Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Monday, October 14, 2013

Committee Members Present: Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair

Jon CommersJennifer MuntJames BrimeyerKatie RodriguezSteve ElkinsEdward Reynoso

Committee Members Absent: Adam Duininck, Chair

TAB Liaison: Robert Lilligren – not present at meeting

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Vice Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2013 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Munt to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2013 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

There was no TAB Liaison report at this meeting.

DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

 Today, Metropolitan Council member Wulff, Dakota County Commissioner Kathleen Gaylord and MVTA Chair Gary Hansen represented their organizations in receiving a management innovation award from MPTA for their collective efforts in launching the METRO Red Line BRT on Cedar Avenue.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

- 1. Metro Transit is recognizing the following professionals: Silas Sharp, 50-year Metro Transit employee, and Tony Taylor, operator of the year.
- 2. This week Metro Transit passed its 3,000 mark on subscribers to the auto reload feature on Metro Transit fare cards; the auto reload feature has been in operation for 1 ½ years.
- 3. Ridership continues to grow; 68,000 more riders than September 2012. There are some pluses and minuses. U of M ridership is down from last year. This could be due to Washington Avenue construction and should pick up once the Washington Avenue construction is complete.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

A motion was made by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.



2013-273: Authorization to Lease MCI Buses to St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to lease two 2001 model year MCI coach buses to St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission.

2013-275: Approval of Amendment to the 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to allow reallocation of \$195,000 from Staff salaries and other consultant items to the Regional Solicitation Evaluation Study.

2013-285: Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement with the University of Minnesota Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement with the University of Minnesota for up to \$625,000 for the purchase of one 30' Gillig Hybrid Bus.

2013-287: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for TH 149 and TH 55 in Eagan

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify the scopes of the TH 149 project (SP#195-010-010) and the TH 55 project (SP#195-010-011) and change the budget for TH 149 project to a total cost of \$2,361,000 with \$1,888,800 of federal funds and \$472,200 of local funds.

2013-288: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for Bridge No. 9 over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify the scope for Bridge No. 9 over the Mississippi River (SP#141-090-038) to Pier 3 concrete repair and installation of full height concrete encasement and also increase the local funding amount and total project cost by \$20,000 to a total of \$1,320,000.

Non-Consent Items

2013-286 SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Project Scope and Budget Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. SWLRT Dir. Design & Engineering Jim Alexander and SWLRT Project Director Chris Weyer were also present to answer any questions if needed. Fuhrmann updated the committee on the project scope and proposed recommendation, project budget recommendation and project schedule. Members of the public were given an opportunity to speak, fifteen people testified. Chair Schreiber thanked them for their testimony indicating that the Committee appreciated hearing from them all.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins to recommend the proposed action: That the Metropolitan Council:

- (1) adopt the attached Resolution to direct the Southwest LRT Project Office (SPO) to proceed with Project Development;
- (2) prepare and submit Municipal Consent Plans on the Southwest LRT (SWLRT) Project to Hennepin County and the five host cities, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park with, among other features, 14.5 mile light rail transit line extension of the Green Line, 15 new LRT stations, a shallow LRT tunnel through the Kenilworth Corridor, an Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) in Hopkins and a western terminus at Southwest station in Eden Prairie; and
- (3) hold a joint public hearing with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority on the plans on November 19, 2013.

Commers offered an amendment to the motion (below) to direct Project Office staff to work with the City of Minneapolis to further investigate technical issues related to the Kenilworth Corridor and to forward the item to the full Council without a recommendation, which was seconded by Brimeyer.



Commers stated that the amended motion is proposed in order to retain space for constructive dialog with the City. Chavez asked if the motion is intended to result in more studies being conducted or to further the conversation. Brimeyer stated that the intent is to continue the conversation with the City. Elkins stated that if the amendment passes here at the Transportation Committee, it is imperative that the Metropolitan Council acts on Wednesday 10/16 in order for the project to stay on schedule. Committee members noted the need to begin the municipal consent process with the cities and Hennepin County. Following the discussion, the amended motion was accepted by Munt and a vote was taken.

Amended motion:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- (1) adopt the attached Resolution to direct the Southwest LRT Project Office (SPO) to proceed with Project Development;
- (2) prepare and submit Municipal Consent Plans on the Southwest LRT (SWLRT) Project to Hennepin County and the five host cities, Eden Prairie, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park with, among other features, 14.5 mile light rail transit line extension of the Green Line, 15 new LRT stations, a shallow tunnel through the Kenilworth Corridor, an Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) in Hopkins and a western terminus at Southwest station in Eden Prairie;
- (3) hold a joint public hearing with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority on the plans on November 19, 2013; and
- (4) <u>direct Project Office staff to work with the City of Minneapolis to further investigate technical issues related</u> to the Kenilworth Corridor.

Forward to the full Council without recommendation.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

There were no information items presented at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

