

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Administrator Ron Johnson

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution in Opposition to Zip Rail

DATE: February 12, 2015

BACKGROUND

According to the MnDOT Zip-Rail project manager, the initial evaluation of potential corridors between Rochester and the Twin Cities for this potential high-speed passenger rail system identified about 1,200 possible combinations of routes. The Alternatives Analysis has now narrowed this initial field down to 8 end-to-end alternative corridors – 4 corridors north of Coates and 2 corridors south of Coates in addition to a No Build Alternative that will proceed through the next planning step. Cannon Falls has been identified as within or in proximity to one or more of these alternative corridors.

A brief overview of the project includes the following key features:

- The purpose of the project is to provide an alternative method of safe transportation between the Twin Cities and Rochester for the thousands of daily travelers and visitors. The number of daily travelers is expected to increase dramatically over the next 20 years due to growth in both the Twin Cities and Rochester areas.
- The project will maximize to the greatest extent practicable the use of existing highway and railway right-of-way.
- The project will minimize to the greatest extent practicable the requirement for additional right-of-way.
- A funding plan for the project will be developed as part of the Service Development Plan (SDP) that is being prepared concurrent with the Tier 1 EIS. The funding plan anticipates significant private sector participation.

The Cannon Falls City Council, on August 19, 2014 directed staff to request that MnDOT representatives provide documentation on how Zip Rail might benefit and/or negatively impact Cannon Falls should the project be constructed in or near the city of Cannon Falls. No response to the request was ever received. The Eastern/TH52 Corridor Alternative has the potential to be devastating to the community of Cannon Falls in many ways.

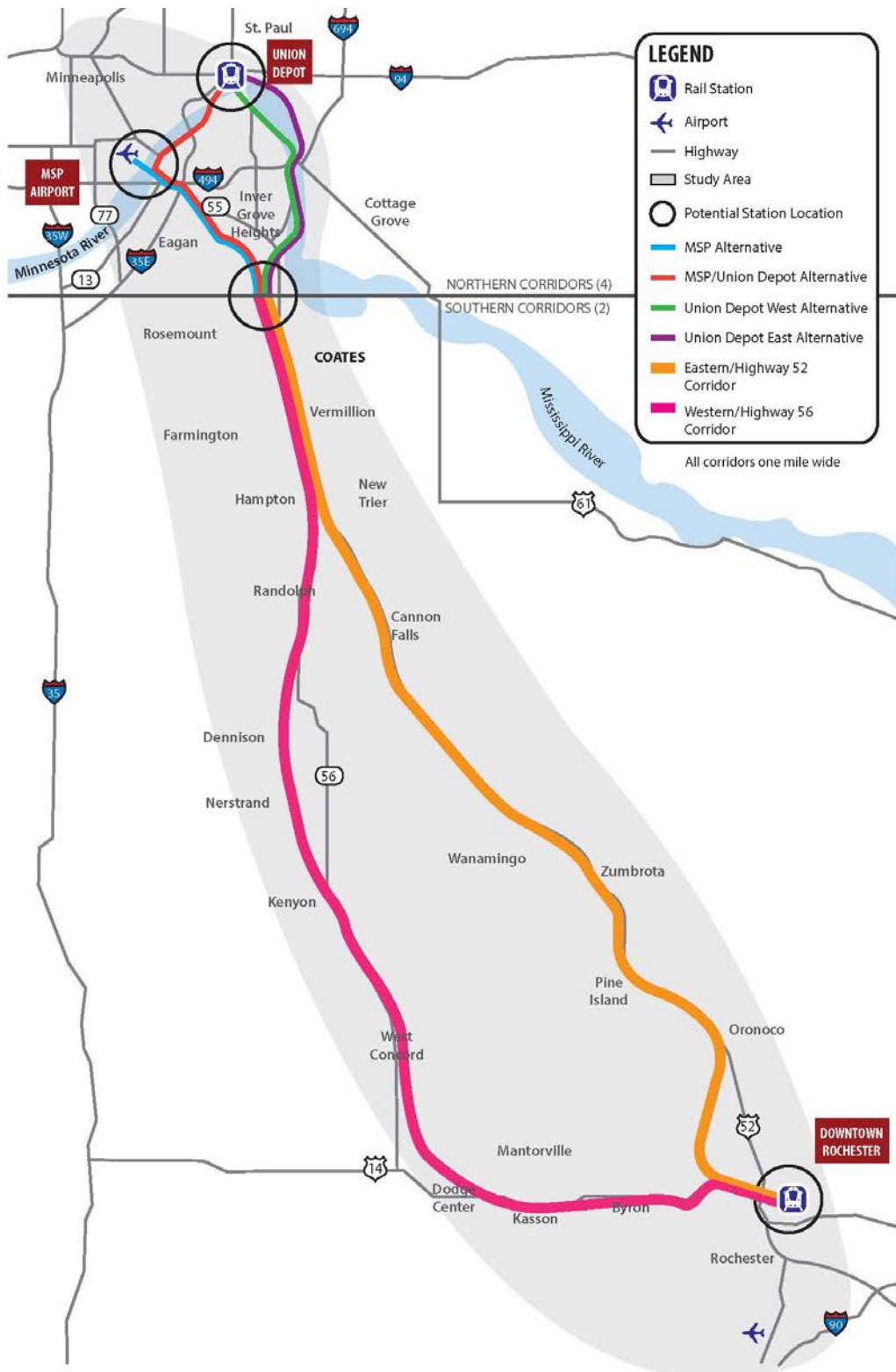
REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Adopt the resolution in opposition to the Zip Rail Line and any other new railroad line construction in or near the city of Cannon Falls.

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

Alternatives Recommended for Further Consideration in the Tier 1 EIS

January 2015



**CITY OF CANNON FALLS
GOODHUE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2120

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EASTERN/TH52 CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVE OF
THE ROCHESTER TO MINNEAPOLIS ZIP RAIL OPTION**

Whereas, the Cannon Falls City Council, on August 19, 2014 directed staff to request that MnDOT representatives provide documentation on how Zip Rail might benefit and/or negatively impact Cannon Falls should the project be constructed in or near the city of Cannon Falls; and

Whereas, in response to the question and concerns expressed by the city of Cannon Falls, MnDOT responded only that the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement and environmental review process will take into account whether a corridor would be within or in close proximity to Cannon Falls; and

Whereas, the Eastern/TH52 Corridor Alternative as identified by MnDOT has the potential to be devastating to the community and disruptive to the planning and development goals and interests of Cannon Falls.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF CANNON FALLS, MINNESOTA hereby expresses its opposition to this Zip Rail Line and any other new railroad line construction in or near the city of Cannon Falls.

Adopted by the Cannon Falls City Council on February 17, 2015.

CITY OF CANNON FALLS

By: _____
Lyman M. Robinson, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Ronald S. Johnson, City Administrator