

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Monday, February 10, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Adam Duinick, Chair
Edward Reynoso

Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair
Steve Elkins

Katie Rodriguez
Marie McCarthy

Committee Members Absent:

Jon Commers

Jennifer Munt

James Brimeyer

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. on Monday, February 10, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

TAB LIASON REPORT

Chair Duinick reported for the TAB. The Regional Solicitation Evaluation Steering Committee is scheduled to meet on 2/11. There will be discussion about a proposal for a one-time solicitation for the 2017 CMAQ funding prior to the entire Regional Solicitation Evaluation process recommendations. MTS Planner Elaine Koutsoukos will be recommended to fill the position of TAB Coordinator at the TAB's 2/19 meeting.

CUSTOMER RECOGNITION – Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb

Brian Lamb introduced Metro Transit customer: Corey Spitz. Mr. Spitz and Anna Sanchez (not present at the TC meeting) are regular riders of the Rte. 94 bus. On 1/20 they helped an operator having a medical emergency. They took control of the bus to bring it to a safe stop on I-94 near Snelling Ave, and rendered assistance until medical personnel arrived. Spitz and Sanchez are being presented with one-year bus passes and engraved watches.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy did not have a report at this meeting.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

1. The first of two town hall meetings for SWLRT study results will be held at Dunwoody tonight. The second meeting will take place in St. Louis Park on 2/12.
2. Metro Transit is in the process of updating its Service Improvement Plan and has been conducting surveys with customers. Over 200 survey responses have been received, results and recommendations will follow. The deadline for returning the surveys is 2/28.
3. Seven full-time police officers were sworn in on 1/31, including the department's first Hmong officer. More officers will be hired to accommodate the Green Line and this will bring the force to a total of 94 full time officers and 100 part time officers by this summer. Twenty two officers will be dedicated to the Green Line.
4. The January 2013 to January 2014 ridership numbers are down 6.4%. Northstar has had operational challenges with freight train back-ups, and the cold weather has also affected ridership.

5. Mark Fuhrmann has reported to the FTA that the Green Line has reached the 99% construction completion mark.

SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM: JOBS TO MOVE AMERICA – Rachele Huennekens, National Communications Specialist, (LAANE)

Brian Lamb introduced Rachele Huennekens, National Communications Specialist, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE). Ms. Huennekens reported on the Jobs to Move America (JMA) project. The project aims to: improve public transit systems with high-quality, clean buses and trains; incent manufacturing companies to create and retain good American jobs; generate opportunities for disadvantaged Americans such as veterans and residents of low-income neighborhoods to become a 21st century manufacturing workforce. It also goes further to encourage US manufacturing than the “honor system” of “Buy America” through the procurement reporting process and price adjustments to promote competitive bidding and drive competition upwards. Transit agencies make the decision to participate in this program; Jobs for America staff would be available to answer questions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

BUSINESS

Consent Items

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items

2014-33: Adopt 2014 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb and Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item. Committee members requested that highway and rail reports be added to the freight portion of the work plan.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez, that the Transportation Committee adopt the attachment (with the addition of highway and rail to the freight section) as its 2014 Work Plan.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Regional Ridership Report - MTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented regional ridership statistics for year-end 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.