



Board of Commissioners

Fran Miron, District 1
Stan Karwoski, District 2
Gary Kriesel, District 3
Wayne A. Johnson, District 4
Lisa Weik, District 5

**BOARD AGENDA
September 14, 2021 - 9:00 AM**

1. 9:00 **Washington County Regional Railroad Authority**
 - A. Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Approval of the Regional Railroad Authority minutes from August 10, 2021.
 - C. Adopt a resolution authorizing Washington County Regional Railroad Authority withdrawal from the Third Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) of the Great River Rail Commission.
- 9:20 D. Adjourn

Washington County Board of Commissioners Meeting Convenes

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
AUGUST 10, 2021**

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Weik, Johnson, and Karwoski. RRA Chair Wayne Johnson presided. Also present were Kevin Corbid, County Administrator; Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief; Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant; and county staff.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of RRA Minutes from June 1, 2021

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve the RRA meeting minutes from June 1, 2021. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Approval of Contract with Metropolitan Council for State Fair Park-and-Ride in Newport

Public Works Planner Emily Jorgensen presented a contract with the Metropolitan Council to permit the use of the Newport Transit Station and the adjacent lot as a 2021 Minnesota State Fair Park-and-Ride.

The Metropolitan Council via Metro Transit has requested the use of the Newport Transit Station as a 2021 Minnesota State Fair Park-and-Ride lot for the duration of the 2021 Minnesota State Fair. The contract allows for the use of the paved parking area and adjacent vacant lot amounting to a total of 400 parking spaces. Newport Transit Station has served as a MN State Fair Park-and-Ride since 2016. In 2019, more than 5,700 transit riders used the Newport Transit Station Park-and-Ride lot express service to access the fair on weekends and Labor Day.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the contract with Metropolitan Council for the Minnesota State Fair Park-and-Ride at Newport Transit Station. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the RRA, Commissioner Weik moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously. The RRA meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Wayne Johnson, Chair
Washington County Regional Railroad Authority



Request for Board Action

BOARD MEETING DATE:
September 14, 2021

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
1.C

Commissioner's Report

Department Information

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Public Works	REQUESTOR: Mahad Mohamed, Management Analyst II	REQUESTOR PHONE: 651-430-4354
PRESENTER(S): Sara Allen	MEDIA CONTACT: Sara Allen 651-430-4363	

Agenda Item Details

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR REQUEST: Adopt a resolution authorizing Washington County Regional Railroad Authority withdrawal from the Third Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) of the Great River Rail Commission.		
AGENDA YOU ARE REQUESTING TIME ON: Regional Rail	ARE YOU SEEKING APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT? No	ESTIMATED DURATION: 10 minutes
IS THIS MANDATED? No	EXPLANATION OF MANDATE:	
BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION: The Great River Rail Commission advocates for the development of the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Second Train Project, a daily round trip passenger train between the Twin Cities and Chicago. In 2021, the Commission achieved a huge milestone with their advocacy for the Amtrak Twin Cities Milwaukee Chicago Second Train, acquiring matching funds from the Minnesota State Legislature for a Federal Railroad Administration grant to be used for final design and construction and service planned to begin in 2024. The Commission's bylaws specify a 90-day written notice and resolution from the Board, and the resolution will be to withdraw Washington County Regional Railroad Authority from the Commission beginning in 2022.		
PREVIOUS ACTION ON REQUEST/OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED? 8/13/2019 – Washington County Regional Rail Authority adopted a resolution to join a Third Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the Great River Rail Commission.		

Budget Impact

YEAR:	UNBUDGETED AMOUNT: \$
FUNDING DESCRIPTION:	

Approvals

Don Theisen, Public Works Director	9/7/2021
Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief	9/7/2021
Jennifer Wagenius, Deputy County Administrator	9/8/2021

Withdrawal from Great River Rail Commission Joint Powers Agreement

Washington County Regional Railroad Authority
September 14, 2021



Great River Rail Commission

- 18 member commission representing communities from Saint Paul to La Crosse, WI
- Commission founded in 2009 as advocacy to improve passenger rail service between Saint Paul and Chicago (formerly called the High Speed Rail Commission)
- Primary objective to secure funding for the Amtrak Twin Cities Milwaukee Chicago (TCMC) Second Train

Great River Rail Membership Considerations



- Primary goal of the Commission was achieved, the Amtrak Twin Cities Milwaukee Chicago Second Train
- Next step of Commission is lobbying focused on operations
- No stations within Washington County, but Washington County currently advancing multiple projects that would connect our businesses and residents to the Union Depot Amtrak Station
- Annual membership dues = \$4k
- Dakota County recently passed a resolution to withdraw

Resolution and Discussion

- Proposed resolution to withdraw from the Third Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement of the Great River Rail Commission consistent with terms of the agreement.
- The Commission Joint Powers Agreement requires 90 days written notice for withdrawal.

Questions?

Sara Allen, Washington County Public Works Planner
Sara.allen@co.Washington.mn.us



DATE September 14, 2021
MOTION
BY COMMISSIONER _____

DEPARTMENT Public Works
SECONDED BY
COMMISSIONER _____

**RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW FROM THE THIRD AMENDED AND
RESTATED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT OF THE GREAT RIVER RAIL COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission (Commission) was established in 2009 as a joint powers board under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59 and Chapter 398A; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is established by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) by and between Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority, Goodhue County Regional Railroad Authority, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, Wabasha County Regional Railroad Authority, Winona County Regional Railroad Authority, La Crosse Area Planning Committee, City of Cottage Grove, City of Goodview, City of Hastings, City of Lake City, City of Red Wing, City of Saint Charles, City of Saint Paul, City of Saint Paul Park, City of Utica, City of Wabasha, City of Winona; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the High Speed Rail Commission was re-established as the Great River Rail Commission (the Commission) with the authority approving the JPA by Resolution No. RRA-2019-002; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is working to establish the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) second daily round-trip passenger train along the current Amtrak Empire Builder route (TCMC Corridor), serving the current station stops; and

WHEREAS, the Commission advocates for faster and more frequent passenger rail service between Chicago and Saint Paul along the TCMC Corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has recently achieved its primary objective of securing support and funding for the implementation of the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) Second Train project, which is scheduled to begin service in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Commission JPA Bylaws stipulate withdrawal from the Commission requires 90-day written notice and resolution from the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority hereby notifies the Great River Rail Commission that it wishes to withdraw from the Third Amended and Restated Great River Rail Commission Joint Powers Agreement, consistent with Agreement terms.

ATTEST:

		YES	NO
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR	MIRON	_____	_____
	KARWOSKI	_____	_____
	KRIESEL	_____	_____
	JOHNSON	_____	_____
COUNTY BOARD CHAIR	WEIK	_____	_____