

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Heywood Chambers, Monday, August 11, 2014

**Committee Members Present:** Adam Duinick - Chair, Lona Schreiber - Vice Chair, James Brimeyer, Steve Elkins, Marie McCarthy, Katie Rodriguez.

**Committee Members Absent:** Jon Commers, Edward Reynoso, Jennifer Munt.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Chair Duinick called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, August 11, 2014.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2014 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

### **MTS DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy gave an update at the last meeting as to where things were on the federal level regarding MAP-21, which becomes insolvent by the end of August. Since then there was affirmative action to move forward on MAP-21, which it is now extended through May 31, 2015.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported on the following items:

Service to the first Vikings game at TCF Bank Stadium went well. Every train in the system was out on the Blue and Green lines, including a special three-car train that ran between downtown Minneapolis and Stadium Village before and after the game to provide even more frequent service. There were 22,000 rides total, a very good start to this service.

Mr. Lamb shared a presentation on the 2014 Paver Project, replacement of the unit pavers with cast-in-place concrete on all of the Blue Line platforms, showing before and after photos. Over the past weekend Metro Transit upgraded three LRT Stations: 50<sup>th</sup> Street, VA, and Ft. Snelling. In 2015, the Council is scheduled to upgrade an additional three Stations: Cedar-Riverside, Franklin, and Downtown East.

Metro Transit has been recognized as an industry leader in sustainability by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). On Monday, Aug. 4, APTA presented Metro Transit with a Gold Level certification through its Sustainability Commitment program. The recognition was given at APTA's Sustainability and Public Transportation Workshop in Boston, Mass. Metro Transit is among 12 organizations that have achieved Gold Level certification since the program began in 2009.

Metro Transit and MVTA are partnering on a free ride promotion to help customers get to the new *Twin Cities Premium Outlets*, which opens this week near the Cedar Grove Station in Eagan. Free rides will be offered on the Red and Blue Lines and select MVTA routes from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14, Friday, Aug. 15, and Saturday, Aug. 16 and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 17. Customers can travel between the Mall of America and the outlets in about 10 minutes on the Red Line.

A record 529 Northstar tickets were sold online in advance of the Paul McCartney concert on Saturday, Aug. 2, at Target Field. The previous online pre-sale record was set in 2013, when 513 Northstar tickets were sold in advance for a special trip to the Kenney Chesney concert at Target Field. A total of 1,600 Northstar rides were taken to and from Saturday's concert. Another 4,970 people took light rail to the concert.

Two new bus route changes coming August 23<sup>rd</sup>: Route 865 will provide express service along the busy Highway 65 corridor between central Anoka County and downtown Minneapolis; Route 768 will provide express service between the new Highway 610 & Noble Parkway Park & Ride and downtown Minneapolis.

**TAB LIAISON REPORT:** Robert Lilligren stated that while TAB hasn't met since the last Transportation Committee, they will meet on August 20<sup>th</sup>. At that time TAB will continue firming up the Regional Solicitation process and likely approve the modal funding targets. Next month TAB will be making final presentations of the Regional Solicitation package, which will come before this Committee for concurrence.

## **BUSINESS**

**CONSENT ITEMS:** There were no Consent Items.

### **NON-CONSENT ITEMS:**

2014-194: 2015 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to Counties Transit Improvement Board. Presented by MTS Grants Specialist Heather Johnson. The funding and commitment requests listed in this business item total an estimated \$134.6 million, with \$103.6 million requested for capital and \$31 million requested for operating. The listed grant amounts are estimates that will be finalized prior to the application deadlines. The Council will prepare the Blue Line LRT Extension capital request with assistance from Hennepin County. CTIB requires that capital projects maximize the use and availability of federal funds and have a 10 percent non-federal contribution from the state or Metropolitan Council. Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins and passed.

2014-185: Authorization for the Regional Administrator to Enter into a Long-Term Lease Agreement with US Bank Center, LLC for a Transit Waiting Area in Downtown St. Paul. Presented by Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator George Serungard. In addition to the extension to be authorized, the amendment provides a renewal option for three additional 5-year periods. This will ensure the Council's tenancy of a climate controlled transit waiting area in downtown Saint Paul until 2034. Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez and passed.

2014-186SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Consultant Contract Award. Presented by Nani Jacobson, Assistant Director, Environmental & Agreements, Southwest Project Office. This business item asks that the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with Short Ellickson Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) for the completion of the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the SWLRT Project through December 31, 2015. Elkins asked how this work fit in with other environmental work for the project. Ms. Jacobson responded this work primarily supports acquisition and construction-related efforts. Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez and passed.

2014:191: Authorization to Amend Lease between Metropolitan Council and Griggs Midway Corporation. Presented by Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann. This business item requests that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a fourth amendment to the Lease Agreement between the Metropolitan Council and Griggs

Midway Corporation for CCLRT Project closeout activities for the period September 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$185,000 and a total lease amount not to exceed \$3,445,000. The CCLRT Project has available funds in its base budget. Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez and passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck stated that all items except 2014-186SW (a same week item) could proceed to full Council as consent items.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Gateway Corridor LPA. Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik, and Washington County Transportation Planner Andy Gitzlaff. (Presented following the public hearing.)
2. Regional Transit Ridership Report, presented by MTS Project Administrator Becky McBride.
3. State Fair Preview, presented by Metro Transit's Assistant Manager, Street Operations David Hanson and Director of Customer Service and Marketing Bruce Howard.
4. TCF Bank Stadium Special Events, presented by Director, Light Rail Operations Brian Funk and Market Development Specialist Adam Mehl.
5. On-Board Announcements Project, presented by Transit Control Center Manager of Technology Systems for Bus Operations Gary Nyberg and Business System Analyst and Project Manager Jason Podany.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** The Transportation Committee portion of the meeting recessed at 5:10 p.m. to conduct a public hearing for the I-694 & I-494 2030 TPP Amendment. While two people signed the attendance sheet, no one chose to speak. The public hearing portion of the meeting closed at 5:12 p.m.

The Transportation Committee reconvened to hear the presentation of Information Item 1, Gateway Corridor LPA.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Linda Thayer  
Recording Secretary