

# 2011 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS



## Newport Transit Station

*Requested by: Washington County*

In 2010, the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority purchased the former "Knox Lumber" site in Newport for a future transit station. An environmental assessment, preliminary and final engineering, design, and site preparation work will begin in 2011 and construction in 2012.

The Park & Ride will build ridership within the Red Rock Corridor through initial express bus service to downtown St. Paul and Minneapolis. The RRCC supports the request for state bond funds towards the design and construction of the Newport Park & Ride.



## Red Rock Corridor Commuter Bus Service to Hastings and Newport

Completed in 2007, the RRCC's Alternatives Analysis Study recommended building ridership in the corridor by expanding bus service in the near term. Both the current construction of the new Highway 61 bridge in Hastings and upcoming reconstruction of the Lafayette Bridge in St. Paul will increase the need to ease traffic congestion in the Red Rock Corridor. The RRCC supports commuter bus service from Hastings to St. Paul and Minneapolis with a potential stop in Newport.

## High-Speed Passenger Rail from Chicago to the Twin Cities

In 2009, the Minnesota Department of Transportation completed a State Rail Plan that identified the "River Route," as a priority route for high-speed rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago. The route provides a three-for-one investment in high-speed rail, commuter rail, as well as freight. The route would allow the high-speed rail to share tracks with the Red Rock Corridor Rail from St. Paul to Hastings and a stop at the Union Depot in St. Paul. Improvements to the track would also benefit existing freight in the corridor. The RRCC supports state funding for planning, development and implementation of high-speed rail services along the River Route Corridor.



### RED ROCK CORRIDOR COMMISSION:

Washington County, Dakota County, Hennepin County, Ramsey County, St. Paul Park, Hastings, Denmark Township, Cottage Grove, Newport, St Paul, Minneapolis, Goodhue County, Prairie Island Indian Community, City of Red Wing, Canadian Pacific Railway



## **Union Depot in St. Paul**

*Requested by:*

*Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority*

The Union Depot will serve as a multi-modal transit and transportation hub which will create the opportunity for one investment to benefit multiple transportation corridors, including the Red Rock Corridor. The RRCC supports the request for state bonds to match federal funding available for right-of-way acquisition, design and construction work at the Union Depot.



## **Hoffman Junction/Interlocking Improvements**

As one of the major freight corridors in North America, the bottleneck at Hoffman Junction constricts the amount of passenger trains able to enter the Union Depot. Improving capacity is vital to the movement of people goods and services. With capacity improvements, high-speed rail, Red Rock Corridor commuter rail, and other passenger rail service can be added. The RRCC supports the request for state bonds to be allocated to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Hoffman Yard Interlocking Capacity Improvements.

## **Minneapolis Interchange**

*Requested by:*

*Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority*

Once fully developed, the Minneapolis Interchange will be a transit hub serving 22,000 commuters daily. As the Red Rock Corridor extends from Hastings through the Union Depot in St. Paul and terminating at the Minneapolis Interchange, the RRCC supports the request for state bonds to match federal-funding available for pre-design, design and construction work at the Minneapolis Interchange transit hub.

