



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

Meeting Agenda Full Detail City Council Work Session

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

4:00 PM

Conference Room 2A

Special Worksession

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a Special Meeting/Worksession of the Grand Rapids City Council will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room 2A, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

CALL OF ROLL: On a call of roll, the following members were present:

Discussion Items

1. [15-1586](#) Review State Bonding Requests
Attachments: [Grand Rapids Prelim Cap Bud Book.pdf](#)
2. [15-1587](#) Review preliminary 2016 Levy, Tax Rate, and Tax Capacity.
3. [15-1588](#) Review Western Mesabi Mine Plan Board(WMMPB) legislative resolutions.
Attachments: [RESOLUTION Adjustment of Fiscal Disparities Formula.docx](#)
[RESOLUTION Distribution of Production Tax to Local Area.docx](#)
[RESOLUTION Highway and Railroad Transportation Improvements.docx](#)
[RESOLUTION Hill Annex Mine State Park.docx](#)
[RESOLUTION Mesabi Range Deep Drilling Program.docx](#)
[RESOLUTION UG Mine Mapping.docx](#)

ADJOURN

Attest: Kimberly Gibeau, City Clerk



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Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 15-1586 **Version:** 1 **Name:** 2016 State Bond Request
Type: Agenda Item **Status:** CC Worksession
File created: 9/1/2015 **In control:** City Council Work Session
On agenda: 9/8/2015 **Final action:**
Title: Review State Bonding Requests

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: [Grand Rapids Prelim Cap Bud Book.pdf](#)

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Review State Bonding Requests

Background Information:

In June the City Council passed a resolution authorizing the submittal of three State Bond Requests (see attached submittal). The priority was as follows: #1) Mississippi River Pedestrian Bridge; #2) Mississippi River Amphitheater; and #3) IRA Civic Center Improvements. Detail on each project is provided in the attachment. A final submittal to the State is due on October 16, 2015. Prior to the final submittal, staff felt it would be prudent to review each project with the Council and determine if the priority is correct and if all three projects should be submitted to the State.

It is important to note that the Arts & Culture Commission, at their September 1, 2015, regular meeting, unanimously passed a motion "to seek further community input and research on developing a performing arts venue along the Mississippi River".

Staff Recommendation:

City staff is recommending the review and discussion of proposed State Bond submittal.

Requested City Council Action

Discussion with no action.

City of Grand Rapids

Projects Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2016	2018	2020
Mississippi River Pedestrian Bridge	1	GO	\$ 750	\$ 0	\$ 0
Mississippi River Amphitheater	2	GO	\$ 1,500	\$ 0	\$ 0
Improvements to the Itasca Recreation Association Civic Center	3	GO	\$ 2,025	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Project Requests			\$ 4,275	\$ 0	\$ 0
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 4,275	\$ 0	\$ 0

Mississippi River Pedestrian Bridge

AT A GLANCE	
2016 Request Amount:	\$750
Priority Ranking:	1
Project Summary:	\$750,000 in state funds is requested to assist in the design and construction of the Mississippi River Pedestrian Bridge located in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Project Description

The proposed Mississippi River Pedestrian Bridge will provide a necessary alternate route to the TH 169 vehicle bridge for pedestrians and bicycles. The bridge will be located ¼ mile east of the US TH 169 bridge over the Mississippi River. With the good structural condition of both existing vehicular bridges and the limited right-of-way on both corridors, the potential to create a “complete street” with a safe pedestrian environment is non-existent. In addition, the bridge connects to the existing trail systems on each side of the river giving residents and visitors a safe way to access the City’s facilities and amenities on either side of the river. Support for this bridge was developed from the 2009 update of the City’s Riverfront Framework Plan. Securing 2016 state funding is critical in this year’s solicitation so that the funds may be leveraged against the already secured 2016 federal TE funds for the project.

Project Rationale

The City of Grand Rapids has been developing a comprehensive multi-use pedestrian trail network throughout the City for the past twelve years. The river and the bridges have become a barrier for pedestrians and the promotion of a healthy community. Within the city core there are two vehicular bridges that cross the Mississippi River, but both have narrow sidewalks and no room for bicycles to cross the river safely. The Comprehensive Complete Streets Plan for Grand Rapids, federally funded and prepared by MnDOT, recommends the City “provide alternative routes to provide safe and convenient river crossing for all modes of travel”. A “Complete street” design, with a safe pedestrian environment, was not a feasible option for MnDOT during the recent TH 169 reconstruction project because of limited public right-of-way, structural condition of the bridge, and high vehicle per day counts. The MnDOT Project Memorandum for the reconstruction of TH 169 from 1st Street to 10th Street stated that “the proposed cross section is not desirable for bicycles”. MnDOT justified not accommodating for bicycles by recommending a parallel city street be used as an alternate route. The alternate route does not account for crossing the river and requires a new bridge. Additionally, the City’s Comprehensive Plan recommends continuing to “Strive to become a Walkable City” and “Promote bicycling for commuters and recreational riders”. Without the Mississippi Riverfront Pedestrian Bridge, the ability for the City’s to reach many of its comprehensive goals is limited. It is critical to obtain funding in FY '16 so the \$296,696 in already secured federal TE funds are not forfeited.

Other Considerations

The Grand Rapids Mississippi Riverfront Pedestrian Bridge will connect people and the outdoors by creating a safe opportunity to experience the attractive natural features of the Grand Rapids Riverfront. The Pedestrian Bridge will connect to the existing City of Grand Rapids Trail System which includes over 60 miles of non-motorized access to pedestrians and bicyclists. From the City's Trail system, users can link to several other regional, state, and national trails. Grand Rapids serves as the western most gateway community to the regional Mesabi Trail. This trail, when completed, will traverse 132 miles and connect more than 25 communities. Additionally, MnDOT recently completed the local section of the Mississippi River Trail (MRT), the State's first US Bike Route. The MRT runs right through Grand Rapids providing avid cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts access to a host of recreational activities within the City. Hikers can connect to the North Country Trail (NCT) and gain access to the rugged, natural beauty of the longest National Scenic Trail in the nation. The NCT will be 4,600 miles long when complete and passes through 12 National Forests.

Impact on State Operating Subsidies

None.

Who will own the facility?

The City of Grand Rapids

Who will operate the facility?

The City of Grand Rapids

Who will use or occupy this space?

None.

Public Purpose

To provide a safe alternative for pedestrians to cross the Mississippi River in the absence of being able to utilize TH 169.

Description of Previous Appropriations

In 2010, under Chapter 189, Subdivision 7, paragraph (b), the City received \$900,000 for rail crossing safety improvements.

Project Contact Person

Julie Kennedy, P.E.
City Engineer
218-326-7625
jkennedy@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us

(\$ in thousands)

Mississippi River Pedestrian Bridge

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2016	FY 2018	FY 2020
State Funds Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$0	\$750	\$0	\$0
Funds Already Committed				
Federal Funds	\$0	\$297	\$0	\$0
City Funds	\$0	\$453	\$0	\$0
Pending Contributions				
TOTAL	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2016	FY 2018	FY 2020
Property Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Predesign Fees	\$0	\$10	\$0	\$0
Design Fees	\$0	\$108	\$0	\$0
Project Management	\$0	\$24	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$1,343	\$0	\$0
Relocation Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
One Percent for Art	\$0	\$15	\$0	\$0
Occupancy Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.	
M.S. 16B.335 (1a): Construction/Major Remodelling Review (by Legislature)	Yes
M.S. 16B.335(3): Predesign Review Required (by Dept. of Administration)	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	No
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	No
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	No
M.S. 16B.325(1): Sustainable Building Guidelines Met	N/A
M.S. 16B.325(2) and M.S. 16B.335(4): Energy Conservation Guidelines	
Do the project designs meet the guidelines?	N/A
Does the project demonstrate compliance with the standards?	N/A
M.S. 16A.695: Public Ownership Required	Yes
M.S. 16A.695(2): Use Agreement Required	Yes
M.S. 16A.695(4): Program Funding Review Required (by granting agency)	Yes
M.S. 16A.86 (4b): Matching Funds Required	Yes
M.S. 16A. 642: Project Cancellation in 2021	Yes
M.S. 174.93 Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Has the documentation been submitted to the legislature?	N/A
M.S. 16A.86 (6) Resolution of Support and Established Priorities	Yes

Mississippi River Amphitheater

AT A GLANCE

2016 Request Amount: \$1,500

Priority Ranking: 2

Project Summary: \$1,500,000 in state funds is requested to design and reconstruct a new amphitheater on the Mississippi River located at the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

Project Description

Mississippi River Amphitheater, relocated to the Forest History Center, a Minnesota Historical Society property, will replace the existing Showboat Landing which is in need of replacement and relocation due to the future expansion of manufacturing. The existing facility was originally established in 1955 bringing arts and entertainment regionally and statewide through the Mississippi Melody show. More recently, the facility has expanded into a music, arts, plays, and cultural events center.

The relocation of the amphitheater to the Forest History Center is a natural collaboration. For 37 years the center was known to the public as a "logging camp". Once visitors had experienced the exhibit, it was difficult to get them to return on a regular basis. In 2012, the center had reached a low point in attendance of 12,850. Recognizing a need to change and connect to the greater Grand Rapids community, the leadership of the center reconnected with the community by collaborating with artisians, clubs, and organizations to bring new exciting proگرامing to the Forest History Center. The "Into the Woods" program includes events such as Forest Jam, a musical event sponsored by a local bank, Oktoberfest, sponsored by the Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, and several educational classes on how to build wood ski's, make maple syrup, and fat tire races. As a result of this collaboration, attendance has grown to over 30,000 people in 2015.

There is a huge collaborative opportunity to expand the use and grow the value of the Forest History Center in Itasca County. By relocating the amphitheater to the center, attendance will continue to grow, appreciation and connection to the center will prosper, and the history of hosting arts &cultural events on the Mississippi River will continue.

Project Rationale

The existing amphitheater is beyond its useful life. There are structural deficiencies and the facility does not meet current ADA requirements. Technical production equipment needs to be replaced. In addition, the City's Comprehensive Plan has recommended, and the City has rezoned the property to Industrial to accomodate growth of an existing manufacturing facility. As a result, it is time to relocate the amphitheater.

Other Considerations

To the best of the City's knowledge, the existing Showboat Landing is the only facility that has a stage located on the waters of the entire Mississippi River, from the Headwaters at Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico. By rebuilding/relocating this facility to the Forest History Center, this tradition and experience can continue.

Impact on State Operating Subsidies

There will be no increase in operating budgets. This project replaces/relocates a facility that has exceed its useful life.

Who will own the facility?

The City of Grand Rapids will own the facility.

Who will operate the facility?

The Forest History Center, a Minnesota Historical Society facility, will operate the facility in collaboration with the City of Grand Rapids.

Who will use or occupy this space?

Public Purpose

The public purpose of this facility is to continue to provide access to arts & culture on the Mississippi River.

Description of Previous Appropriations

In 2010, under Chapter 189, Subdivision 7, paragraph (b), the City received \$900,000 for rail crossing safety improvements.

Project Contact Person

Tom Pagel
City Administration
218-326-7626
tpagel@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us

(\$ in thousands)

Mississippi River Amphitheater

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2016	FY 2018	FY 2020
State Funds Requested				
General Obligation Bonds	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0
Funds Already Committed				
Pending Contributions				
City Funds	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0
Non-Governmental Funds	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2016	FY 2018	FY 2020
Property Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Predesign Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Design Fees	\$0	\$400	\$0	\$0
Project Management	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$2,125	\$0	\$0
Relocation Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
One Percent for Art	\$0	\$30	\$0	\$0
Occupancy Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$0	\$345	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$0

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.	
M.S. 16B.335 (1a): Construction/Major Remodelling Review (by Legislature)	Yes
M.S. 16B.335(3): Predesign Review Required (by Dept. of Administration)	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	No
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	No
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	No
M.S. 16B.325(1): Sustainable Building Guidelines Met	N/A
M.S. 16B.325(2) and M.S. 16B.335(4): Energy Conservation Guidelines	
Do the project designs meet the guidelines?	N/A
Does the project demonstrate compliance with the standards?	N/A
M.S. 16A.695: Public Ownership Required	Yes
M.S. 16A.695(2): Use Agreement Required	Yes
M.S. 16A.695(4): Program Funding Review Required (by granting agency)	Yes
M.S. 16A.86 (4b): Matching Funds Required	Yes
M.S. 16A. 642: Project Cancellation in 2021	Yes
M.S. 174.93 Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Has the documentation been submitted to the legislature?	N/A
M.S. 16A.86 (6) Resolution of Support and Established Priorities	Yes

(\$ in thousands)

Improvements to the Itasca Recreation Association Civic Center

AT A GLANCE	
2016 Request Amount:	\$2,025
Priority Ranking:	3
Project Summary:	\$2,025,000 in state funds is requested to make improvements at the Itasca Recreation Association Civic Center. Projects include replacing a refrigeration system, replacing a dehumidification system, installing an elevator to make the facility ADA compliant, renovating the upper lobby, and constructing an addition to the east venue.

Project Description

In 2020 the production and importation of R-22 refrigerant in the U.S. will be halted due to its high ozone depleting potential. Knowing this, we had Stevens Engineering develop a plan to replace our existing R-22 refrigeration system in our West Rink, which was built in 1967. Their recommendation is to connect the West Rink floor to the ammonia-based refrigeration system in the East Rink which was built in 1995. Serving two rink floors from one common refrigeration system is the most efficient type of operation. This will require adding cooling capacity to the existing ammonia-based system and replacing the rink floor in the West Rink.

Our existing dehumidification system was installed in 1992 and is under-sized to perform the demands of year-round ice. At the time the system was installed, ice was only put in for two weeks during the summer. To add to the problem, the manufacturer has since gone out of business making parts extremely difficult to find and very expensive. As the trend in ice sports has moved towards skating year-round, a new dehumidification system is essential for the facility to remain viable during the summer months.

We have made great strides in improving the ADA accessibility in our facility over the past two years installing automated entrances and remodeling restrooms to meet current ADA standards. Unfortunately, having two-levels within the facility, a person confined to a wheelchair must currently go outside to move from one level to the other. The construction of an elevator would eliminate this inconvenience and make our entire facility ADA accessible.

In 1980 an addition was built onto the south end of the Civic Center to provide additional locker rooms and a large upper lobby that provided an enclosed viewing area and large concession stand. In 1995 a second sheet of ice was added to the facility which included a new lobby area and concession stand which now serves as the primary concessions for the facility. Remodeling the upper lobby would allow us to reduce the size of the old concession stand making the space marketable for larger meetings, banquets and receptions.

When the east venue was constructed in 1995, an enclosed viewing area and banquet facilities were cut from the project to meet budget. With hockey tournaments now accounting for a huge portion of our local tourism dollars during the winter months, we feel offering an improved overall experience

while at our facility is imperative. Offering an enclosed viewing area of our east rink and having banquet facilities to host events for visiting teams would ensure continued growth of our tournaments.

Project Rationale

The EPA's phase out of the refrigerant R-22 in the year 2020 has prompted us as well as many other ice arenas across the state to retrofit or replace their existing cooling systems. As we assessed this requirement we began to consider other needs in our aging facility. Our undersized dehumidification system cannot handle the demands of year-round ice and has become extremely difficult to find parts for as the manufacturer is no longer in business. An elevator would make our facility fully accessible as currently people in wheel chairs need to go outside to move from our upper lobby to our main floor. Renovating our upper lobby and constructing an addition to the east venue would add marketable banquet/meeting space as well as improve the viewing experience for those traveling to Grand Rapids for hockey tournaments.

Other Considerations

In February, 2015 the University of Minnesota Tourism Center completed a year-long economic impact study of the IRA Civic Center. The study estimated \$3.4 million in gross output of economic impact to the Itasca County economy on an annual basis from IRA Civic Center. Of the \$3.4 million, \$2.2 million is associated with visitor spending in the area while on day and overnight trips and \$1.2 million is associated with the annual operation of the Civic Center facility and its effects in the local economy.

Impact on State Operating Subsidies

The project will increase revenues within the Civic Center's enterprise fund budget while expenditures are expected to remain unchanged. No additional state operating dollars will be requested.

Who will own the facility?

City of Grand Rapids

Who will operate the facility?

City of Grand Rapids

Who will use or occupy this space?

The facility is used in an ice skating capacity by youth hockey organizations, figure skating clubs, private hockey groups, and private tournaments. It is also used by many private entities for trade shows, a variety of performances, receptions, banquets, and meetings.

Public Purpose

The facility hosts many non-profit gatherings, walks/runs, benefits, community health events, and serves as an emergency shelter for our our community. The facility also serves as the home to several school district activities including boys and girls high school hockey, graduation ceremony, dances, kindergarten round-up, and the college fair. It also serves as the emergency evacuation site for Grand Rapids High School and is also part of the Itasca County Emergency Management Plan.

Description of Previous Appropriations

In 2010, under Chapter 189, Subdivision 7, paragraph (b), the City received \$900,000 for rail crossing safety improvements.

Project Contact Person

Dale Anderson
Director of Parks and Recreation
218-326-2500
danderson@cityofgrandrapidsmn.com

City of Grand Rapids

Project Detail

(\$ in thousands)

Improvements to the Itasca Recreation Association Civic Center

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2016	FY 2018	FY 2020
<i>State Funds Requested</i>				
General Obligation Bonds	\$0	\$2,025	\$0	\$0
<i>Funds Already Committed</i>				
Other Funding	\$0	\$2,305	\$0	\$0
<i>Pending Contributions</i>				
TOTAL	\$0	\$4,330	\$0	\$0

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2016	FY 2018	FY 2020
Property Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Pre-design Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Design Fees	\$0	\$590	\$0	\$0
Project Management	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$0	\$3,208	\$0	\$0
Relocation Expenses	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
One Percent for Art	\$0	\$35	\$0	\$0
Occupancy Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$0	\$498	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$0	\$4,331	\$0	\$0

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.	
M.S. 16B.335 (1a): Construction/Major Remodelling Review (by Legislature)	Yes
M.S. 16B.335(3): Predesign Review Required (by Dept. of Administration)	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	No
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	No
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	No
M.S. 16B.325(1): Sustainable Building Guidelines Met	Unsure
M.S. 16B.325(2) and M.S. 16B.335(4): Energy Conservation Guidelines	
Do the project designs meet the guidelines?	Unsure
Does the project demonstrate compliance with the standards?	Unsure
M.S. 16A.695: Public Ownership Required	Yes
M.S. 16A.695(2): Use Agreement Required	No
M.S. 16A.695(4): Program Funding Review Required (by granting agency)	Yes
M.S. 16A.86 (4b): Matching Funds Required	Yes
M.S. 16A. 642: Project Cancellation in 2021	Yes
M.S. 174.93 Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Has the documentation been submitted to the legislature?	No
M.S. 16A.86 (6) Resolution of Support and Established Priorities	Yes



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Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 15-1587 **Version:** 1 **Name:** 2016 Budget Discussion
Type: Agenda Item **Status:** CC Worksession
File created: 9/1/2015 **In control:** City Council Work Session
On agenda: 9/8/2015 **Final action:**
Title: Review preliminary 2016 Levy, Tax Rate, and Tax Capacity.

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Review preliminary 2016 Levy, Tax Rate, and Tax Capacity.

Background Information:

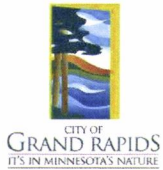
If the City has received the 2016 Tax Capacity and Fiscal Disparities numbers prior to the Council Work Session, staff will review the Preliminary 2016 Levy and Tax Rate with the City Council.

Staff Recommendation:

City staff is only recommending this discussion if the City has received the 2016 Tax Capacity and Fiscal Disparities numbers prior to the Council Work Session.

Requested City Council Action

Discussion only. No Council Action.



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: 15-1588 **Version:** 1 **Name:** WMMPB Resolutions
Type: Agenda Item **Status:** CC Worksession
File created: 9/1/2015 **In control:** City Council Work Session
On agenda: 9/8/2015 **Final action:**
Title: Review Western Mesabi Mine Plan Board(WMMPB) legislative resolutions.
Sponsors:
Indexes:
Code sections:
Attachments: [RESOLUTION Adjustment of Fiscal Disparities Formula.pdf](#)
[RESOLUTION Distribution of Production Tax to Local Area.pdf](#)
[RESOLUTION Highway and Railroad Transportation Improvements.pdf](#)
[RESOLUTION Hill Annex Mine State Park.pdf](#)
[RESOLUTION Mesabi Range Deep Drilling Program.pdf](#)
[RESOLUTION UG Mine Mapping.pdf](#)

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Review Western Mesabi Mine Plan Board(WMMPB) legislative resolutions.

Background Information:

The WMMPB has developed six resolutions supporting six different legislative issues for the upcoming 2016 session. The resolutions are attached.

Staff Recommendation:

City Staff and Council Member Zabinski are requesting that the Council review the resolutions and have a discussion on the resolutions.

Requested City Council Action

Discussion only. No Action.

Adjustment of Fiscal Disparities Formula

WHEREAS (name of city/township/county)... is a local government entity organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS the finances of cities along the taconite assistance area are under a tax formula referred to as the Iron Range Fiscal Disparities that adjusts and redistributes a significant portion of the growth in commercial and industrial property taxes among local government units in the taconite assistance area, taking money from some government units and giving it to other government units, and

WHEREAS the existing distribution formula for the taconite assistance area was developed in 1996 and is based upon 1995 property values and other assumptions which are now significantly different than when the present system was created and now needs adjustment because of changes in related indirect tax laws, which have created unpredictability of the tax capacity and tax revenues received on an annual basis, and

WHEREAS the current fiscal disparities system can result in substantial and unpredictable swings in taxes for local government units from year to year, with negative impact on the ability of local government units to plan their expenditures and levy taxes which in turn also negatively impacts the ability of local taxpayers to predict and plan their tax payments,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that(name)..... requests the Department of Revenue and the Minnesota state legislature to reconsider and revise the Iron Range fiscal disparities provisions in accordance with HF 1037 and SF 1011 which were introduced in the 2015 legislative session, to better reflect regional economic realities and to provide for better ability to plan budget and tax levies, thereby improving the stability and predictability of local government funding and improving fiscal conditions among many participating government entities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (name of city/township/county)..., by itself or through a joint powers entity such as the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board of which it is a member, would like to be informed and involved in the planning for such revisions to the Iron Range fiscal disparities program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of Revenue and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, with copies sent to each of the state legislators that represent the western Mesabi Range area.

Adopted: Date

Signed:

Distribution of Production Tax to Local Area

WHEREAS ... (name of city/township/county)... is a local government unit organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS the taxation ability of local government units along the Mesabi Iron Range is significantly restricted by state law that establishes special arrangements that apply to iron ore mining, especially the iron ore production tax, such funds being then redistributed by formula to local government units in lieu of some local property taxes, and

WHEREAS ... (name) ... believes that all local communities within the taconite assistance area should receive financial benefits from iron ore mining and processing, and

WHEREAS individual local government units are impacted by mining to differing degrees due to factors such as distance from current or past mining, it is reasonable to include some consideration of proportionality in production tax distribution based on factors such as the distance from active or past mining and the resulting impacts each local unit of government must deal with, and

WHEREAS bills HF 650 and SF 670 were introduced by local legislators in the 2015 state legislature which took into consideration factors such as those mentioned but such bills were not enacted into law during the legislative session,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ...(name).... requests that the laws of the State of Minnesota be adjusted in accordance with HF 650 and an amended SF 670 to conform with HF 650, so that the production tax distribution formula is clear that local government units that are closest to and most impacted by mining will receive the greatest tax benefit from mining production taxes but that every local government unit within the taconite assistance area will receive at least a defined and assured minimum annual benefit from iron mining production taxes collected, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that calculation and payment of such production tax distributable to local government units be levied and collected on iron from whatever source and in whatever form the iron is produced, be it from tailings, stockpiles, originally mined natural iron ore with or without processing, iron ore concentrates, iron ore pellets, or direct reduced iron, whether the iron unit be used in local production of downstream products or sent elsewhere for further processing, and that such calculation of tax payment take into account both the location of the origin of the iron as well as locations of processing facilities and related ancillary facilities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ...(name).... requests the Department of Revenue and the Minnesota state legislature to reconsider and revise the mining tax laws and rules and production tax allocation formulas so that the production tax is collected and distributed in accordance with the preceding principles, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ... (name of city/township/county)..., by itself or through a joint powers entity such as the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board of which it is a

member, would like to be informed and involved in the planning for such revisions to the statutes governing such production tax collection and distribution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of Revenue and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, with copies sent to each of the state legislators that represent the western Mesabi Range area.

Adopted: Date

Signed:

Highway and Railroad Transportation Improvements

WHEREAS(name of city/township/county)..... is a local government unit organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS ...(name)..... believes that transportation infrastructure, especially highways and railways, is vital for use by citizens, for economic health, and for public safety of ...(name).... and its neighbors, and

WHEREAS the portion of U.S. Highway 169 from Grand Rapids to Virginia, referred to as the Cross Range Expressway, is a major freight transportation route between Highways 53 and 2 and spans a major industrial area that produces more than 70% of all iron ore in the United States and is a critical part of the United States and state economy, is a major route for transportation of workers in the iron ore industry, their families and dependents, their suppliers, and their products, plus the people involved in numerous other industries and businesses in the region including timber and tourism, and

WHEREAS there is no reasonable alternative highway for freight or passengers that links the various interests and activities of this important region, and

WHEREAS part of this critical transportation route is still a 1950s two lane highway, only modestly upgraded, that represents a major restriction on regional traffic flow by confining and limiting economic/business activities and development as well as posing traffic safety hazards and concerns, with traffic counts having risen and expected to significantly continue to rise on this important traffic corridor, and

WHEREAS this only remaining two lane segment of U.S. Highway 169 has been studied multiple times and in fact had a formal EIS completed in 1989, which may require updating but which means that route alternatives have already been studied which would expedite moving toward significant improvement of the two lane portion of highway to four lanes with some simultaneous alignment and grade improvements, and

WHEREAS the Minnesota Department of Transportation has already selected 1.5 miles of this 9 mile length of two lane highway for upgrading to four lanes in 2016 as part of its Corridors of Commerce program, which includes interregional corridor and supplemental freight routes, and completing upgrade of the remaining 7.5 mile two lane portion of such highway would be a logical and significant improvement for both local and regional traffic and

WHEREAS railroads are another mode of transportation critical to the local area, region, and state, and

WHEREAS the western Mesabi area has two Class I railroads and one local railroad but these are limited to one shared track that limits competitive pricing and has physical limitations that substantially restrain full use of railroad transportation for transport of heavy loads such as coal, iron ore, and wood products, which leads to restriction of economic development and greater than desirable transportation of heavy loads on public highways with the costs and hazards thus posed to conventional automotive and over-the-road truck traffic when compared with rail haulage,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ...(name)..... strongly supports assignment of a high priority to transportation infrastructure improvements in the western Mesabi corridor from Cohasset to Keewatin, especially high priority upgrading of the remaining portion of U.S. Highway 169 from Taconite to Pengilly from two lanes to four lanes, including alignment and grade adjustments where needed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a study be done leading to maintaining and restoring full service on the Class I rail line from Grand Rapids to Keewatin to facilitate local economic development and remove heavy industrial traffic from Highway 169, including provisions improving access to competitive rail freight rates along the rail line from Grand Rapids to Kelly Lake, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the (name of city/township/county)..., by itself or through a joint powers entity such as the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board of which it is a member, would like to be involved as a cooperator or collaborator in the planning for highway and rail transportation improvements in the western Mesabi Range area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the (name of city/township/county)... would appreciate receiving from both the Commissioner of Transportation and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation a written response that describes and explains plans within their current department budgets regarding transportation improvements in the western Mesabi area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of Transportation and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, with copies to each of the elected United States congressional officials and state legislators that represent the western Mesabi Iron Range area.

Adopted: Date

Signed:

Hill Annex Mine State Park

WHEREAS(name of city/township/county)..... is a local government unit organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS(name)..... is actively involved in identifying, planning and encouraging development and use of local assets for the benefit of its citizens and the State of Minnesota in ways that preserve the availability of the iron ore resource, and

WHEREAS the local area has a strong iron mining heritage that has had a strong role in the local and state economy, in developing technology and providing resources that have benefited the local area, the state, the nation, and the world, and

WHEREAS it is important that citizens be educated about the important resources of their state, including iron ore, and that they understand the history, technology, culture, economic importance, and other aspects of this industry that has been and continues to be so important to the local area, the State, and the nation, and

WHEREAS Minnesota is unique in having several state parks featuring and educating people about different aspects of this iron mining heritage and resource, one of these being Hill Annex Mine State Park which is located in the immediate area, and

WHEREAS the Hill Annex Mine State Park has substantial infrastructure, buildings, historic, and natural features, some of which are one of a kind, and these features require maintenance, care, and attention so that they are in safe and proper condition to perform the educational mission of the state park system of which they are a part, and

WHEREAS the Hill Annex Mine State Park provides employment and has the potential to provide direct and indirect current and future economic benefits to the State and the local area, and

WHEREAS in recent years the park has been gradually falling into disrepair, has had very limited open days and hours, and may have been underpromoted, which together have resulted in lower visitor numbers and admission receipts, both of which trends, if continued, result in lower employment, lower economic benefits, and eventual loss of the state park as a viable attraction and unable to fulfill its goals, and

WHEREAS(name).....feels that preservation, maintenance, and improvements to the Hill Annex Mine State Park are important and may become even more important to the future of the State, the State's residents, and the local area,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that(name) ... strongly encourages the state and its relevant departments to make a strong policy statement regarding the value and benefits of the Hill Annex Mine State Park and encouraging realization of the full benefits offered by the Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (name)..... strongly encourages the 2015 Minnesota Legislature to appropriate and allocating adequate state funds specifically for the Hill Annex Mine State Park so that it can properly fill its important educational and economic role, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such funds for Hill Annex Mine State Park be used for operational, maintenance, and repair purposes including expeditiously developing a plan to identify specific actions to be taken so that the park can better fulfill its mission, such specific actions to include at a minimum improved marketing of the park, maintenance and repair funds to allow maintaining current facilities and existing buildings, capital funds for major renovations to existing buildings and possible extensions or additions to improve the visitor draw of the park, improved labeling and identification of important buildings and features of the park for their better understanding by park visitors, adding knowledgeable guides and other park personnel, extending days and hours of park operation, and establishing long term goals that lead to making the park more economically self supporting over a five year time period, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the (name of city/township/county)...., by itself or through a joint powers entity such as the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board of which it is a member, would like to be involved as a cooperator or collaborator in the planning for improvements for the future of the Hill Annex Mine State Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the (name of city/township/county)... would appreciate receiving from both the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation a written response that describes and explains plans within their current department budgets regarding the Hill Annex Mine State Park and an expression of DNR and IRRRB interest in improving the state park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, with copies to each of the state legislators that represent the western Mesabi Iron Range area.

Adopted: Date

Signed:

Mesabi Range Deep Drilling Program

WHEREAS.....(name of city/township/county)..... is a local government unit organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS for more than a century, iron ore mining has been and continues to be the economic pillar of Northeastern Minnesota but little technical information exists about the iron formation south of the immediate limits of the historic and current iron ore mines, and

WHEREAS ability to perform comprehensive long term plans and make good use of public funds for infrastructure, economic development and zoning plans, and other public purposes is best done using good information, including data about iron ore resources, development of which could significantly impact the type and location of infrastructure, municipal, county, state, and other development, especially with the advent of new mining and processing technologies and changes in the relative market value of minerals, and

WHEREAS northeastern Minnesota has technical professionals and several service providers capable of planning and performing the various steps and tasks involved in better defining the extent and nature of the iron ore resource in northeastern Minnesota, information about which would be useful for planning purposes, and

WHEREAS a limited deep drilling program originally planned in the 1960s was terminated prior to completion and there have been important developments since that time so that the need for long term information about the iron ore resource continues to exist, has increased, and is expected to further increase,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that (name of city/township/county)... strongly encourages the allocation and use of adequate state funds by the Department of Natural Resources Division of Lands and Minerals to plan and implement a substantial deep core drilling program south of the historic and current mining area along the Mesabi Iron Range, preferably with priority to the western portion of the Iron Range, including appropriate logging, analysis and testing of core produced by such a program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (name of city/township/county)..., by itself or through a joint powers entity such as the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board of which it is a member, would like to be involved as a cooperator or collaborator in the planning for such program and to be apprised of the results of such deep core drilling program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the (name of city/township/county)... would appreciate receiving from both the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation a written response that describes and explains plans within the current department budget regarding the requested deep drilling program or that will result in the department from recent legislative action or as a result of other planning, and an expression of DNR and IRRRB interest in arranging for and conducting such deep drilling program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, with copies to each of the state legislators that represent the western Mesabi Iron Range area.

Adopted: Date

Signed:

Completion of Legacy Underground Mine Mapping in the Western Mesabi Iron Range

WHEREAS (name of city/township/county)... is a local government unit organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS for more than a century, iron ore mining has been the economic pillar of Northeastern Minnesota, and this included underground mining using legacy technology that in some cases left underground voids, some of which have openings have projected to surface and some of which are still hidden underground and are not yet known, in areas that now impact planning for and use of land because of public safety concerns, and

WHEREAS technical personnel and technology have the ability to identify and map many of the legacy underground mine areas that could pose public safety hazards, the map products of which would reduce the likelihood of negative unintended consequences of current or future activities that could be prevented if potentially hazardous areas are better known, and

WHEREAS research and mapping of the central and eastern Mesabi Iron Range has already been completed and only the western Mesabi Range, from approximately Keewatin westward, which includes areas in which historic underground mining may have been more significant than generally realized and in places not yet known, remains for mapping of the locations of legacy underground iron ore mining, and

WHEREAS this is a one time project for which no annual operating funds exist and for which none are expected to be needed once the mapping of legacy underground mine workings is complete,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that (name of city/township/county)... strongly encourages the allocation and use of adequate state funds by either the Department of Natural Resources Division of Lands and Minerals or the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board to enable completion of the last stage of the Mesabi Range underground mine mapping project on the western Mesabi Iron Range, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (name of city/township/county)..., by itself or through a joint powers entity such as the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board of which it is a member, would like to be involved as a cooperator or collaborator in the planning for such program and to be apprised of the results of such program to map legacy underground mines, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the (name of city/township/county)... would appreciate receiving from both the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation a written response that explains any plans within the current department budget regarding the requested completion of the mapping of legacy underground mines on the western Mesabi Range, and an expression of interest in arranging for and conducting the last stage of such mapping project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Commissioner of Natural Resources and the Commissioner of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation, with copies sent to each of the state legislators that represent the western Mesabi Range area.

Adopted: Date

Signed: