



RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DISTRICT

Board Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2023

Meeting Began At 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Ended At: 11:31 am

Members Present: Rick Vest, Roma Amundson, Brodey Weber, Matt Schulte, Justin Carlson

Members Absent: James Michael Bowers

Others Present: Roger Figard, Mary Lowe, Bill Kutilek, Kevin Nelson, Kris Humphrey

Call Meeting to Order; Notice of Public Meeting/Open Meetings Act

Rick Vest called the meeting to order. Vest stated that the RTSD is subject to and adheres to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and indicated that a copy of the Act is posted and available for inspection at the entrance of the meeting room.

Vest stated that the RTSD agenda and all the materials being considered at the meeting were posted on the RTSD website on November 28, 2023. The RTSD website is also accessible by links from both the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County official government sites. In addition, on November 29, 2023, the Meeting Agenda was posted on the City and County bulletin boards located in City Hall, first floor, 555 South 10th Street. Copies of the Meeting Agenda and all the materials being considered at the meeting are made available at the dais, and complete copies of the materials are on file and retained at the RTSD Office at 949 West Bond Street, Suite 200.

Order No. 23-35: Approval of Minutes

Amundson moved to accept the Minutes as provided.

Weber seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0, Carlson Abstained

Order No. 23-36: Report of Statement of Financial Activity

Kevin Nelson from the Lancaster County Budget and Fiscal Office delivered the report of financial activity for the RTSD. Nelson reviewed the receipts and disbursements for the current fiscal year through November 17, 2023. Total receipts for the period were \$3,105,415, comprising of tax receipts in the amount of \$2,708,000; and investment interest income for the period shown in the amount of \$397,415. During the period of the report, disbursements included: commissions, and refunds to State of Nebraska in the amount of \$53,367; operating costs in the amount of \$19,350; and construction project costs in the total amount of \$49,856; for total disbursements of \$122,573. For the period, the ending cash balance was \$351,818, and the ending investment balance was \$29,677,234 for a total fund balance of \$30,029,052.

Amundson moved to accept the Statement of Financial Activity.

Carlson seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Order No. 23-37: Report Regarding Current Budget Status

Figard updated the Board on the current budget and the RTSD's largest expenditure was its accounting and audit services, which have been completed for the last fiscal year. Figard reported the insurance premium quote is

exceeding the previously-anticipated budgeted amount and Figard reported that he has requested Unico to research and determine if this is the best quote available for the desired coverages. In addition, Figard reported that the Railroad made an emergency repair at West South Street west of Highway 77 near Coddington Ave. and installed a new crossing; and it is anticipated that the City may request some reimbursement from the RTSD for the barricading costs. Figard will review and update the list of construction projects for the next meeting.

Order No. 23-38: Report of Project and Crossing Updates

a. **33rd & Cornhusker Project:** Humphrey stated that the RTSD continues its coordination efforts on the Deadman's Run Project. The draft EA was submitted last week for official review to the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation and to the RTSD, and then the RTSD plans to submit it to Federal Highway Transportation by the end of the year. Humphrey is also watching for the Railroad Crossing Elimination grant application so that the RTSD can resubmit an application in 2024.

b. **SE Lincoln Quiet Zone:** Figard gave an update from the report that Felsburg, Holt & Ullevig (FHU) completed with an estimate for the costs and equipment to create the quiet zone along that the SE Lincoln corridor. The information was sent to the stakeholders, and BNSF responded with a request for more studies and additional work to be done for preemption studies at the signalized intersections. FHU and the RTSD requested a review and a ruling from Federal Rail Association to determine whether BNSF's request is valid. The RTSD is waiting for FRA's response.

c. **Misc./Other Railroad Work:** Figard reiterated that BNSF constructed a new crossing at West South Street and at 70th & Cornhusker Hwy. OPPD's Gates and Light signals at 56th and Old Cheney have had some intermittent delays due to damage to their signal cabinet stemming from a car accident, and those repairs have been completed. The City and the Railroad are in final discussions to potentially remove the two spur tracks on NW 12th Street.

Order No. 23-39: Report of Other Matters - None to Report

Order No. 23-40: Communications/Correspondence (Placed on File) - None to Report

Order No. 23-10: Non-Agenda Items Public Comment - No Comments

Amundson moved to adjourn the meeting
Carlson seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

Next meeting(s)

- 1. Tuesday, March 5, 2024**
- 2. Monday, June 3, 2024**
- 3. Tuesday, September 3, 2024**
- 4. Monday, December 2, 2024**

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Prepared by: Mary Lowe, Transportation and Utilities
Minutes 12-04-2023