



Dakota County

Regional Railroad Authority

Agenda

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

9:30 AM

Boardroom, Administration Center,
Hastings, MN

(or following County Board)

1. **Call To Order And Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)**
 - 2.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - 3.1 *County Administration* - Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on July 29, 2025
4. **Regular Agenda**
 - 4.1 *Transportation* - Overview Of Draft Dakota County Regional Rail Authority 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program
5. **Other Business/Staff Reports**
6. **Adjournment**
 - 6.1 Adjournment

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<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>
Public Comment can be sent to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4823

Agenda #: 2.1

Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4824

Agenda #: 3.1

Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on July 29, 2025



Dakota County

Regional Railroad Authority

Minutes

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

9:30 AM

Boardroom, Administration Center,
Hastings, MN

(or following County Board)

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hamann-Roland at 10:00 a.m.

Present

- Commissioner Mike Slavik
- Commissioner Joe Atkins
- Commissioner Laurie Halverson
- Commissioner William Droste
- Commissioner Liz Workman
- Commissioner Mary Liz Holberg
- Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were Heidi Welsch, County Manager; Tom Donely, First Assistant County Attorney; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

Audio recording of the Regional Railroad Authority meeting is available upon request.

2. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

2.1 Resolution No:
Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: William Droste

Second: Laurie Halverson

Ayes: 7

3. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Droste, the Consent agenda was approved as follows:

3.1 Resolution No:
Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on March 25, 2025

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: William Droste

Ayes: 7

3.2 Resolution No: 25-004
Authorization To Execute Contract With HDR, Inc., For Countywide At-Grade
Railroad Crossing Improvement Plan, County Project 97-237

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: William Droste

WHEREAS, to provide a safe and efficient transportation system, Dakota
County is proceeding with County Project (CP) 97-237; and

WHEREAS, CP 97-237 is the At-Grade Railroad Crossing Improvement Plan;
and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Department sent a Request For Proposal to
three qualified professional consultants; and

WHEREAS, the proposals received were evaluated by County staff; and

WHEREAS, the proposal from HDR, Inc., was the best value project
development costs and provides the services needed for the project; and

WHEREAS, the 2025-2029 Regional Railroad Authority Capital Improvement
Program (CIP) budget includes \$600,000 to address existing at-grade railroad
crossings in need of replacement and/or enhancements, of which CP 97-237 will
use for actual costs not to exceed \$94,125 for professional plan development
services; and

WHEREAS, the County Transportation Director recommends execution of a
contract with HDR, Inc., for professional plan development services for CP
97-237 for actual costs not to exceed \$94,125.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Regional
Railroad Authority hereby authorizes its Board Chair to execute a contract with
HDR, Inc., to perform professional plan development services for CP 97-237 in
an amount not to exceed \$94,125, subject to approval by the County Attorney's
Office as to form.

Ayes: 7

4. Regular Agenda

No regular agenda items were presented.

5. Other Business/Staff Reports

No other business or staff reports.

6. Adjournment

6.1 Resolution No:
Adjournment

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Laurie Halverson

On a motion by Commissioner Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Halverson, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,

William Droste
Secretary



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4785

Agenda #: 4.1

Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

DEPARTMENT: Physical Development Administration

FILE TYPE: Regular Information

TITLE

Overview Of Draft Dakota County Regional Rail Authority 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Review the Draft Regional Rail Authority (RRA) 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

SUMMARY

The Dakota County RRA CIP forecasts priorities and budgets for the capital needs of the County for the next five years. The CIP document is a planning tool, but expenditures presented in the first year will be consistent with the County's 2026 Adopted RRA CIP Budget.

The presentation will provide an overview of the Draft RRA 2026-2030 CIP.

RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

- None
- Current budget
- Other
- Amendment Requested
- New FTE(s) requested

RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Draft Dakota County RRA 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program

Attachment: Presentation Slides

BOARD GOALS

- A Great Place to Live
- A Healthy Environment
- A Successful Place for Business and Jobs
- Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Erin Laberee
Author: Erin Laberee

2026 - 2030 Regional Rail Authority Capital Improvement Program



Page	Project Number	Short Description	Project Title	City Location	Annual Cost	Regional Rail Authority Funds	Total Project Cost	Lead Agency
<u>2026 Section</u>								
	RR00031		Railroad Crossing Set Aside		550,000	550,000	3,350,000	
			2026 Total		550,000	550,000		
<u>2027 Section</u>								
	RR00031		Railroad Crossing Set Aside		550,000	550,000	3,350,000	
			2027 Total		550,000	550,000		
<u>2028 Section</u>								
	RR00031		Railroad Crossing Set Aside		550,000	550,000	3,350,000	
			2028 Total		550,000	550,000		
<u>2029 Section</u>								
	RR00031		Railroad Crossing Set Aside		550,000	550,000	3,350,000	
			2029 Total		550,000	550,000		
<u>2030 Section</u>								
	RR00031		Railroad Crossing Set Aside		550,000	550,000	3,350,000	
RRA			2030 Total		550,000	550,000		

5-Year Summary

Year	Annual Cost	Regional Rail Authority Funds
2026	550,000	550,000
2027	550,000	550,000
2028	550,000	550,000
2029	550,000	550,000
2030	550,000	550,000
Total	2,750,000	2,750,000

Projected Fund Balance

Year	Beg. Fund Balance	RRA CIP Expenditures	RRA Operations - Salary & Dept Support	RRA Interest	Total
2025	<i>Estimate based on 12/31/24 FB and 2025 CIP</i>				4,772,344
2026	4,772,344	550,000	62,857	71,585	4,231,072
2027	4,231,072	550,000	65,420	63,466	3,679,118
2028	3,679,118	550,000	68,107	55,187	3,116,198
2029	3,116,198	550,000	70,925	46,743	2,542,016
2030	2,542,016	550,000	73,880	38,130	1,956,266

Per Policy 2003, a sufficient fund balance is required for interest to cover operational expenses. The current required minimum fund balance is \$1,750,000.



Regional Rail Authority Preliminary 2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Erin Laberee

Transportation Director and County Engineer

August 26, 2025

Capital Improvement Program Project Principles and Assumptions



- Addresses safety issues first
- Honors funder/grantee commitments
- Supports approved Strategic Plan implementation
- Aligns with departmental missions
- Follows general prioritization
 - Priority 1: Projects already underway ("Finish what we've started")
 - Priority 2: Projects that address asset, infrastructure, or resource deficiencies ("Fix what's broken")
 - Priority 3: Strategic system growth and enhancement ("Meet demand")
 - Priority 4: Pursuit of projects not in an adopted CIP ("Act on opportunities")
 - Implements External Revenue Strategy: Projects contingent on external funding will carryover in CIP for 2 years
- Additional Regional Rail Authority guidance: Utilize Authority fund balance on eligible projects to offset use of other County funding sources

Regional Railroad Authorities Act



- Minnesota Statutes Chapter 398A
 - Railroad acquisition, operation, preservation:
 - Highway/rail grade separations
 - Highway at-grade rail crossing improvements
 - Greenway/rail grade separations
 - Greenway at-grade rail crossing improvements
 - Rail rights-of-way preservation
 - Bus Rapid Transit Development:

Regional Railroad Authority CIP: Previous Amendments



2024 CIP Amendments for Greenway Railroad Crossings

- Minnesota River Greenway Bridge, Fort Snelling UP Railroad Bridge (\$2.6M)
- Veteran's Memorial Greenway at CPKC Railroad and Hwy 3, Eagan (\$600,000)
- Veterans Memorial Greenway at-grade crossing of Union Pacific (UP) Railroad/105th Street, Inver Grove Heights (\$400,000)

2025 CIP Adoption

- At Grade Rail Crossing Improvements (\$600,000 per year)

Proposed 2026 Capitol Improvement Projects



At-Grade Rail Crossing Set Aside

- Establish budget to replace 2-3 rail crossings of County Highways annually
- Approximate cost of each crossing \$200,000
- 26 Current crossings of County Highways
- Propose annual set aside of \$550,000
- Contracted with consult for prioritization plan



2026 Regional Railroad Authority CIP



Proposed 2026 CIP

- At Grade Rail Crossing Improvements (\$550,000 per year)
 - Maintains \$1,750,000 minimum fund balance per policy to cover operational expenses
 - The balance remains sufficient for interest to cover all operational expenses

Projected Fund Balance

Year	Beg. Fund Balance	RRA CIP Expenditures	RRA Operations - Salary & Dept Support	RRA Interest	Total
2025					4,772,344
<i>Estimate based on 12/31/24 FB and 2025 CIP</i>					
2026	4,772,344	550,000	62,857	71,585	4,231,072
2027	4,231,072	550,000	65,420	63,466	3,679,118
2028	3,679,118	550,000	68,107	55,187	3,116,198
2029	3,116,198	550,000	70,925	46,743	2,542,016
2030	2,542,016	550,000	73,880	38,130	1,956,266

Next Steps



- September 23 Authority Meeting: Proposed Maximum Levy



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4825

Agenda #: 6.1

Meeting Date: 8/26/2025

Adjournment