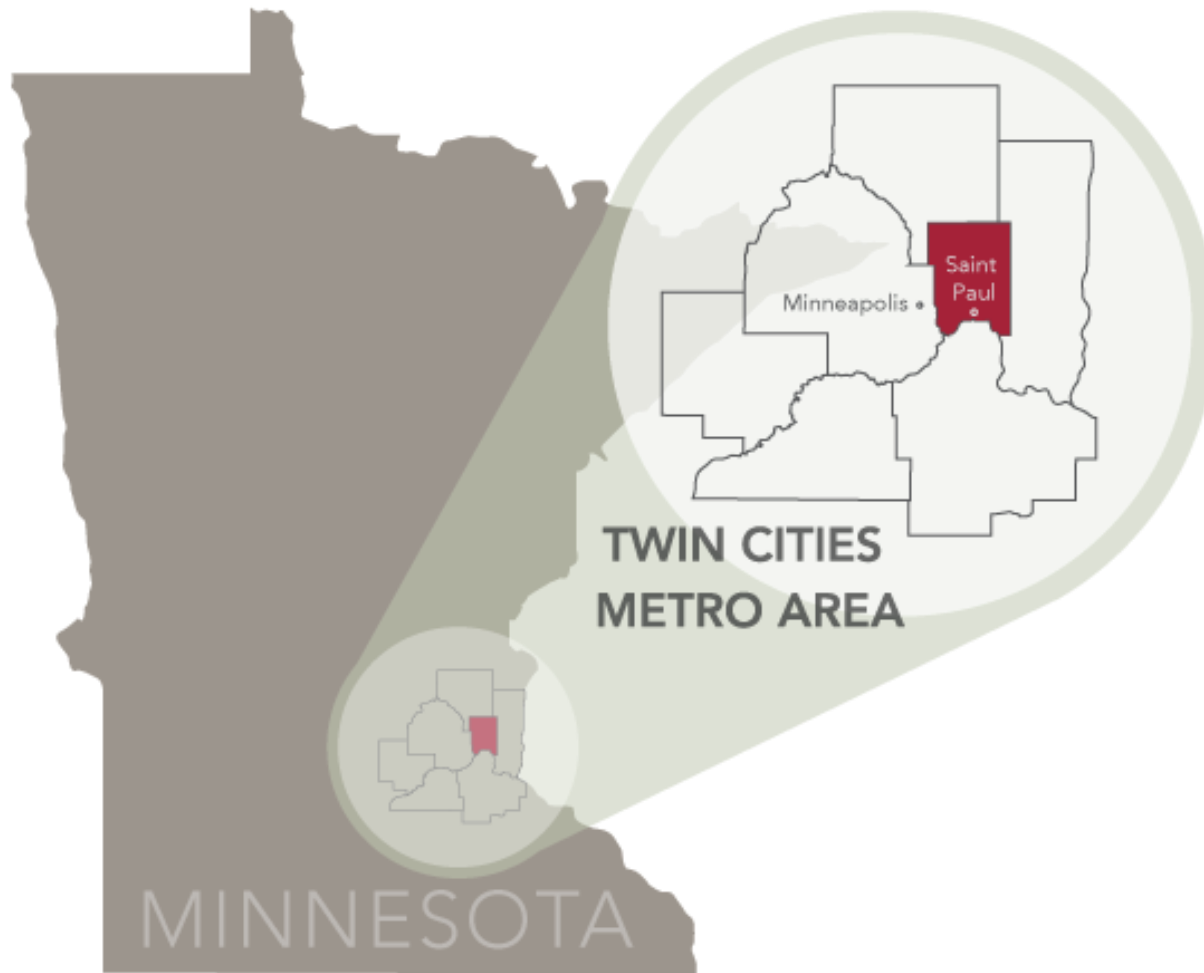




Ramsey County and Union Depot – Investment and Future





Ramsey County

- Twin Cities population 3.7 million.
- 550,000 residents and 330,600 jobs.
- 18 Cities and 1 Township.
- Most densely populated county in Minnesota.
- Smallest Minnesota County.
- Forecast to add 77,000 residents by 2030.



Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority

- Organized in 1987 under MN Statute 398A separate from Ramsey County.
- Broad powers include:
 - Railroad acquisition and operation.
 - Rail transit development.
 - Bus rapid transit development.
 - Property acquisition.
 - Property taxing authority.



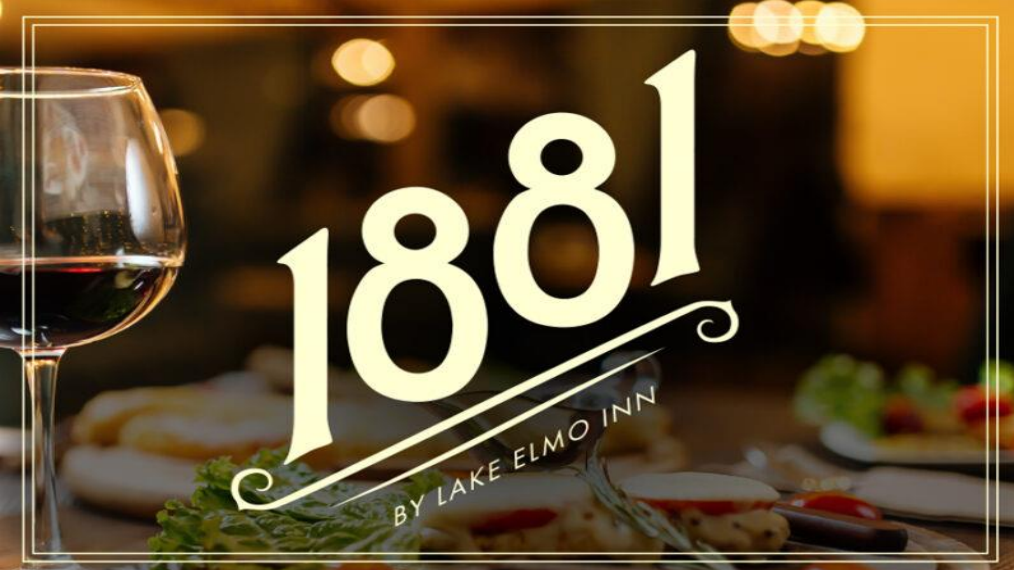
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority

- Transit and Passenger Rail Projects.
 - Green, Gold, Purple and Riverview.
 - East Metro Rail Capacity studies.
 - Union Depot.
 - Abandoned rail right-of-way.
 - Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago analysis.
- Advocacy.
 - Great River Rail Commission (est. 2009).
 - Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago trains.
 - Minnesota State Rail Plan.



Union Depot - History

- Completed in 1924 with 282 trains and 20,000 passengers daily at its peak.
- National Register of Historic Places.
- RCRRA assembled 33 Acre Property from 2005 to 2010.
- Reopened in 2012 as a multimodal transportation hub.
- \$243 million total cost.
 - Ramsey County ~\$105 million.
 - Federal (FHWA, FRA, FTA) ~\$124.3 million.
 - State Bonds ~\$13.7 million.



Union Depot - Uses

- Transportation.
 - Passenger Rail, Transit, Bike, Ped., Auto.
- Activities.
 - Fully Leased (Amtrak, 1881, Story Line Books, etc.).
 - 195 days of programming in 2022 with over 200,000 attendees.
 - European Christmas Market, CPKC Holiday Train and North Pole Express.
 - Train Days.
 - Doggie Depot.
- Home
 - 39 Private Condos.



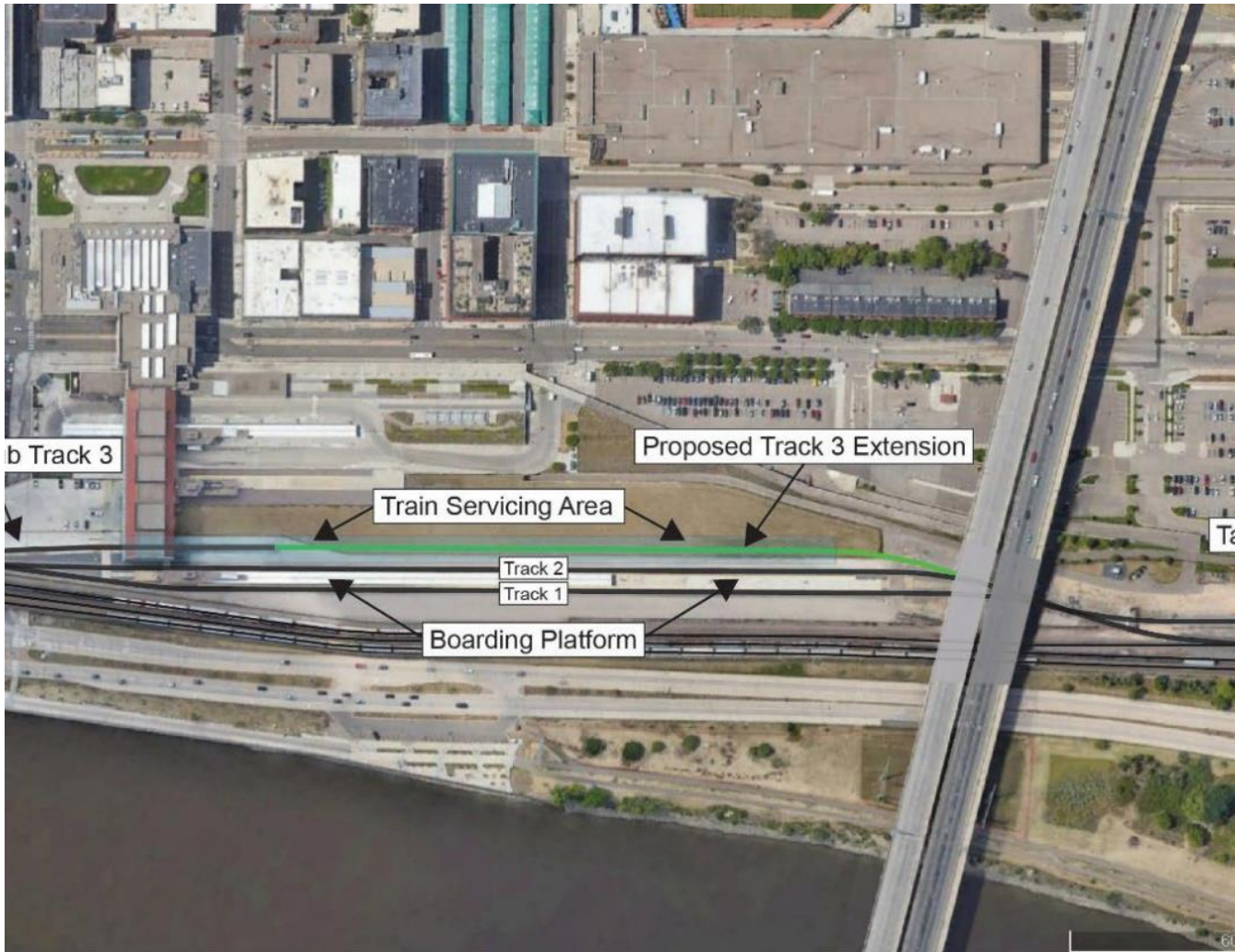
Amtrak's Borealis train ridership reaches 100K in five months

The St. Paul-Chicago route is exceeding projections.

By Tim Harlow
The Minnesota Star Tribune
OCTOBER 24, 2024 AT 2:58PM

Union Depot - Passenger Rail

- In 2014, Amtrak *Empire Builder* service returned to Union Depot.
- May 2024, Borealis service started.
- Future Service.
 - Eau Claire – Twin Cities.
 - Milwaukee, Madison, Eau Claire, Twin Cities.
 - TCMC (3rd train).
 - NLX.
 - North Coast Hiawatha.
 - Amtrak long-distance trains to Phoenix, San Antonio and Denver.



Union Depot - Looking Ahead

- Advocacy for continued investment in passenger and freight rail interests.
- Maintain Union Depot as a premier passenger rail station and transportation hub.
- Immediate Improvements.
 - \$6 million provided by Ramsey County and RCRRA for operational and capital maintenance costs.
- Short-term
 - Track 3 completion.
 - West Terminal Lead extension.



Union Depot - Looking Ahead

- Long-term
 - Tail Track connection to BNSF.
 - Freight network improvements that benefit passenger rail access to Union Depot.
- Funding
 - Withdrawal of support for Riverview provides an opportunity to reallocate \$730 million to other county transportation projects.
 - Transit.
 - Multimodal Improvements.
 - Railroad Improvements and Expansions.
 - Property Acquisition.
 - Transformative Infrastructure.



Importance of a Hub

- It is the destination.
 - Size Matters when you need to accommodate long-distance and regional passenger rail and all modes (ped, bike, transit, autos).
- Separate Track.
 - Operational Flexibility.
 - Improved Freight Relationships.
- More than a train station.
 - Inclusive gathering spot for the community.
 - Programmed Space.
- Financial.
 - Its more than capital and you must be prepared for the cost.



Thank You

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Programming

- Active programming of public and private events.
 - 195 total days of programming in 2022.
 - ~170,000+ over the holidays.
 - European Christmas Market.
 - CPKC Holiday Train.
 - North Pole Express.
 - ~15,000 for Train Days.
 - ~6,000 for Doggie Depot.