

# **Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 24, 2013

**Committee Members Present:**      **Adam Duinick, Chair**      **Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair**  
   **James Brimeyer**      **Jennifer Munt**      **Edward Reynoso**  
   **Roxanne Smith**      **Steve Elkins**      **Jon Commers**

**Committee Members Absent:**      **John Đoàn**

**TAB Liaison: Robert Lilligren –present**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Duinick called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. June 24, 2013.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

It was moved by Reynoso seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2013 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## **TAB LIAISON REPORT – Robert Lilligren**

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren reported that the TAB met on 6/19 and acted favorably on two TIP amendments that will come before the Transportation Committee on July 8, and received a presentation on the special solicitation for CMAQ funds.

## **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services and Metro Transit**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy introduced Metro Mobility Customer Services Manager Andy Streasick, who presented the recognition award to Metro Mobility Provider Liaison Greg Schuck for his work stepping in for others during a time of short staffing in the Customer Services group in Metro Mobility.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following supervisors/managers, who presented the recognition awards to their respective staff.

Senior Manager Small Starts Transitway Projects Charles Carlson presented the recognition award to Arterial Transitway Program Manager Katie Roth for her work on the Arterial BRT program and her leadership on the Tiger V grant applications and letters of support.

Metro Transit Asst. Dir. Light Rail Vehicle Maintenance Rick Carey presented the recognition award to Metro Transit Light Rail Helper Jim Johnson for his outstanding work cleaning the light rail vehicles and shop. Jim's work has been praised by fellow employees as well.

## **GENERAL MANAGER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported the following:

### **METRO Red Line Launch**

The METRO Red Line launch was held on Saturday June 21. Service began at 7:30 with a program at noon, attended by Chair Haigh and Council members Wulff, Chavez and Elkins. The Red Line will provide free rides through the end of the month.

### **Metro Mobility Service Center**

The deafblind community approached Metro Mobility earlier this year about the need for customers to be able to set up rides via e-mail. Metro Mobility staff worked with IS to build and test new e-mail accounts for each of

our providers to use for accepting reservations. Testing was successful, and reservations staff from each provider were trained on how to accept reservations via e-mail. Metro Mobility Service Center staff are now working with the deafblind community to educate customers on how to book rides via e-mail. The project is set to go live on July 1, 2013. While Metro Mobility is not advertising the project outside of the deafblind community at this time, any customer who becomes aware of e-mail booking or requests e-mail booking is free to participate.

#### SouthWest Transit Double-Decker Bus follow-up

SouthWest Transit has been in discussions with the double-decker bus manufacturer and has decided not to pursue purchase of the double-decker at this time due to mechanical problems.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

#### Weekend Weather and Metro Transit Service

Metro Transit was very focused on providing service during power outages and detours due to outages and fallen trees. Resident comments were favorable regarding the efforts to provide service.

#### Transit Police Awards

On Friday, the Metro Transit Police Department honored 21 of its officers as well as others who assisted the department at its 16<sup>th</sup> annual Awards Ceremony. Councilmember Wendy Wulff and I were in attendance as the awards were presented by Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington. Metro Transit Police Officer Adam Marvin was named the 2012 Police Officer of the Year for his proactive approach to policing, leadership skills, attention to detail and positive interactions with the public. Officer Marty Williams earned the Timothy Bowe Memorial Award, which is given to a part-time Metro Transit Police officer who displays exceptional professionalism and dedication.

#### Go-To Phone Application Use Highest Ever

The Transit Information Center reports that customers used the Go-To Card application on the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) phone system 16,822 times in May – the highest monthly total ever. Through May, customers have used the application to check their card balance, add value, check auto reload status, or report their card lost or stolen 75,465 times – an increase of 19 percent over the same period last year.

Here are some other Go-To “fun facts” from the first quarter of this year:

- More than 53 percent of fare transactions have been with Go-To Cards
- More than \$5 million of Go-To fare value was purchased/added each month
- metrotransit.org is the most popular method for customers to buy/refill Go-To Cards
- There are more than 136,000 individual Go-To Cards currently in circulation
- Customers are taking about 600,000 more rides per month with Go-To Cards than just two years ago

#### Partnership Promotes Northstar Bicycle Connections

On Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Metro Transit and the Bicycle Alliance of MN promoted connecting bicycle and transit trips as 140 bike-n-riders boarded Northstar trains and headed north to Big Lake. From there, the group pedaled back to the Twin Cities on a 41-mile ride along the Mississippi River Trail, stopping along the way to patronize area businesses and enjoy regional parks.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items**

There were no consent items at this meeting.

### **Non-Consent Items**

2013-180: Authorization to Acquire Property for I-94 and Manning Avenue Park-and-Ride, Woodbury  
Metro Transit Facilities Planning Manager E & F Maurice Roers presented this item.

Roers answered yes to Smith’s question whether the existing P&R lots in Woodbury will still operate. Roers also responded to a question from Schreiber as to how the size of this proposed P&R compares to others. This P&R is 300-500 spaces in order to accommodate high capacity service and is comparable to others.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Commers that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and purchase, at up to the appraised value, a 9.18 acre property from a private owner for a park-and-ride facility located at 11736 Hudson Road, Woodbury. That, in the event the negotiations are not successful, the Metropolitan Council also authorize the Regional Administrator to initiate condemnation proceedings on that property.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2013-182 SW: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Central Station Vertical Circulation Contract Metro Transit CCLRT Project Director Rich Rovang and Project Manager Special Projects Alicia Vap presented this item.

Brimeyer asked for clarification on the 2<sup>nd</sup> bullet exempting the anticipated change order from the 5% change order authority. Commers asked if there will be monitoring of the usage of the vertical facility. Rovang said there will be a before and after study which may address this.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Smith:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, PCL Construction Services, Inc., for the Central Station Vertical Circulation Project at a cost of \$1,769,620.
- Exempt the anticipated change order, funded by the City of St. Paul, for inclusion of public art in the project from the 5% delegated change order authority.

Motion passed.

2013-183: Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) #22 with the City of Minneapolis

Metro Transit Director Transit Syst. Design & Construction Dan Soler presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) #22 in an amount not to exceed \$425,000 under the existing Master Funding Agreement to reimburse the City of Minneapolis for the installation of isolation couplers and a new valve for stray current protection on the watermain at the intersection of Ontario Street Southeast and Washington Avenue Southeast.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2013-184: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Authorization to Purchase a Hirail Wheel Loader Metro Transit Dir. Rail Systems Maint. Mark Benedict presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Smith, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Purchase Order for a Caterpillar 924K Wheel Loader with hirail and accessory attachments under a Cooperative Procurement Venture (CPV) with the State of Minnesota in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Quarterly Update

Metro Transit Senior Manager Small Starts Transitway Projects Charles Carlson and Arterial Transitway Program Manager Katie Roth presented this item focusing on Snelling/Ford Parkway ABRT and including studies, outreach, vehicle design, naming and branding. Council members asked for an explanation of the differences between Highway and Arterial BRT. Munt noted that the name "Rapid" is nationally recognized, but the System Policy Oversight Committee (SPOC) recommended the name Rapid not be

pursued. The Arterial Transitways should quickly become known by their letter names: i.e., "A", "B", "C", etc once they are in service.

2. Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan (RALF) Program Evaluation Draft Report  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Systems Planning Connie Kozlak accompanied Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Ann Braden who presented this item. This is an information item which presents the recommendations for changes in the RALF program, prior to action at a July Transportation Committee meeting. The committee discussed the recommendations at length and had differing opinions whether to reinstate the RALF program prior to finalizing further analysis and decisions regarding transit and TOD. The committee decided to proceed with an action item for the Transportation Committee/Council to lift the moratorium on the RALF program recognizing that the modified program will only allow acquisition of parcels to avoid imminent development and hardship situations. Additionally, the Council will consider and act on all applications individually.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.