

Transportation Committee

Business Item

Item: 2009-181

Meeting date: June 8, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	May 18, 2009
Subject:	Authority to Execute Agreements with Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2009 Authorized Capital Program
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, 651-602-1754 Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Finance & Planning, 651-602-1058 Cole Hiniker, Planner, 651-602-1748
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute agreements with Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority (RCRRA) for:

- \$3,195,000 for alternative analysis work related to Red Rock and Rush Line corridor transit ways and;
- \$1,000,000 for Union Depot preliminary engineering

Background

The region received two 5339 FTA discretionary funding appropriations in 2006 and 2007 for \$1,980,000 and \$2,000,000, respectively, for alternative analysis for Red Rock, Rush Line, and Central Corridor studies. Of these funds, \$3,195,000 will be used by RCRRA to perform economic impacts of the planned Union Depot multi-modal hub in St. Paul, transitway corridor coordination analysis, a time-travel benefit study of Red Rock and Rush Line affected corridors in the east metro, and a freight/commuter railroad capacity evaluation for areas affected by the corridors. RCRRA will provide the local match for these funds.

In 2005 and 2006, the state legislature authorized \$500,000 each year for the Red Rock corridor transit way. These funds will be used by RCRRA to match federal funds for performing preliminary engineering on the Union Depot multi-modal hub, which is currently identified as the terminus of the Red Rock corridor.

Rationale

These funds have been authorized by the FTA and State for funding transitway activities. RCRRA has partnered with the Metropolitan Council to conduct work related to the Red Rock and Rush Line corridors.

Funding

Both projects are in the authorized capital program and have received federal and state approval to move forward.

Known Support / Opposition

RCRRA has requested these funds to continue with the advancement of the Red Rock and Rush Line corridors.