

## Item 25-0278: Update of Funding for Capital Projects

Fox Cities Transit Commission

Tue, Mar 25, 2025 2:50PM

**George Dearborn (Chairman) 15:30**

We'll move on to the next item, which is a report on the funding for capital projects and Ron will explain that please.

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 15:40**

Thank you, Chair. So last month it was requested to give an update on our capital projects. So, we've had three substantial projects going on or ready to go on. The first was phase one of the Whitman Avenue project. That is substantially complete. We're going through punch list things right now, but it is substantially complete. That's what Deb reported too on her financial report. That was approximately \$7 million project. Came in within budget, so we're ready for that part.

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 16:12**

Phase two is a \$12 million grant that we were awarded last year. We were delayed a little bit in starting this project. There was a, I'll say, glitch at WisDOT, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, in their STIP process, or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program process. So, they had to file an amendment and get that back to the FTA which was done a couple weeks ago. Subsequently, Deb has entered the grant into the our system. It's sitting in the FTA office in Chicago, where it's under initial review in their database. I'm expecting within the next 30 days, that should be into the computer database and grant executed and ready to go and get ready to start on phase two. The architect and engineers are ready to start going on the design, but again, waiting for the funding to be secured. Any question on the Whitman Avenue projects?

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 17:20**

Then the other one is a huge project for us. Will be the replacement of our downtown Transit Center as a transit center/joint development, where we are negotiating with a private developer to put a multi-floor housing unit above the transit center. We currently remain in negotiations with the developer. I can tell you it's a substantial project. I can't get into too much more detail because we're in negotiations yet, but it will go a long way to creating a really nice facility in the downtown, allowing for additional housing units downtown, and creating a potential source of riders right in our facility and the downtown Appleton transit center.

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 18:03**

That was a \$25 million RAISE grant. That grant we've—we had to issue a—fill in paper grant agreement, send that back to the USDOT. That's been done, and it is now sitting in Transportation Secretary Duffy's office for review. The new administration has asked that all grants have been reviewed prior to being executed, so we're in the review process again. I don't expect any big problems with it be—we scored very well. It was a highly competitive grant. I just don't see any huge issues. There might be some questions coming back, but we're in a holding pattern, waiting for the administration to get through the mountain of materials they're going through. I have a belief that there's a legal team that's going through all the grants and reviewing them. So, we'll wait to hear from them, and hopefully it's soon and we can get moving on that project as well.

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 19:06**

I can tell you, we've been working feverishly with our developers. We meet at least weekly with a developer. They're moving forward with a lot of their part of the project. Quite frankly, they're spending money on their

end in good faith, anticipating that this grant is going to be available and we'll continue the project. So, stay tuned. We'll bring you more, but it's kind of a temporarily in a hold. So, but I just think that that's temporary. Any questions? Okay. Thank you.

**George Dearborn (Chairman)** 19:43

Sure. Thank you, Ron.