

# RESOLUTION

Board of Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority

Date: September 26, 2017 No.: R2017-28

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WHEREAS, The River Balcony was initially proposed in the 2013 Great River Passage Master Plan and adopted by the Saint Paul City Council; and

WHEREAS, The River Balcony will be a 1.5 mile elevated pedestrian walkway overlooking the Mississippi River in downtown Saint Paul between the Science Museum of Minnesota and Union Depot; and

WHEREAS, This proposed amenity in the heart of Saint Paul will be designated to accommodate walking, outdoor seating, gathering and related public activities, and be a catalyst for economic development; and

WHEREAS, The River Balcony is of particular interest to Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority as it would connect to the Union Depot; and

WHEREAS, The River Balcony Master Plan was adopted as an amendment to the Great River Passage Plan by the Saint Paul City Council on June 21, 2017 and is a guiding document for development of the River Balcony, identifying project scope, development opportunities and design direction; and

WHEREAS, The Master Plan contains a vision statement, goals and design principles for the River Balcony, as well as a set of design guidelines for the River Balcony and adjacent private development; and

WHEREAS, Implementation of the River Balcony will be financed through public-private partnerships lead by City staff as the Great River Passage Initiative; and

WHEREAS, The City of Saint Paul is seeking funding partners in order to proceed with the next steps including the selection of a creative team and completion of schematic design, construction cost estimates, and funding alternatives; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority directs staff to work with the City of Saint Paul, community members and other interested parties to advance the River Balcony project between the Science Museum of Minnesota and Union Depot by having the City of Saint Paul proceed to complete the schematic design; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority encourages the City of Saint Paul, businesses and other interested parties to provide funds for completion of the schematic design, estimated by the City of Saint Paul at \$600,000; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the Chair to commit \$100,000 from the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority capital reserves

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to the City of Saint Paul for the River Balcony schematic design with disbursement contingent upon the City receiving funding commitments for the entire schematic design cost from private and public funding partners; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority approves an Agreement with the City of Saint Paul for the River Balcony schematic design for the period of October 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, in substantially the same form, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the Chair to execute the Agreement; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments including increasing estimated revenues and appropriations.

Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority

	YEA	NAY	OTHER
Toni Carter	✓		
Blake Huffman	✓		
Jim McDonough	✓		
Mary Jo McGuire	✓		
Victoria Reinhardt	✓		
Janice Rettman		✓	
Rafael Ortega	✓		

Rafael E. Ortega, Chair

By:   
Blake Huffman, Secretary