

# T Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 24, 2009

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

**Date Prepared:** June 10, 2009

**Subject:** Authority to Execute Agreements with Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority

### 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

### Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) staff member Cole Hiniker presented the proposed action to the committee. Council member Scherer inquired about what would happen to the funds if the proposed action did not pass. Staff indicated that the use of funds would need to be reevaluated or the funding would be returned to the FTA. Staff also indicated that there are essentially pass-through funds requested by Ramsey County.

Council member Leppik asked how an economic analysis of Union Depot related to the preliminary engineering process and Council member McFarlin expressed a similar question about the need for an economic analysis in relation to the Red Rock and Rush Line corridors. Staff responded that the economic analysis is a separate task from preliminary engineering. The analysis is intended to gauge the future effects of the updating the Union Depot, which is currently identified as the terminus of the Red Rock, Rush Line, and Central corridors.

There was no further discussion regarding the action item.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar and passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Meeks stated that this item could move to the full Council as a consent item.

# Transportation Committee

**Business Item**

Item: 2009-181

**Meeting date: June 8, 2009**

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

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

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## 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.