



Dakota County

Regional Railroad Authority

Agenda

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

9:30 AM

Boardroom, Administration Center,
Hastings, MN

(or following County Board)

If you wish to speak to an agenda item or an item not on the agenda, please notify the Clerk to the Board via email at CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us
Commissioners may participate in the meeting by interactive technology.

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 September 23, 2025
 - 3.2 *Office Of The County Manager* - Scheduling Of 2026 Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority Meetings
4. **Regular Agenda**
 - 4.1 *Transportation* - Certification Of Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority Property Tax Levy And Adoption Of Budget For 2026
5. **Other Business/Staff Reports**
6. **Adjournment**
 - 6.1 Adjournment

For more information, call 651-438-4417
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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-5173

Agenda #: 2.1

Meeting Date: 12/16/2025

Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5174

Agenda #: 3.1

Meeting Date: 12/16/2025

Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on September 23, 2025



Dakota County

Regional Railroad Authority

Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 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 10:50 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 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

On a motion by Commissioner Workman, seconded by Commissioner Slavik, the agenda was approved unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Halverson, seconded by Commissioner Atkins, the consent agenda was approved unanimously.

3.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on August 26, 2025

On a motion by Commissioner Halverson, seconded by Commissioner Atkins, the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Regular Agenda

4.1 Resolution No: 25-005

Authorization To Release Draft 2026-2030 Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority Capital Improvement Program

Motion: William Droste

Second: Mike Slavik

County Engineer Erin Laberee briefed this item and responded to questions.

WHEREAS, the Dakota Regional Railroad Authority (Authority) plans for capital projects that fulfill the Authority's purpose to preserve and improve transitways and rail corridors; and

WHEREAS, the Authority desires input from local communities in developing its Capital Improvement Program (CIP); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the joint powers agreement between the Authority and Dakota County, Dakota County provides administrative services for the Authority, including development and management of the Authority's budget; and

WHEREAS, staff has compiled the draft 2026-2030 CIP; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 24-476 (September 24, 2024), the County Board also scheduled a public hearing for December 2, 2025, to receive comments on the Authority's 2026-2030 CIP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority hereby authorizes submission of the draft 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program summary to the cities and townships for formal review and comment prior to the public hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority hereby authorizes posting the draft 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program to the Dakota County website to allow review from interested parties as a means of receiving further input prior to the adoption of the Capital Improvement Program in December 2025.

Ayes: 7

4.2 Resolution No: 25-006
Certification Of 2026 Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority Maximum
Proposed Property Tax Levy

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: William Droste

County Engineer Erin Laberee briefed this item and responded to questions.

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (Authority) must certify a maximum proposed property tax levy for 2026 by September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Authority will maintain continued involvement and participation in eligible initiatives related to railroads and transitways; and

WHEREAS, the Authority considers capital projects planned during the next five years through the Authority's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2026 Authority capital and operating budgets based on the Dakota County 2040 Transportation Plan do not require additional property tax levy revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is projected to maintain sufficient fund balance for the proposed Draft 2026- 2030 Authority CIP; and

WHEREAS, future Authority capital project and operating costs may be funded by Dakota County Transportation Sales and Use Tax or Transportation Advancement Account when eligible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority hereby certifies a maximum proposed property tax levy of \$0 for taxes payable in 2026.

Ayes: 7

5. Other Business/Staff Reports

No other business or staff reports.

6. Adjournment

6.1 Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Slavik, seconded by Commissioner Halverson, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Droste
Secretary



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5188

Agenda #: 3.2

Meeting Date: 12/16/2025

DEPARTMENT: Office of the County Manager

FILE TYPE: Consent Action

TITLE

Scheduling Of 2026 Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority Meetings

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Schedule dates and locations of Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority Meetings for 2026.

SUMMARY

When scheduling 2026 meeting dates, the following is required:

The proposed 2026 levy must be adopted on or before September 30, 2025.

The 2026 levy and budget must be adopted before five working days after December 20, 2025 (by December 28, 2025).

All meetings of the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (Authority) are subject to the Open Meeting Law (Minn. Stat. § 13D) and open to the public. Prior to the beginning of a new year, the Authority adopts a schedule of regular meetings for the upcoming year. The schedule includes the location, date, and times of the meetings.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will occur on a Tuesday, in the Boardroom of the Dakota County Administration Center in Hastings, Minnesota. All meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m. or following the Dakota County Board of Commissioners meetings. The proposed 2026 schedule of regular meetings is:

January 6
March 24
April 22
May 19
July 21
August 26
September 22
December 15

During the year, the schedule can be amended by vote of the Authority.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends scheduling 2026 meetings as listed above.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority regular meetings are open to the public and subject to the Open Meeting Law (Minn. Stat. § 13D), which requires a schedule of regular meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (Authority) hereby adopts the following 2026 meeting schedule:

January 6
March 24
April 22
May 19
July 21
August 26
September 22
December 15
; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Authority meetings shall be scheduled at 9:30 a.m. (or following the County Board meeting) in the Boardroom, Administration Center, in Hastings, Minnesota; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this schedule can be amended throughout the year by vote of the Authority.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: None.

BOARD GOALS

- ☐ Thriving People ☐ A Healthy Environment with Quality Natural Resources
☐ A Successful Place for Business and Jobs ☒ Excellence in Public Service

CONTACT

Department Head: Heidi Welsch
Author: Jeni Reynolds



Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5028

Agenda #: 4.1

Meeting Date: 12/16/2025

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

FILE TYPE: Regular Action

TITLE

Certification Of Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority Property Tax Levy And Adoption Of Budget For 2026

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Certify the 2026 Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (Authority) Property Tax Levy and adopt the County Manager's Recommended 2026 Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

SUMMARY

In 1987, the Authority was formed under Minn. Stat. § 398A, which grants broad powers to the Authority to plan, acquire, construct, preserve, and operate transitways and railroads. The Authority annually develops a CIP to identify capital projects and plans consistent with the Authority's powers and purpose. The first year (2026) of the five-year CIP will become part of the Authority's overall 2026 budget when approved.

The County Manager's Recommended 2026-2030 Authority CIP and 2026 Budget include a total of \$2,750,000 in proposed projects (Attachment: Authority CIP). The County Manager's Recommended 2026 Authority Operating Budget totals \$62,857 (Attachment: 2026 Authority Budget). The Operating Budget includes County staff costs for Authority projects and programs.

Eligible Authority activities and projects will continue to be funded by Authority Fund Balance beyond 2030. Once the Authority Fund Balance is insufficient to fund Authority projects and activities, eligible projects may be funded by the Dakota County Transportation Sales and Use Tax (SUT) or Transportation Advancement Account (TAA). The Authority Fund Balance will be maintained at a level that is adequate to fund any ongoing Authority activities not eligible for Transportation SUT or TAA funds. With this approach, the Authority certified a maximum property tax levy of \$0 by Resolution No. 25-006 (September 23, 2025).

RECOMMENDATION

The County Manager recommends certification of a 2026 property tax levy of \$0, which is the same as the 2025 levy. The County Manager also recommends the adoption of the recommended 2026 Operating Budget and the Recommended 2026-2030 Authority CIP.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

The 2026 Regional Rail Levy is proposed to be \$0, which is the same as the 2025 levy.

☐ None ☐ Current budget ☒ Other

☐ Amendment Requested☐ New FTE(s) requested**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (Authority) is granted powers under Minn. Stat. § 398A to plan, acquire, construct, preserve, and operate transitways and railroads; and

WHEREAS, the Authority develops a five-year plan for capital projects consistent with Authority powers and priorities through the Authority's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager's Recommended 2026-2030 Authority CIP Budget identifies proposed projects to repair and replace railroad crossings of County Highways; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager's Recommended 2026 Authority Capital and Operating Budgets do not require additional funds from the 2026 property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, Authority capital project and operating costs may be funded by Authority Fund Balance until such time when the Authority Fund Balance reaches a level that can sustain Authority costs that are not eligible for use of Dakota County Transportation Sales and Use Tax or Transportation Advancement Account revenues; and

WHEREAS, a proposed maximum property tax levy of \$0 was certified by the Authority by Resolution No. 25-006 (September 23, 2025); and

WHEREAS, the County Manager's Recommended 2026 Authority Property Tax Levy of \$0 is the same as the 2025 levy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority hereby certifies to the Treasurer-Auditor the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority property tax levy in the amount of \$0 for taxes payable in 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority hereby adopts an Operating Budget of \$62,857; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority hereby adopts a 2026 Capital Improvement Program Budget of \$550,000.

PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION

25-006; 09/23/25

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Authority CIP

Attachment: Authority Budget

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	Estimate based on 12/31/24 FB and 2025 CIP				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.

Budget Planning Summary
2600001 - Regional Rail Admin
As of 2025-12-09

2600001 - Regional Rail Admin	
	2026 Adopted Budget
Expenditures	
CITIZEN/CLIENT RELATED SERVICE	0
DEPT/COUNTY SUPPORT	62,857
Total Expenditures	62,587
Funding Sources	
Other Financing Sources	(267,143)
Other Revenues	330,000
Total Revenues	62,857
Fund Balance (Final)	0





Regional Railroad Authority Certification of Property Tax Levy and Adoption of 2026 Budget and CIP

Erin Laberee

Transportation Director/County Engineer

December 16, 2025

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2026 Regional Railroad Authority CIP



Draft 2026 CIP

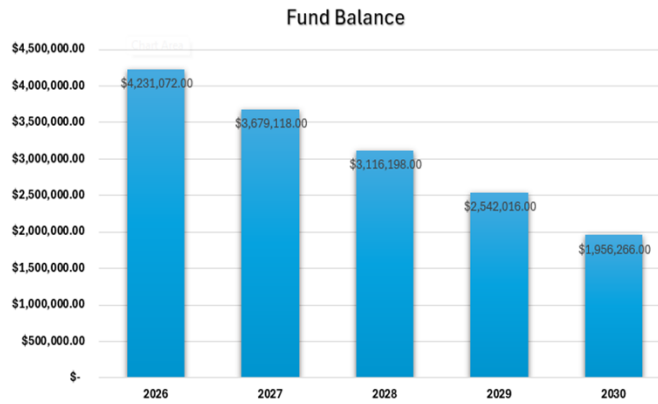
- At Grade Rail Crossing Improvements (\$550,000 per year)
- 2026 Recommended Operating Budget: \$62,857

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

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2026-2030 Estimated Fund Balance



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Staff Recommendation



- Certification of a Property Tax Levy of \$0
- Adoption of the 2026 Operating Budget
- Adoption of Recommended 2026-2029 CIP

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Regional Railroad Authority

Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-5175

Agenda #: 6.1

Meeting Date: 12/16/2025

Adjournment