



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
JUNE 1, 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 Weik, Kriesel, Miron, Johnson, and Karwoski. RRA Chair Weik presided. Also present were Kevin Corbid, County Administrator; Brent Wartner, First Attorney; Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant; and county staff.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Election of Washington County Regional Railroad Authority Chair and Vice Chair for 2021**

Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) Chair Weik asked for nominations for Chair of the Washington County RRA for 2021.

Commissioner Miron nominated Commissioner Wayne Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Kriesel. Commissioner Weik asked for further nominations; none were heard. Commissioner Weik closed the nominations.

The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none.

Commissioner Johnson was elected RRA Chair for 2021.

RRA Chair Johnson asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the Washington County RRA for 2021.

Commissioner Kriesel nominated Commissioner Stan Karwoski for Vice Chair. Chair Johnson asked for further nominations; none were heard. Chair Johnson closed the nominations.

The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Miron, Kriesel, Karwoski, and Johnson. Nays, none.

Commissioner Karwoski was elected RRA Vice Chair for 2021.

**Approval of RRA Minutes from June 23, 2020**

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the RRA meeting minutes from June 23, 2020. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Miron, Kriesel, Karwoski, and Johnson. Nays, none.

## **Approval of RRA Budget Amendment for Trunk Highway 36 Corridor Transit Feasibility Study**

Public Works Planner Emily Jorgensen presented a budget amendment for additional scope to the Trunk Highway (TH) 36 Corridor Transit Feasibility Study.

Ms. Jorgensen provided some background on the study. The purpose of the study is to identify transit service needs and recommendations that are reflective of TH 36 corridor's existing and anticipated future travel demands and patterns, and to consider transit and complementary facilities to improve travel options and provide alternatives to highway congestion for residents, businesses, and visitors from Washington, Ramsey, and Hennepin counties.

The study kicked off in the fall of 2020 with information gathering, and analysis was done during the winter of 2020/2021. There were tasks added to the study scope, including commissioner discussion meetings, COVID-19 public engagement adaptation, and meetings with Metro Transit and other agency stakeholders. With commissioner guidance, development of a fourth transit scenario was added. As the study developed and these tasks were added, it resulted in a budget overage.

The RRA approved the original contract in March 2020, in the amount of \$317,000 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, using County Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) dissolution funds. The contract is over budget \$13,000, and staff is requesting the use of RRA levy for these costs.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$13,000 for the TH 36 Corridor Transit Feasibility Study. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Miron, Kriesel, Karwoski, and Johnson. Nays, none.

## **Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Gold Line Joint Powers Agreement**

Assistant County Attorney Kevin Magnuson presented an amendment to the Gold Line Joint Powers Agreement.

Mr. Magnuson reported that the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority, and Washington County, along with the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, and Ramsey County, entered into the Joint Powers Agreement establishing the Gold Line Joint Powers Board (JPB) on July 23, 2019.

Article XII, Part 1, of that agreement, provides that "this agreement may be amended by unanimous agreement of the parties as evidenced by resolutions adopted by the respective governing bodies."

Article V, Part 2, paragraph G, provides that the Gold Line Joint Powers Board "...may ... purchase insurance as is deemed advisable" and the Gold Line Board is evaluating whether obtaining insurance from the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) is advisable.



MCIT has requested that the parties make certain clarifying amendments to the Joint Powers Agreement to extend coverage to the JPB.

Mr. Magnuson said these changes are not substantively significant, but rather clarify what was already in the agreement, specifically, to make even clearer that the JPB is a separate entity, and only it, not the counties, is liable for its actions.

At its meeting on April 28, 2021, the Gold Line JPB approved Resolution GLJPB #2021-07, which recommends approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement.

The proposed amendments are incorporated into an amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement. Appended to the back of the proposed amended agreement is the effected language.

Mr. Magnuson reported the proposed amendments as follows:

- ARTICLE XI. LIABILITY would be amended to add a new paragraph 3 that includes an obligation of the Joint Powers Board to indemnify the counties. That indemnification provision simply clarifies further that it is the JPB, and not the counties, that would be the responsible party if any litigation, for example, were to arise.
- Article XI, paragraph 2, is also revised to clarify that the limits on liability provided by Minnesota statutes and laws applies to the Joint Powers Board.

Mr. Magnuson’s understanding is that Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, and Ramsey County, will be voting on this amendment later this month.


Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve the amendment to the Gold Line Joint Powers Agreement. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Miron, Kriesel, Karwoski, and Johnson. Nays, none.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the RRA, Commissioner Kriesel moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Miron, Kriesel, Karwoski, and Johnson. Nays, none. The RRA meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Attest:

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 Kevin Corbid  
 County Administrator

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 Wayne Johnson, Chair  
 Washington County Regional Railroad Authority