

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 14, 2021

Subject: Continuation of the Transit Policy Work Group and Appointment of Members

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Bylaws of the Metropolitan Council, art. III.C.

Staff Prepared/Presented: Charlie Zelle, Chair, 651-602-1390

Division/Department: Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve Chair Zelle's recommendation to:

1. Continue an internal Transit Policy Work Group through December 31, 2022.
2. Appoint the following members to serve on the work group: Deb Barber, Chair; Judy Johnson; Robert Lilligren; and Peter Lindstrom.

Background

The Metropolitan Council plays a critical role in regional transit planning and operations. In July 2019, the Transit Policy Work Group (TPWG) began meeting to discuss the Metropolitan Council's roles and responsibilities in regional transit policy.

Since its inception, the TPWG has met with Metropolitan Transportation Services and Metro Transit staff to receive presentations on and discuss several transit policy topics. These discussions include providing feedback to staff on various projects or initiatives as they are in progress. Example of topics discussed include:

- Service Allocation Study
- Network Next Bus Rapid Transit Plan
- Transit components of the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan 2020 Update
- Transit Funding
- Shared Mobility Strategies

The TPWG does not develop or discuss business items nor does the group make formal recommendations for Metropolitan Council action. Rather, the Council Members serving on the TPWG identify and articulate key policy questions and considerations to help guide Metropolitan Transportation Services' and Metro Transit's work.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council's roles and responsibilities pertaining to transit policy are multifaceted and span two Metropolitan Council divisions. The continuation of the Transit Policy Work Group will allow staff to gain a deeper understanding of Council Members' ideas and perspectives on transit policy matters while also providing Council Members with opportunities to delve more deeply into the policy implications of Metropolitan Transportation Services' and Metro Transit's work.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The TPWG provides a space to identify opportunities for advancing all five Thrive outcomes through the Metropolitan Council's transit roles and responsibilities. In doing so, the work group helps ensure that Thrive outcomes meaningfully guide transit policy decisions.

Funding

The Metropolitan Transportation Services and Metro Transit divisions provide staff support for the TPWG as part of their regular work.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the continuation of this work group.