

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

Monday, September 9, 2013

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

**Committee Members Absent:**      **John Doan**

**TAB Liaison:**                              **Robert Lilligren** – not present at meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Duinick called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2013.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2013 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

**TAB LIAISON REPORT**

There was no report at this meeting.

**DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. Ridership on the Red Line BRT continues to be strong, and staff will continue to report on those numbers. In addition, the Council has received a number of requests from groups for tours of the Red Line corridor. Staff is in contact with SouthWest Transit, as the provider of the Red Line service, and will work to accommodate the requests, which come from a broad range of groups including professional associations and legislative representatives. The level of public interest in the Red Line is very encouraging as the region continues to develop its vision for transit into the future, which includes additional BRT corridors.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

1. Ridership for the 2013 State Fair topped 440,000; about one in eight fairgoers used Metro Transit to travel to and from the Fair this year. Although we saw strong gains over last year on the first and last days of the fair, it wasn't enough to overcome the loss of ridership due to lower attendance because of the heat wave. Overall, ridership was down about 5.5% from last year. Among the express sites, the I-394 and County Road 73 Park-And-Ride facility was the busiest, with 78,354 boardings. The other top sites were Bloomington near Mall of America (69,490) and National Sports Center in Blaine (54,936). Metro Transit's newest State Fair Express site at the Northstar Fridley Station had 10,306 boardings, and the expanded Park-and- Ride facility at Maplewood Mall generated 11,000 rides.
2. Minneapolis marked the completion last week of a major project to re-time traffic signals in downtown Minneapolis. This was done as part of a citywide effort to improve road conditions. The Metro Transit rail operations division reports faster travel times on light-rail trains through downtown Minneapolis, which has improved reliability along the entire METRO Blue Line. Bus operators also have reported better

progression in the downtown area, and data will be closely monitored over the weeks ahead to gauge the effect on bus operations.

3. The marketing department is rolling out a fall ridership campaign in September with the message that taking Metro Transit is a smart move. The campaign includes advertising on buses and trains as well as billboards and kiosk posters. Advertising on startribune.com is another major component of the campaign, with ads being displayed prominently on a section of the newspaper's website that includes stories about traffic. The ads establish Metro Transit as a smart move to avoiding traffic, and visitors to that page can take an easy first step on one ad that features our interactive Trip Planner.
4. The Metropolitan Council's annual Employee Appreciation event will be held on Wednesday, September 18, at Harriet Island Pavilion in St. Paul. A total of 365 employees are celebrating milestone anniversaries at the Council or have won special awards. Metro Transit has 248 of the employees who will be recognized. Metro Transit will host its yearly individual garage and location events in the coming months. The theme for this year's event is "Together Everyone Achieves More."
5. ATU Local 1005 President Michelle Sommers was elected International Vice President of the Amalgamated Transit Union at the organization's 57th International Convention this past week. Sommers is one of 18 vice presidents who represent all members in the United States and Canada. She was elected at ATU's international convention in August. ATU Local 1005 Vice President Dorothy Maki will be acting president until a new election takes place. Nominations for open positions will be taken at union meetings on September 24-25.
6. The annual Metro Transit Bus Roadeo begins on Saturday, September 21. This is a friendly safety skills competition in which bus operators volunteer to take a timed run through a course which requires demanding maneuvers. Council members are, as always, welcome to come and be part of the event – either watching or driving – on Saturday the 21st and also Tuesday the 24th through Thursday the 26th. It will be held at the Como Transit Station.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items**

A motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Commers to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

2013-247: ADA and Transit Link Service Agreement with Scott and Anoka Counties

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute intergovernmental agreements for Metro Mobility and Transit Link dial-a-ride services, from January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 with transit providers in the following amounts:

Anoka County Traveler	\$3,264,807
Smart Link (Scott / Carver County)	\$2,452,679

### **Non-Consent Items**

2013-250: Approval of 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

MTS Senior Planner Elaine Koutsoukos presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Reynoso, that the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$5,074,697.
- Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under MAP-21.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

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

2013-251 SW: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment for the I-394 Entrance Ramp/Bridge from Ridgedale Drive to Westbound I-394 in Minnetonka

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented the item. CM Munt asked about how the competitive process was handled. Schallberg responded that she was not familiar with all the details of MnDOT's process but that she would get an answer from them for the committee.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins, that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the I-394 entrance ramp/bridge from Ridgedale Drive to westbound I-394 in Minnetonka in 2014 using a total of \$6,700,000, with \$1,603,965 of state Transportation Economic Development (TED) funds and \$5,096,035 of local funds.

Motion passed.

2013-260: TIP Approval

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council:

1. Concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities metropolitan area.
2. Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
  - a. Section 134 of Title 23, U.S.C., Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607);
  - b. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d));
  - c. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of the 1964 and Title VI assurance executed by each state under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794;
  - d. Section 1101 (g) of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Pub. L. 105-178) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in FHWA and FTA-funded planning projects (Pub. L. 97-424, Section 105 (f); 49 CFR part 23); and
  - e. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, as amended) and USDOT regulations (Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities 40 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38).
3. Certify the TIP conforms with the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements.
6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for public, agency and transit operator involvement through its regular process and special public hearing.
7. Transmit the 2014-2017 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Motion passed.

2013-253: Approve Revised Title VI Service Equity Analysis for Central Corridor Transit Service Study  
Cyndi Harper, Metro Transit Manager of Route Planning, presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council approve the Revised Title VI Service Equity Analysis for the Central Corridor Transit Service Study.

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

## INFORMATION

### 1. 2014 Capital Budget

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy and Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb presented the Transit Capital Improvement Plan for 2014-2019 and outlined next steps in the approval process.

## 2. Regional Solicitation Evaluation Update

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg and Steve Peterson, Associate Planner with SRF Consulting, provided an overview of the evaluation process for regional solicitation of transportation projects.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.