

Resolution # 20-07

Resolution of Support for Rush Line Rapid Transit Project 15% Plans

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is leading the design of the Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Project”) through the Environmental Analysis Phase; in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Metropolitan Council and its Metro Transit division (Metropolitan Council), Saint Paul, Maplewood, Vadnais Heights, Gem Lake, White Bear Lake and White Bear Township (“Municipalities”); and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Analysis Phase includes the preparation of an Environmental Assessment in partnership with MnDOT, the Metropolitan Council and the Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has been working collaboratively with MnDOT, the Metropolitan Council and the Municipalities and other stakeholders over the previous two years to resolve issues and develop a scope of work of project components (known as the 15 percent plans) for evaluation in the Environmental Assessment; and

WHEREAS, residents and businesses have participated in numerous committees, community meetings, pop-up events, and other public forums to provide feedback and assist with developing the 15 percent plans; and

WHEREAS, City of Saint Paul staff have reviewed the 15 percent plans and have provided comments and direction on plan refinements; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has worked collaboratively with MnDOT, Metropolitan Council, and the Municipalities to address staff comments on the 15 percent plans; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is requesting that the Municipalities, as the agencies with local jurisdiction, provide a Resolution of Support or Letter of Support for the 15 percent plans; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission is a citizen group formed to advise the Mayor and the City Council on parks and recreation matters of long-range and citywide importance, such as the impact of the Project on parks and recreation in Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, the Municipalities will have additional opportunities to provide comments during the Environmental Assessment public comment period and on the subsequent 30%, 60% and 90% design plans prior to construction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission generally supports the 15 percent plans for the Rush Line BRT Project with regard to elements that impact parks and recreation in Saint Paul; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission desires that Ramsey County, MnDOT, Metropolitan Council and the other Municipalities continue to work collaboratively with the City of Saint Paul to address issues and work with City of Saint Paul

staff to satisfactorily resolve issues that have arisen or could arise as the Project design advances;
and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be conveyed to the Mayor and City Council for their consideration as they entertain a resolution of support on behalf of the City of Saint Paul.

Approved: 5-14-20

Yeas: 9

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

Attested to by:

Elizabeth L. McDonald

Staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission