

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

Monday, May 12, 2014

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

Committee Members Absent: **Jon Commers** **Edward Reynoso**

TAB Liaison Present: **Randy Maluchnick**

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Chair Duinick called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. May 12, 2014. Chair Duinick began the meeting with the employee recognition awards while waiting for a quorum. Once a quorum was present, the committee proceeded with action items.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt to approve the agenda for the May 12, 2014 meeting. Motion passed.

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

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Randy Maluchnick reported that the TAB has not met since the last Transportation Committee meeting. The next scheduled TAB meeting will be 5/21/14.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Director of Rail Systems Maintenance Mark Benedict, who presented the Metro Transit Employee Recognition to Daniel Suggs, Manager, Signals & Communications.

Lamb also introduced Metro Transit Manager of Transportation –FT Heywood - Jeff Wostrel, who presented Metro Transit Employee Recognition Awards to the "Dream Team" Heywood Garage work group: Tom Mohler, Steven Wortman, Jeff Thompson, Jack Berner, Henry Bridges, Ron Klein, Randy Robinson, Idar Bilij, Faye Brown, Jason Berner, Dakota Nyaribo. The team initiated such programs as the Tip of the Month, Rte. 19 pilot program, GoTo card quiz program. There has been a 44% reduction in accidents from the Heywood garage since some of the teams' ideas have been implemented.

Lamb also presented an Employee Recognition Award to Jeff Wostrel for his work as a listener, role model, volunteer, and effective manager during his 25 years of service.

MTS DIRECTOR and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported the following:

1. TIP Amendment Streamlining Process.

At its 4/16/14 meeting, the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopted a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Streamlining Process which will streamline certain TIP amendments through the Council committee process. Federal law requires that TIP amendments are approved based on four elements: fiscal constraint; consistency with the adopted regional transportation plan; air quality conformity; and

opportunity for public input. Currently, all TIP Amendments proceed through five committees within the Metropolitan Council for action. Amendments begin at the Funding and Programming Committee, move to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and are adopted by the TAB. The Metropolitan Council's Transportation Committee and the full Council concur with the TAB's action. This process takes approximately 10-12 weeks to complete.

The streamlining process has defined criteria. Examples of projects that could use this process are: congressional earmarks; projects funded through statewide programs, such as Section 5310 transit projects or Safe Routes to School (before 2017); cost increases that do not affect the federal amount or project scope.

Twelve of 20 (60%) recent TIP amendments would have qualified for this streamlined process.

These streamlined TIP Amendments will be on the Consent agenda for both Transportation Committee and Council action and will be "same week". The business item write-up will denote it is following the TIP Amendment Streamlined Process.

2. Metro Mobility Service Changes.

At its 5/07/14 meeting, the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) approved Metro Mobility service changes for 2014-2015 in response to the ADA audit.

The changes involve:

- No shows – definition, reduction in suspension lengths and modified appeal process
- Maximum ride time – flat 90 min. maximum will change to maximum ride time based on trip length, most trips will see a reduced maximum ride time
- Transfers –eliminate all transfers between contractors beginning with the new contracts starting in May 2015
- Service restructuring – move from five contractors to three competitively procured contracts in 2015

Brimeyer suggested that a 1-page summary of the Metro Mobility changes be sent to all Council members informing them of the changes.

3. MVST

MVST receipts for April 2014 were at 106.5% of the forecast. The YTD figure (through 9 of 12 months in the fiscal year) is at 99.78% of forecast.

4. Rush Line

Rush Line open houses are scheduled for May 28 & 29, focusing on "Pre-Project Development Study". The focus will be on presenting the transit market analysis information and getting public input on the transit needs within the study area. East side St. Paul residents have had an opportunity to comment through the Rush Line Public Engagement Advisory Committee. The open houses are planned for Maplewood and Forest Lake.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

1. Target Field Station Grand Opening on Saturday

Target Field Station's Grand Opening will be held on Saturday. Live music, games and exhibitors will be on site from 1 p.m. until the start of the Twins game at 6 p.m. A ribbon-cutting and program will be held at 3 p.m. Metro Transit is an event sponsor and will be among the exhibitors on site

2. A Line open houses throughout May

Metro Transit is hosting a series of open houses to share plans for the A Line this month. An open house is being held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. today (May 12) at the Hamline Midway Library. Open houses are also scheduled for 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Monday, May 19, at the Merriam Park Library; 11 a.m.-12:30 pm. Tuesday, May 20, at the Chatterbox Pub; and 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at the Roseville Library. Feedback will be used to shape the recommended project scope this summer.

3. Free rides to the Minnesota Wild, Lynx, Art-A-Whirl, Aids Walk

Minnesota Wild fans can ride free to Tuesday night's game at the Xcel Energy Center as the Wild face off against the Chicago Blackhawks. If the Wild win on Tuesday, the final game of the series will be played in Chicago Thursday night.

Free rides will also be offered to all Minnesota Lynx home games this season. The Lynx home opener is on Sunday. With a gameday ticket, fans can ride free two hours before the game until two hours after the game ends.

Free rides are also being offered on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to Art-A-Whirl events in Northeast Minneapolis and to the Minnesota AIDS Walk on Sunday. A downloadable pass is needed for a free ride to the events on a bus or METRO line.

4. Police Canine Trials

Last May 5-7 the US Police Canine Association hosted their annual detector dog trials (explosives & narcotics) in Bloomington. Metro Transit Canine Police teams placed 4th in car searches, and 5th in room searches.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Schreiber and passed to approve the following consent item.

2014-110: Authorization to amend contract 09P104 with First Transit, Inc.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract amendment to contract 09P104 with First Transit, Inc., to:

1. Extend the term from November 1, 2014 to December 6, 2014, and
2. Increase the maximum contract amount by \$215,842, for an amended contract total of \$2,998,598.

Non-Consent Items

2014-103: Authorization to Amend the 2014 Unified Budget: Conversion of Capital Program from Cash Flow Basis to Authorization Basis

Metropolitan Council Budget Director Paul Connery presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Brimeyer, seconded by Munt that the Metropolitan Council authorize the amendment of the 2014 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion passed.

2014-117: Accept Highway Transitway Corridor Study Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Cole Hiniker presented this item. In response to Rodriguez, Hiniker explained the I-94 West final ranking. In response to Elkins, Hiniker clarified that the study incorporates the results of the Gateway Corridor Study which includes the portion of I-94 from St. Paul to Washington County.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez that the Metropolitan Council accept the Highway Transitway Corridor Study Final Report dated May 2014.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Duinick stated that this item will proceed to the Council as a consent item.

2014-106: Agreements for the Central Corridor LRT Project (Green Line) through the University of Minnesota, City of Minneapolis/Hennepin County and City of St. Paul/Ramsey County

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. Brimeyer questioned whether agreements of this type were executed for Blue Line (Hiawatha), and Mark answered yes. Mark also added that MT Police Chief Harrington is working with other policing jurisdictions on other agreements relating to policing.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following Operations and Maintenance agreements for the Green Line LRT:

- 1) Operating and Maintenance Addendum to the Agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project (CCLRT) between the Council, the Regents of the University of Minnesota, the City of Minneapolis, and Hennepin County;

- 2) The Operating and Maintenance Agreement for the Washington Avenue Bridge between the Council and Hennepin County;
- 3) Operating and Maintenance Agreement for the CCLRT between the Council, the City of Minneapolis, and Hennepin County; and
- 4) Operating and Maintenance Agreement for the CCLRT between the Council, the City of Saint Paul, and Ramsey County.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck stated that this item will proceed to the Council as a consent item.

INFORMATION

1. TH 10 Access Management Study

MTS Manager Technical Planning Support Mark Filipi introduced Wayne Norris – MnDOT, who in turn introduced Paul Jung - MnDOT and Chris Chromy – Bolton & Menk who presented this item.

2. MTS Quarterly Ridership Report

MTS Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item.

3. Service Improvement Plan (SIP) Update: Public Engagement Results

Metro Transit Manager Route Planning Cyndi Harper presented this item.

4. Website Redesign Preview

Metro Transit Director Customer Service & Marketing Bruce Howard introduced Market Development Specialist Adam Mehl who presented this item. Brimeyer suggested promotion/advertising/press release detailing the new website redesign.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.