

**County of Rock  
Public Works Department**

Highways  
Parks  
Airport



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**A G E N D A**

**Rail Transit Commission Meeting  
Thursday, July 15, 2010 – 5:15 p.m.  
Committee Chairs' Conference Room - Fourth Floor  
Rock County Courthouse-East  
51 South Main – Janesville, WI**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of December 17, 2009
4. Citizen Participation, Communications, and Announcements
5. Action Items
  - a. Consider Resolution Applying for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER II) Discretionary Grant for Freight Rail Improvements in Rock County
6. Adjournment

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGENDA NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Rail Transit Committee  
INITIATED BY

Rail Transit Committee  
SUBMITTED BY

Philip Boutwell



Phil Boutwell  
Assistant to the County Administrator  
DRAFTED BY

July 8, 2010  
DATE DRAFTED

**Application for Transportation Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER II) Discretionary Grant for Freight Rail Improvements in Rock County**

- 1 WHEREAS, Congress recently authorized \$600 million of ARRA funding under a grant program
- 2 known as TIGER II; and,
- 3
- 4 WHEREAS, the eligible projects must have a significant impact on the region and create jobs; and,
- 5
- 6 WHEREAS, local units of government, such as Rock County, may pre-apply for TIGER II Grant
- 7 funding for projects such as the "publicly owned" railroad infrastructure that include the rail lines
- 8 operated by Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Company; and,
- 9
- 10 WHEREAS, Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Company has approximately 33.2 miles of freight rail line
- 11 in need of significant rehabilitation in Rock County that would qualify for funding under the grant
- 12 program; and,
- 13
- 14 WHEREAS, Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Company requests Rock County assistance in pursuing
- 15 TIGER II grant funds; and,
- 16
- 17 WHEREAS, the first step is for Rock County to submit a pre-application on behalf of Wisconsin &
- 18 Southern Railroad Company that is due no later than July 26, 2010; and,
- 19
- 20 WHEREAS, should the United States DOT find merit in the pre-application, it will notify Rock County
- 21 to submit a formal application that is due by August 23, 2010.
- 22
- 23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
- 24 this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010, does hereby approve and authorize the submission of a TIGER II
- 25 Discretionary Grant pre-application and, if successful, the submission of a TIGER II Discretionary Grant
- 26 application.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rail Transit Committee**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Sweeney, Chair

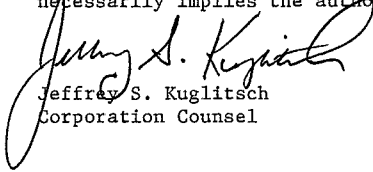
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Gustina

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Terry Thomas

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Discretionary Grant for Freight Rail Improvements in Rock County  
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LEGAL NOTE:

The authority to accept grant funds pursuant to sec. 59.52(19), Wis. Stats., necessarily implies the authority to make application for such funds.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch  
Corporation Counsel

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution only authorizes a pre-application for a discretionary grant and has no fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself. If the pre-application is successful a subsequent resolution would be presented to authorize an application for the grant funding.



Jeffrey A. Smith  
Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.



Craig Knutson  
County Administrator

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). A second round of TIGER funding was recently authorized by Congress - \$600 million in funds for this fiscal year.

These competitive grants can be used to fund capital investment in transportation infrastructure projects. The projects must have a significant impact on the nation, a region, or a metropolitan area – and must create jobs. Sixty percent of the funding will go to economically distressed areas.

TIGER grants tackle the kind of major transportation projects that have been difficult to build under other funding programs. US DOT will give priority to projects that are expected to quickly create and preserve jobs and stimulate rapid increases in economic activity – the kinds of projects that will help spur economic growth, reduce gridlock, provide safe, affordable and environmentally sustainable transportation choices and create jobs.

Primary selection criteria include contributing to the long-term economic competitiveness, improving the condition of existing transportation facilities and systems, improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the safety of U.S. transportation facilities and improving the quality of living and working environments of communities through increased transportation choices and connections.

The Wisconsin and Southern Railroad (WSOR) has packaged a multi-million dollar shovel-ready proposal that will create 200 local jobs over the next three years.

The physical presence of rails in Rock County, from the Janesville Yard to the Beloit Spur, represents future jobs. However, WSOR is running on track that is in need of being upgraded.