
Transportation Committee Staff Report for Projects

Committee date: July 13, 2020

Staff recommendation	<i>Recommend approval of draft Planning Commission resolution</i>
Action item requested of the Committee	<i>Make recommendation on draft Planning Commission resolution</i>
Committee recommendation	<i>Approval of draft Planning Commission resolution</i>
Committee vote	<i>6-0</i>

Project Name: Rush Line Bus Rapid Transit – 15% Plans

Geographic Scope: Union Depot to White Bear Lake

Project Contact: Frank Alarcon, Ramsey County

Project Webpage: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transit/transit-corridors-studies/rush-line-brt-project>

15% Plans:

https://www.ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/Projects%20and%20Initiatives/15%25%20Plans_20200702.pdf

Project Description: Bus Rapid Transit with all-day, every 10-15 minute service in both directions, mostly in a dedicated guideway or dedicated lanes

Project Stage & General Timeline: 15 percent plans complete (now); Environmental Assessment published in Dec. 2020; Construction in 2024-2026; Open for service in 2026

Public Hearing Date & Location: August 5 at City Council (for resolution of support)

Cost & Primary Funding Source(s): tbd (likely \$400+ million), 50% federal and 50% Ramsey County

Transportation Committee Role:

- Inform project scope & approach Inform design Inform implementation
- Make recommendation

Explanation Make recommendation on a resolution of support for 15% plans to Planning Commission, who (along with Parks & Rec. Commission) will make a recommendation to the City Council. See draft PC resolution.

city of saint paul
planning commission resolution
file number _____
date _____

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RUSH LINE BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT 15 PERCENT PLANS
WITHIN THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL

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, the City of Saint Paul is pursuing design for the reconstruction of Robert Street between I-94 and the Mississippi River in 2024-2025, and its design may or may not accommodate dedicated bus lanes for the Rush Line project; 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 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 Planning Commission generally supports the 15 percent plans for the Rush Line BRT Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that future iterations of the Rush Line project's design for Robert Street should reflect the City's ultimate Robert Street reconstruction design; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning 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.

DRAFT