



Request for Council Action

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Tim Murray, City Administrator
MEETING DATE: April 13, 2021
SUBJECT: Resolution 2021-075 Support for State Funding of Feasibility Study for Passenger Rail Service in Southern Minnesota

Background:

Bills introduced by Rep. Lippert of Northfield and Sen. Pappas this legislative session (HF 1393 & SF 2365) are requesting \$500,000 in funding to prepare a feasibility study and alternatives analysis of a passenger rail corridor connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul to Albert Lea on existing rail lines, passing through Faribault and Northfield.

The Council discussed this matter at their April 6, 2021 Work Session and was supportive of the State providing the requesting funding to complete this study. A resolution expressing this support has been prepared, and upon approval, will be forwarded to our elected officials in the State Legislature.

Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2021-075

Attachments:

- Resolution 2021-075
- HF 1393
- SF 2365

CITY OF FARIBAULT

RESOLUTION #2021-075

**SUPPORT FOR STATE FUNDING OF FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR PASSENGER RAIL
SERVICE IN SOUTHERN MINNESOTA**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) revised the Minnesota State Rail Plan in 2015 with the addition of a regional passenger rail corridor designation connecting South Central Minnesota to the Twin Cities on existing rail line through Faribault, and also identified the corridor as a top ranked Phase One Corridor in the Revised Rail Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Phase One designation of the South Central Minnesota Passenger Rail Corridor through Faribault makes the project eligible for immediate study and potential implementation; and

WHEREAS, Legislators have introduced bills (HF 1393 & SF 2365) to authorize the funds requested by MnDOT to continue implementation of Phase One Passenger Rail Projects including \$500,000 in general funds to complete a comprehensive planning study of the South Central Minnesota Passenger Rail Corridor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faribault City Council supports study of the South Central Regional Passenger Rail corridor and State authorization of the \$500,000 in general funds that MnDOT has requested to move the project forward.

Date Adopted: April 13, 2021

Faribault City Council

Kevin F. Voracek, Mayor

ATTEST:

Timothy C. Murray, City Administrator

This Document can be made available
in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 1393

02/22/2021 Authored by Lippert and Hausman
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to transportation; appropriating money for a passenger rail feasibility study
1.3 in southern Minnesota.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; NORTHFIELD CORRIDOR PASSENGER RAIL**
1.6 **FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

1.7 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
1.8 of transportation for a feasibility study and alternatives analysis of a passenger rail corridor
1.9 connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul to Albert Lea on existing rail line and passing through
1.10 Faribault and Northfield and auxiliary east-west passenger rail service connecting Mankato
1.11 and Winona on existing rail line and passing through Owatonna and Rochester.

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION**

S.F. No. 2365

(SENATE AUTHORS: PAPPAS)

DATE
04/06/2021

D-PG
1216

Introduction and first reading
Referred to Transportation Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

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