

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, April 23, 2012

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair John Đoàn	Roxanne Smith Adam Duininck Jon Commers	James Brimeyer Jennifer Munt
Members Absent	Edward Reynoso		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	None present		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on April 23, 2012 at Metropolitan Council Chambers St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Đoàn to adopt the agenda for the April 23, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commers, seconded by Đoàn to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Lisa Johnson, Manager of Street Operations, presented the employee recognition to Transit Supervisor (Street Supervisor) Stephen Karanja who went above and beyond following an operator assault in February 2012. He was positioned nearby when he heard over the radio that a bus operator had been assaulted. He spotted the fleeing suspect and managed to track their location until the police could arrive and apprehend the suspect.

Brian Funk, Assistant Director of Field Operations, presented the employee recognition to Transit Control Center Assistant Manager Chad Loeffler who was key in our bus response to the Sabo Bridge failure in February. Chad responded to the Control Center and ensured that the bus bridge service was properly orchestrated and that roles were well defined for the supervisors involved. Chad is a natural leader who will take control of a situation while maintaining a good “esprit de corps” in difficult and stressful times.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit, reported the following:

Student Pass Program

Our transportation partnership with the Minneapolis Public School district will undergo a significant expansion this fall. The district will purchase about 2,600 Student Passes from us for the 2012-2013 school year. This is up from about 900 Student Passes today.

“*Transportation eligible*” students at five of the seven high schools will receive all-you-can-ride Go-To smart cards valid for travel from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. (**Transportation eligible* – students living more than 2 miles from school

and those students who live within two miles IF they receive free-or-reduced lunch.) The remaining two high schools (South and Southwest) will be added in the Fall of 2013.

In essence, the district is transferring these students from yellow school buses to Metro Transit. As a result, students will not only have a variety of transit trips to get to school, they also will be able to easily access other learning opportunities throughout our region, whether it be after-hours at school or at library, civic or cultural events or even jobs. To accommodate the demand, Metro Transit will be adding trips on existing routes and creating some new services.

For Metro Transit this means additional immediate ridership and the chance to develop a life-long appreciation among these young people of the benefits of public transportation. Students will receive instructions on how to effectively use buses and light-rail trains; they will learn from us transit etiquette, and they will sign a Code of Conduct – with consequences – to ensure good behavior. We certainly appreciate the partnership we have developed through the years with Minneapolis Public Schools. It is a win-win-win situation. A win for Metro Transit, a win for the district and – most importantly – a win for the students. Doan asked whether other school districts have shown interest in a similar program. Lamb responded that some of the special schools have expressed interest (i.e. Arts schools) and Metro Transit is having discussions with the St. Paul Public School district.

In response to a request from Brimeyer, Lamb stated that in the future Metro Transit will provide specific figures about how this program affects Metro Transit revenue and the school district's transportation expenses.

Earth Day

Governor Dayton promoted Metro Transit's Go Greener efforts in an article on his web site yesterday and also promoted it via Twitter. Earth Day is always a busy time for us, because we participate in dozens of community and workplace outreach events to talk to folks one-on-one about choosing transit.

Food from Fans

On April 15, Twins fans donated 280 pounds of food plus cash donations for Second Harvest Heartland food shelves. Fans were awarded a free roundtrip ride to the Twins game that day for their donation at either the 28th Avenue Light Rail Station or the Bus Route 679 at I-394 and County Road 73 Park-and-Ride Ramp.

Minnesota Wild Hockey Fans Ridership

The Minnesota Wild Hockey fans have increased their ridership numbers over the 2011 season to 12,324 rides. The "Wild Ride" partnership allows customers to take free rides two hours before face-off until two hours after a game ends by showing their game ticket. In exchange, Metro Transit receives marketing and advertising exposure from the team.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

MVST receipts reached 108.8% at the end of March, for the first 9 months of the year they were at 100.2%.

Bottineau Transitway. At a meeting today, the Bottineau Transitway PAC passed a resolution to recommend that BRT **not** be considered for further study. This recommendation will go to Hennepin County and has also been submitted to the FTA. The public hearing before the PAC on the locally preferred alternative (LPA) will be held on 5/10/12.

Transit Basics. In Robert Lilligren's absence, Ms. McCarthy reported that at the 4/18 TAB meeting Metro Transit Director Service Development John Levin presented on the bus system, the Transit Master Study, expansion and growth of the system, the Regional Service Improvement Plan (RSIP), public involvement, and capital facility expansion planning. MTS Senior Planner Cole Hiniker presented on transitway development, the definition of transitway, status and types of various transitways.

This presentation was the second in a series of three "Transit Basics" presentations that staff committed to present to the TAB. The third presentation will be about Transit Funding. Arlene McCarthy will provide copies of the presentations to the Transportation Committee.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

TAB Liaison Robert Lillgren was not present at this meeting.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

A motion was made by Commers, seconded by Duininck to approve items 2012-135, 2012-136 and 2012-137 as consent items. Motion passed unanimously.

2012-135: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request to reflect a change of scope and cost adjustment for City of Eagan SP#145-010-010: TH 149 Reconstruction from TH 55 to I-494 (TAB Action 32012-15)

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect a scope change and cost adjustment on Eagan SP#145-010-010: TH 149 reconstruction from TH 55 to I-494.

2012-136: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request to include 5 rail crossing safety projects (TAB Action 2012-16)

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#s: 13-00001, 27-00306, 27-00307, 62-00206, 62-00207: rail crossing safety projects to replace antiquated equipment.

2012-137: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request to increase the total cost for SP#138-010-018: TH 36 and English Street Interchange in Maplewood (TAB Action 2012-17)

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect a cost increase for Maplewood SP#138-010-018: TH 36 and English Street Interchange; and to include MnDOT SP#6211-90: TH 36 Reconstruction..

Non-Consent Items

2012-134: Central Corridor Transit Service Study Authorization for Public Hearings

Metro Transit Senior Transit Planner Scott Thompson presented this item.

Commers asked a question about what other resources are online for the public to review. Thompson answered that after the Concept Plan is approved on 5/14 it will be online for public input.

Munt stated that she has heard desire from the Como Area for improvements and asked if this plan will improve that area. Thompson stated that popular early comments to the study have been for improvements to Rte. 87 (weekend service, frequency, etc.) and that Rte. 87 should change for the better with this plan. Rtes. 2 & 3 remain the same.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes public hearings on the Central Corridor Transit Service Study Concept Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

1. Go-To System Overview

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Collection Tom Randall presented this item.

He reported on the benefits of the GoTo system, how the technology has advanced, the various components of the system, and the conveniences the GoTo system brings. This presentation was given in advance of business items that will be coming before the Transportation Committee for investments for pilot programs and upgrades to the system.

2. Light Rail Type I Overhaul Update

Metro Transit Manager Rail Vehicle Maintenance Gene Sheldon presented this item. Metro Transit LRV mechanics have received extensive training for performing the LRV overhaul work. Staff will review the lessons learned from this overhaul in preparation for the next overhaul of LRVs, scheduled for late 2015. Sheldon answered questions from committee members about the training that employees receive. Lamb stated that there will be a need for 46 more

mechanics for the Green Line. An upcoming presentation will address possible partnering with training programs and schools to try to prepare for the hiring of the mechanics.

3. Tour of Downtown St. Paul Central Corridor Operations and Maintenance Facility

Following a safety briefing from the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) contractor - PCL, the meeting attendees were given a tour of the OMF.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:20 p.m. April 23, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary