hills and Shoreview.
    - ii. Hamline Avenue at CSAH 96 - Arden Hills.
    - iii. Snelling Avenue at Larpenteur Avenue - Falcon Heights.
    - iv. Rice Creek Commons Spine Road at CSAH 96 - Arden Hills.
    - v. White Bear Avenue at I-94 - Saint Paul.
  - b. **Corridor Improvements**
    - i. White Bear Avenue: Beam Avenue to I-94 - Maplewood and Saint Paul.
    - ii. Maryland Avenue: Johnson Parkway to White Bear Avenue - Saint Paul.
    - iii. Larpenteur Avenue/Parkway Drive: Hennepin County Line to Hwy 61 - Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Roseville, and Saint Paul.
    - iv. Lexington Avenue: CSAH 96 to County Road J - Arden Hills and Shoreview.
  - c. **Transformative and Innovative**
    - i. Rice Creek Commons Spine Road - Arden Hills.
    - ii. County Fleet Electric Vehicle Transition - Countywide.
    - iii. RiversEdge Transportation Infrastructure - Saint Paul.
  - d. **Union Depot and Railroad**
    - i. Union Depot Track Three Extension - Saint Paul.
    - ii. Union Depot Train Deck Repairs and Modernization - Saint Paul.
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    - iv. County Road C Bridge over BNSF Railroad - Roseville.
    - v. Victoria Street at CPKC Railroad - Shoreview.
    - vi. Larpenteur Avenue at CPKC Railroad - Maplewood and Saint Paul.
  - e. **Other**
    - i. Purple Line Corridor - Maplewood and Saint Paul.
    - ii. Bruce Vento Regional Trail Extension - White Bear Lake.
    - iii. Trout Brook Regional Trail Extension - Little Canada, Maplewood, Saint Paul, and Vadnais Heights.
    - iv. All Projects contained in the 2024-2028 Ramsey County Transportation Improvement Program.
3. Authorize the use of Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Funding for the completion of projects identified in the Ramsey County Transportation Sales and Use Tax Capital Improvement 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:   
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Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County  
Board