

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

November 10, 2014

Committee Members Present: Chair Adam Duininck, Jennifer Munt, Steve Elkins, Jon Commers, James Brimeyer.

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso, Katie Rodriguez, Marie McCarthy, Lona Schreiber.

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Duininck called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2014 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Chair Duininck read an email update which he had received from Robert Lilligren. The Regional Solicitation was released online October 13th. There have been ten training sessions held since then regarding the online mapping tool, the Minnesota State Aid process, and how to fill out online applications. 50 individuals have attending the sessions so far. 97 individuals have registered to use the online grant application. The funding and programming committee and technical advisory committees are recruiting members to be on the scoring committee. The due date to receive the grant applications is December 1st.

DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy shared two items: Ron Biss, former Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair for the past three years and long-time member on TAAC has passed away. There will be further recognition of Ron's contributions in the next Council external newsletter.

Today was the first day that the Metro Mobility and Transit Link services, formerly provided by DARTS, was provided by replacement contractors. It was also the first snow day contractors have experienced so far this winter. As of 11:00 a.m. Metro Mobility services were 80% on-time, typical for a snow day. There are extra challenges with the early snow and the ongoing transition, but as always, we're doing the best we can and we will get through it.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb began by introducing new hire Howie Padilla, Public Relations Manager, to the Committee.

Special events and ridership: We are still gathering some of the figures on exactly how much ridership was up in some cases, but last week took advantage of increased opportunities to highlight ourselves to our riders.

On Tuesday, we partnered with the legislature to offer free rides on Election Day. The promotion was covered by several local media outlets, including WCCO radio and Minnesota Public Radio, bringing attention to the services we give. We should know more about any increased number of Tuesday rides in the coming days.

Thousands of people decided to ride Transit for the six Garth Brooks shows. On Thursday night alone, preliminary information shows us that almost 2,400 boardings on buses and light rail routes could be attributed to the show. Over the span of all six shows, our Northstar commuter rail line gave more than 2,700 rides that could be attributed specifically to the shows. Local news covered riders going to those shows and gave us the opportunity to mention that these types of events are just another of the things we do well. In fact, on our own social media sites, we have shared a time lapse video our Marketing Department took following the latest Minnesota Vikings victory at TCF Bank stadium. It really gives people an appreciation for how seamlessly 13,000 people can be taken from an event to their homes.

Service Improvement Plan and the 2014 Customer Survey: We are in the middle of our outreach efforts to solicit information from our customers about how we can serve them better and our draft Service Improvement Plan. This has been covered extensively in local media including a glowing editorial in the Star Tribune and lengthy interview on Minnesota Public Radio. In each case, we took advantage of the opportunity to publicize the remaining public meetings in November. There are four more scheduled and input is being taken through our Web site through the end of the month. We also are in the process of asking customers for feedback for our 2014 Customer Survey. Surveys are being distributed aboard buses and trains and are also available online. Surveys ask customers about their typical travel behavior, satisfaction with service and reasons for deciding whether or not to use transit. Survey results will be available in early 2015. Customer surveys are conducted every two years.

Metro Transit Fall Campaign Begins: Metro Transit's fall advertising campaign began on Monday, Nov. 10. The campaign includes online advertisements and a 30-second TV commercial – Metro Transit's first in more than five years – that will air 150 times a week through Sunday, Dec. 21. Around 7,000 Millennials who live along the METRO Blue Line will also receive a \$10 Go-To Card and transit information through a direct mailing. The fall campaign promotes the ease of taking transit and is directed at Millennials in the core cities. "A and B" characters who appear in the commercials will also appear at some upcoming events. The commercial can be viewed at metrotransit.org/easy.

BUSINESS

Consent Items: There were no consent items.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2014-285SW: Authorization to Amend Metro Mobility Operating Contracts. Presented by MTS Director Arlene McCarthy. Proposed action: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend:

1. Contract 09P223 with Transit Team, Inc. for an additional \$1,106,403 for a new total contract amount of \$85,781,387; and
2. Contract 09P224 with First Transit for an additional \$1,106,403 for a new total contract amount of \$66,684,655.

Motion was made by Commers, and seconded by Munt to approve this item; non-consent to Council.

2. 2014-284SW: Contract for Dakota County Transit Link Service. Presented by MTS Director Arlene McCarthy. Proposed action: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Midwest Paratransit Services (MPS) for Transit Link dial-a-ride service in Dakota County from November 10, 2014 through May 29, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$557,000.

Motion was made by Commers, and seconded by Elkins, to approve this item; non-consent to Council.

3. 2014-272: Presented by Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie. Proposed Action: Approval of the Budget Amendment to the 2014 Unified Budget Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the attached table. Motion by Munt, second by Elkins to approve this item; non-consent to Council.

Approved at Management Committee November 12, 2014, to be heard at full Council December 10th.

4. 2014-282: Approval of Contract Award for Traction Motor Overhaul. Presented by Assistant Director, LR Vehicle Maintenance Rick Carey. Proposed action: That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the contract award to Sherwood Electromotion for the overhaul of the Type 1 LRV traction motors in the amount not to exceed \$900,000.

There were no questions from the Committee members. Elkins made the motion to approve, seconded by Munt, motion carried. Consent to Council.

INFORMATION

1. MTS 3rd Quarter Regional Ridership Report. Presented by MTS Director Arlene McCarthy.
2. Arterial BRT Quarterly Update. Presented by Transitway Senior Manager Charles Carlson.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Linda Thayer
Recording Secretary