

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Monday, March 25, 2013

Committee Members Present: Adam Duininck, Chair Steve Elkins James Brimeyer
Roxanne Smith John Đoàn Jennifer Munt

Committee Members Absent: Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair Edward Reynoso
Jon Commers

TAB Liaison Present: Robert Lilligren

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Adam Duininck called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. March 25, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Đoàn to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2013 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

TAB :LIAISON REPORT – Robert Lilligren

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren reported that at its meeting in March, the TAB discussed 2013 Federal Program changes and the flexibility that MnDOT has for redistributing funds by the deadline of June 2013. The TAB also discussed the importance of aggressively managing the TIP in the future.

Regarding the redistribution of 2013 Federal Program funds, the TAB took the following action.

1. Add funds to existing, regionally selected, local federal aid projects.
2. The remaining approx. \$17.5+M be utilized by the counties on pavement preservation/ADA/safety; and
3. A county can bring forth additional existing federally eligible projects from the county share, including those projects within their county also receiving additional funds through this process, within the next few days.

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy added that a TIP amendment to add these projects will come before the Transportation Committee/Council in April.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Mark Benedict, Director of Rail Systems Maintenance, who presented the employee recognition to Kevin Jacobson, a member of the Metro Transit Traction Power Department, Rail Systems Maintenance team. Jacobson is being recognized for his work on March 7, 2013 when there was an interruption of power being detected on a section of Overhead Catenary System (OCS) that carries the 750 V DC that is used to power the traction motors of the light rail trains. Jacobson quickly assessed the situation to determine if it was safe to enter, established an electrical safe condition in the area by installing grounds on either side of the point of the OCS intrusion, assisted in preparing the area track to allow for trains to single track around the point of the OCS intrusion, and prepared the equipment to repair the OCS while awaiting the arrival of additional equipment and staff.

GENERAL MANAGER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

1. After six months, Language Line going strong.

The Transit Information Center reports that Language Line, a telephone interpretation service available through the Transit Information Center and Customer Relations, has been used more than 110 times since launching in August of last year. The service allows Transit Information Center and Customer Relations representatives to provide trip plans and information in languages other than English with the help of translators who speak 170 languages. More than 80 percent of translations to date have been in Spanish. Somali and Hmong have

made up about 13 percent of calls. Assistance has also been provided in Amharic, Oromo, Swahili, Tamil, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

2. Minneapolis Public School Student Pass Rides Surpass the One Million Mark

Through February, Minneapolis senior high school students using Go-To Student Passes have taken more than one million rides on Metro Transit buses and trains in just seven months. This is the expanded partnership between Minneapolis Public Schools and Metro Transit to provide students with transit passes for the 2012-2013 school year which began in August 2012.

3. Metro Transit Police Department Featured in Minnesota Police Journal Cover Story

The Winter 2013 edition of *Minnesota Police Journal* features a cover story about the Metro Transit Police Department, said article has been provided in Transportation Committee member mail slots. Written by Chief Harrington, the comprehensive three-page article also features photographs of several Metro Transit Police officers. This is a publication of The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MMPOA), which is the largest association representing police officers in Minnesota and its members include rank and file municipal police officers, county deputy sheriffs and peace officers employed by the State of Minnesota.

4. Nextrip Annunciators used nearly 3,000 times in February

According to the Technology Systems department, customers requested **NexTrip** real-time predicted departures in audio format 2,918 times in February. Particularly useful for blind and low-vision customers, the annunciator system, which is at 36 locations throughout the Twin Cities, features the push-button audio interface in addition to visual signs. The most popular locations are Mall of America Transit Center and Marquette Avenue and 7th Street. Union Depot is the most recent location to have had a **NexTrip** audio annunciator installed.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported the following:

1. Metro Mobility public forums.

Metro Mobility completed its yearly public forums last week. Forums were held at three locations. Thirty-three people attended and received information on certifications, ADA requirements, pick-up spots at specific locations, standing order procedures, etc.

2. MVST receipts

January MVST receipts were 110%; February receipts were 98.24%; State Fiscal Year receipts were 96.77%. 95% is budgeted, so revenues are slightly higher than budgeted revenue collections.

3. Regional Solicitation Evaluation

A joint Community Development/Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for 4/15/13 to discuss the Regional Solicitation Evaluation (RSE). Committee members will have an opportunity to provide input prior to this meeting, as has been explained in a previous email. This joint CD/Transp. Committee meeting will be a preparation for a policymaker workshop to be held on 5/06/13.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

2013-96: Approval of the award of a purchase order for Magnetic Transfer Tickets for GFI TriM Units Recommendation

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Smith that the Metropolitan Council approves the award of a purchase order for Magnetic Transfer Tickets for GFI TriM Units to Electronic Data Magnetics Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$263,560 for a three-year period.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Items

2013-98 SW: Authorization to Reject all Bids for the Construction of the Highway 610 & Noble Parkway Park and Ride Project 62115

Metro Transit Principle Engineer, Engineering & Facilities, Jim Harwood presented this item. Assistant Director Engineering & Facilities Pat Jones was also present to answer any questions. Smith asked for clarification of the timeline of rebidding the project, Harwood responded that the schedule is to rebid the project as soon as possible for a construction start date in July 2013 and a construction completion date in June 2014. Duinick asked how staff is communicating to bidders to ensure the DBE goal is reached during a rebidding process. Harwood responded that staff is working with the Office of Equal Opportunity to provide any additional outreach that may be required to interested contractors. Lamb added that the rejection is based on the low bidders failing to demonstrate good faith efforts to reach the proposed DBE goal.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Smith that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to reject all bids for the construction of the Highway 610 and Noble Parkway Park and Ride project in Brooklyn Park.

Motion carried.

2013-68: Approval of Northstar Commuter Rail Fares and Tokens Permanent Fare Change
 Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operating Officer-Rail, Ed Byers and Metro Transit Director Finance Ed Petrie presented this item and answered questions about the prevalence of token use around the country. Doan asked for the costs associated with using tokens vs go-to cards. Lamb explained that go-to cards were tried with some social service agencies (and will continue to try), but that some social service agencies often deal with one-time rides and prefer to use tokens. Lamb also said that the Northstar fare change will sync with upcoming fare structure recommendations.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Doan:

- 1) Approve the Fare Change for Northstar Commuter Rail as set forth in the table below, effective May 1, 2013

Northstar Fares	Weekday (Rush Hour)	Weekend (Non-Rush Hours)	
		Adults	Seniors (65+), Youth (6-12) and Medicare card holders. <i>Valid at all times for persons with disabilities.</i>
One-way fares to/from downtown Minneapolis	All customers except persons with disabilities	Adults	Seniors (65+), Youth (6-12) and Medicare card holders. <i>Valid at all times for persons with disabilities.</i>
Big Lake	\$6.00	\$5.25	\$1.75
Elk River	\$4.50	\$4.00	\$1.25
Ramsey	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$1.00
Anoka	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Coon Rapids-Riverdale	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Fridley	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$0.75
Station-to-Station	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$0.75

- 2) Approve the fare change where the \$1.00 value of a bus issued transfer towards Northstar fares will no longer apply effective May 1, 2013
- 3) Approve the Fare Change for Tokens where a single token will be valid for both local peak and off-peak fares for up to a value of \$2.25 with the token price set at \$1.75, effective May 1, 2013.

Motion carried.

2013-100 SW: Red Line BRT, Authorization to Increase Change Order Allowance
 Metro Transit Project Manager Claudius Toussaint presented this item. Brimeyer asked why the technologies and signs being implemented with the increased change order allowance were not in the original scope of work. Toussaint responded that the Red Line technologies and signs were not finalized at the time the walk-up station construction contract was executed.

Duininck asked for further clarification on the scope of work the increased change order allowance would cover. Toussaint responded that the work would include the purchase and installation of equipment for emergency telephones, public address systems and the physical fiber connections at the Cedar Grove transit station and Apple Valley transit station; as well as the fabrication and installation of wayfinding signs at the existing stations.

Đoàn asked for clarification on why the emergency telephones, public address system, wayfinding signs and network connection are needed at the existing stations. Metro Transit Assistant Director Engineering & Facilities Pat Jones and Toussaint responded that these items are needed for consistency, convenience and safety. Also, utilizing our existing contract will ensure compatible systems at both existing and new stations.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Smith that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to increase the Contract Price for contract number 12P179 for the construction of the Red Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) 140th and 147th Street Stations and cumulative amount of ;up to 10% of the original Contract Price.

Motion carried.

2013-104 SW: Establish METRO Red Line Station-to-Station BRT Service start date
Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Smith, that the Metropolitan Council establish the start date for revenue service on the METRO Red Line as Saturday, June 22, 2013.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Super Bus Phase 2
Jan Homan, Metro Transit Deputy COO Bus, introduced Laurie McGinnis - CTS, Will Northrop and David Kittleson – U of M who presented this item. This is a joint project, studying the bus needs and performance and the manufacturing of buses to certain specifications to optimize efficiency.
2. 2013 Minnesota Twins Promotions
Metro Transit Marketing Director Bruce Howard presented this item explaining the promotions planned for the 2013 Twins season.
3. 2013-105: Potential SouthWest Transit Double Decker Bus Procurement
Alex Curtiss, MTS Senior Project Administrator, presented this item. David Jacobson from SouthWest Transit was also present to answer questions from committee members. SouthWest Transit is considering one double-decker bus as a demonstration project.
4. Passenger Wi-Fi Update
David Hinrichs, Metro Council Chief Information Officer, presented this item. At this time the Council is moving forward with the Titan pilot project and implementation on Northstar line.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.