

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2014

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
DODGE COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY
MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF DODGE)**

**FAIRVIEW CARE CENTER
DODGE CENTER, MN**

2014-02 Meeting

The Dodge County Regional Railroad Authority met in special session August 19, 2014, at the Fairview Care Center, Dodge Center, MN, at 10:00 a.m. CDT. Chair Rodney Peterson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present and established that there was a quorum:

Those Present

Members present:	Rodney Peterson	District #3
	David Erickson	District #4
	Steven Gray	District #5
Members absent:	John Allen	District #1
	Tim Tjosaas	District #2
Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator

Motion by Gray seconded by Erickson to approve and adopt the agenda as presented. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Agenda Approved

Administrator Elmquist explained that the comment period for the Rochester-Twin Cities Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan & Tier 1 EIS is due by August 22, 2014 and asked if the county was interested in making an official statement for the record to include in the study. A draft memorandum was prepared for the Board's consideration.

Rochester-Twin
Cities Passenger
Rail Corridor
Investment Plan &
Tier 1 EIS
Discussion

Commissioner Gray stated his primary concern was with a comment that was made at a recent public discussion about the Zip project. The comment was that if no comment is received, it is a consideration of acquiescence to the project.

Commissioner Peterson stated that the comment on the study should be more about the congruency of the facts presented in the study and not just a simple statement indicating opposition.

Chair Peterson acknowledged Kathy King from Olmsted County who presented the Board with a letter indicating her feelings on the report which included concerns that a no build option was included in the study, a demonstrated need was not explained, ridership projections should be questioned along with a number of other concerns.

Mark Moenning of Hayfield explained his concerns about the project cost which did not include the no build option along with the future financing that legislators could have planned in the future.

Duane Alberts of Pine Island, but within Dodge County, discussed his concerns with the project regarding proper investment of tax payer's dollars.

Motion by Gray second by Erickson to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the proposed letter to MnDOT stating Dodge County's opposition to the Rochester-Twin Cities Passenger Rail Corridor Study. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

*Letter to MnDOT
Approved*

Motion by Erickson seconded by Gray to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m. CDT. *Motion adopted unanimously.*

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

RODNEY PETERSON
CHAIR, REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY

JIM ELMQUIST
CLERK

DATED: