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UNION DEPOT RENOVATION READY TO BEGIN

*Ramsey County, Mortenson Construction sign contract
as project reaches another key milestone
to bring high-speed rail to Saint Paul*

SAINT PAUL, Minn. ó The Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority today officially signed a contract with Mortenson Construction to allow work to begin on renovations to Saint Paul's historic Union Depot. The contract is another milestone in Minnesota's cooperative effort to bring high-speed rail to the region.

“After years of planning and countless meetings, plans to restore the Union Depot are finally coming to life,” said Susan G. Kratz, chair of the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce board of directors and an attorney at Moore, Costello & Hart, P.L.L.P. “One of Saint Paul's most historic landmarks is now ready to be revitalized.”

The renovations to Union Depot will transform the train station into a multimodal transportation hub with facilities for Amtrak, commuter, high-speed, light-rail and bus transit. These renovations will also bring new energy to Lowertown, encourage development in Saint Paul, and stimulate Minnesota's economy.

“The signing of this contract is a significant step toward turning Ramsey County's vision of a revitalized Union Depot multimodal transit hub from dream to reality,” said Commissioner Jim McDonough, chair of the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority. “All of us in Ramsey County are looking forward to working closely with Mortenson and our other project partners to bring this historic jewel back to its former glory.”

During the first phase of the project, the Mortenson team will finalize design work. Construction work on the site will be part of the next phase. The company plans to reuse as many existing building and infrastructure materials as possible. This includes the historic platform that served passengers for almost a century. After the renovations, the lengthy platform will have facilities to allow passengers to access high-speed, Amtrak, and commuter trains.

“We are honored to be part of the renovation of such an enduring public place for Saint Paul, Ramsey County and the State of Minnesota. We look forward to working with the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority on this very exciting project,” said Ken Sorensen, vice president and general manager of Mortenson’s Minneapolis operations. “The renovation of Saint Paul’s Union Depot is a big step forward for transportation in this region.”

The Union Depot renovations are a key part of the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s comprehensive statewide rail plan, which was released in December. This plan will expand Minnesota’s rail capabilities and redefine the state as a preeminent transportation hub. The Union Depot project and high-speed rail upgrades to the Mississippi River route from Chicago to the Twin Cities are highlighted in the plan as Tier 1 projects.

“The signing of this contract is the first step in the renovation of the Union Depot into the multimodal hub it is destined to be,” said Jerry Miller, mayor of Winona and chair of the Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission. “Once complete, the Union Depot will be a premier station on the federally designated Twin Cities to Chicago high-speed rail route, which will connect the Twin Cities, Red Wing, Winona and other River Route cities to Chicago, Madison, and Milwaukee with fast and efficient service.”

About On Board Midwest

On Board Midwest is a coalition of businesses, elected officials, organizations, and individuals who support the proposed high-speed rail line project connecting Saint Paul and Chicago. For more information please visit www.onboardmidwest.com.

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