

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

Monday, April 28, 2014

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

Committee Members Absent: **None**

TAB Liaison Present: **Randy Maluchnick**

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Duinick called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:10 p.m. April 28, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Commers to approve the agenda for the April 28, 2014 meeting. Motion passed.

It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2014 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Duinick reported on the TAB. He stated that a 4-hour Regional Solicitation Evaluation Study meeting will take place this Friday and the group continues to make progress. A. McCarthy said that six applications were received for the 2017 CMAQ solicitation. The TAB will take action on the 2017 CMAQ solicitation at their May meeting.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Tom Humphrey who presented the employee recognition(s) to the following Metro Transit employees: David Wright and Scott Miller, Articulated Mechanic Technicians at the Overhaul Base. Their job entails inspection, repair and maintenance of the articulated bus joint. The maintenance process of the joint is vital to the safety and stability of the articulated bus. Recently they have been working with Metro Transit Fleet Service department to upgrade the existing articulated curtain to better seal the interior of the bus from outside elements. Keeping these elements from entering the bus is crucial to the protection of joint components and the comfort of the passengers.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER and MTS DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported the following:

1. MVST Receipts.

For the ninth month in State fiscal year 2014 MVST receipts were at 94.61% in March; this is the first month in those nine months that the figure has been below the budget of 95%. The average for nine months is 98.90% of the February 2014 forecast.

2. ADA Audit.

An ADA Audit was performed by FTA for the first time last year. MTS has received the formal report and is working with internal audit staff to respond in the allowed 60-day response period. Some actions in response to the audit, such as downtown zone fares, have already been implemented. Other actions will be forthcoming.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

1. Green Line Test Trains Running on Regular Service Schedule

Green Line test trains began operating on a regular service schedule last week, running up to every 10 minutes. Operators also began running Green Line test trains through downtown Minneapolis this morning and are using the new tail tracks at Target Field Station. Audio announcements and posted rider alerts at stations are being used to inform customers that test trains cannot be boarded.

2. Public Voting on Green Line Poster Contest Begins this Week

The public can begin voting on five finalists in the Green Line's opening day poster contest beginning today. Voting continues through May 9. Votes can be cast online at metrotransit.org/postercontest. More than 40 entries were submitted and the finalists were chosen by a group of community representatives from along the Green Line. The winner will be announced on opening day and receive a year of free rides. The posters will be printed and distributed for free throughout the opening; larger copies will also be for sale online beginning June 14.

3. Earth Day Success

Members of the media toured the Green Line's Operations and Maintenance facility in Lowertown to celebrate Earth Day last week. The event provided an opportunity to highlight the new building's sustainable features, such as motion-triggered lighting and an automated heating/cooling system, and to provide an update on successful energy-reduction efforts at other Metro Transit facilities. Representatives from the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and Xcel Energy also participated in the event. Xcel and the Saint Paul Chamber are among a group of public agencies, private businesses and non-profits involved in the Energy Innovation Corridor. EIC partners are focusing on energy efficiency, renewable energy and other sustainable initiatives along the Green Line. Metro Transit also purchased wind energy offsets from Xcel Energy to account for all electricity used by light rail trains and facilities on Earth Day.

4. Stormwater Efforts Win Award

The Met Council last week received a 2014 Sustainable St. Paul award for storm water infrastructure built along the Green Line. A 5-mile tree trench with more than 1,200 trees lines, storm water planters and infiltration trenches were constructed along the corridor to capture and treat runoff. The Capitol Region Watershed District expects the improvements to reduce storm water volume by more than 50 percent annually and reduce the amount of sediment and phosphorous entering the Mississippi River.

5. Orange Line

A draft project plan for the METRO Orange Line will be released on Wednesday. The plan will summarize all work that has been done to date and provide information about preferred station locations, routing and right of way needs, frequency of service and technology recommendations. The report will also include an estimated budget and revenue sources. Public comments will be accepted through May 30. After the comments are incorporated into the plan, it will be brought to the Met Council for review.

6. Open House RE: I-494/35W Interchange.

Tonight, MnDOT and Metro Transit are partnering on an open house to talk about plans for the I-494/35W interchange. The open house will be run from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at St. Richard's Catholic Church in Richfield.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

There were no consent items at this meeting.

Non-Consent Items

2014-76: Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis – Recognition of the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) Recommendation

Metro Transit Manager of Transitway Projects Charles Carlson introduced Project Manager Michael Mechtenberg who presented this item. Duininck asked about what would happen if funding was available for one mode and not the other. Brimeyer asked who will be looking the funding and mode. Mechtenberg said there is a time limit on the work to be done and funding is still being pursued. A. McCarthy added that part of the work to come to the Council in the second half of this year is to look at a streetcar policy for amendment into the TPP in 2015. Lamb called particular attention to the community outreach performed by the Transitway Project office.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council recognizes the Midtown Corridor Policy Advisory Committee's (PAC) action (attached) on a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) recommendation made on February 12, 2014. This action confirms previously adopted BRT improvements along Lake Street. A future Council action to amend the Transportation Policy Plan with a rail corridor LPA may be considered when:
Adequate funding is projected for the project in the fiscally constrained plan,
Specific rail mode (single car LRT or streetcar) is determined through more advanced study phases and supporting community engagement, and
Resolutions of support are obtained from the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. Motion passed.

2014-90: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) - Authorize Negotiation and Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with SouthWest Transit on Cohabitation of Bus and Rail Service at SouthWest Station

Metro Transit Deputy Director TSD Craig Lamothe presented this item and answered questions about the pedestrian access (at grade, or use elevator from parking structure). Munt commented on the collaborative approach between Metro Council, the City of Eden Prairie, Hennepin County and SouthWest Transit. Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SouthWest Transit (SWT) regarding the cohabitation of the SWT's bus service and the Council's rail service –at the SouthWest Station. Motion passed.

This item will go to the Council as a consent item.

2014-91: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) – Authorize Negotiation and Execution of a Term Sheet with the City of Hopkins, Minnesota

Metro Transit Deputy Director TSD Craig Lamothe presented this item and answered a question from Munt explaining the difference between a term sheet and an MOU. An MOU usually has more agreements to come in the future whereas a term sheet is more of a one-time agreement. Lamothe also answered questions about the timeline of executing the term sheet.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Term Sheet with the City of Hopkins, Minnesota (City) on matters pertaining to the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) and associated activities near the three anticipated Light Rail Transit (LRT) stations also located in the City. Motion passed.

This item will go to the Council as a consent item.

2014-98: 2014 Small Buses Procurement

MTS Manager Fleet Services Paul Colton presented this item. Rodriguez noted that the growth in the number of Metro Mobility vehicles over the last 5 years has not kept pace with the growth in ridership. Colton agreed and added that this causes difficulty by not having any spare buses during peak times of service.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Reynoso that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements, contingent upon Council approval of Action Item 2014-65 on April 30, 2014, with:

1. Hoglund Bus (MnDOT Contract 72485) for up to 28 replacement buses and 39 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$4,307,000; and
2. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 72487) for up to 21 replacement buses and 18 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,386,000.

Motion passed.

This item will go to the Council as a consent item.

2014-100 SW: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for Reprogramming 2014 CMAQ Funding

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented this item.

Motion was made and seconded that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add project #TRS-TCMT-14H for the purchase of 5 buses for regional service (4 for Maple Grove Transit, 1 for Plymouth Metrolink) in 2014 to reprogram \$2,722,080 of federal CMAQ funds from the withdrawn project TRS-TCMT-10B with \$680,520 of local funds for a total of \$3,402,600. Motion passed.

2014-101 SW: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for the St. Croix River Crossing from WisDOT

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented this item. Scott McBride from MnDOT was also present and answered a question from Munt regarding the cost split between MnDOT and WisDOT on the bridge project. Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the St. Croix River Crossing bridge replacement project using \$41.34 million of state funds for the years 2014-2017. Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. 2030 TPP and 2014-2017 TIP Amendments for Interstate 694 and Interstate 494 Improvement Projects

MTS Planning Analyst Mary Karlsson presented this item and Scott McBride from MnDOT was also present to answer questions. Commers asked about the nature of the Corridors of Commerce Program – whether there was any direction in the legislation. McBride answered that the legislation gave general direction, i.e. complete highways; complete lane continuity, but was not specific as to what types of lanes should be built. Duninick added that the TAB also has concerns about the criteria in the Corridors of Commerce program and has asked for clearer guidelines and input into the criteria in the Corridors of Commerce program if it is continued. Karlsson and McBride stated that these projects do not preclude future MnPASS lanes. A. McCarthy suggested that Commers meet with MTS Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich to discuss Air Quality, as presented at an earlier Transportation Committee meeting. Air Quality conformance will be required for these projects in both the TPP and TIP.

2. Rail Operator Certification for Green Line

Metro Transit Acting Director for Light Rail Operations Brian Funk presented this item. He answered a question from Schreiber that the certification process is internal to Metro Transit, not licensing through another governmental agency. Funk also answered Munt's question that the operators will be trained and certified on both the Blue and Green Lines.

3. Update on Snelling Site Redevelopment

Metro Transit Manager Planning, Engineering & Facilities Maurice Roers presented this item. Roers answered a question from Brimeyer about the type of consultant hired; it is a real estate development consultant. Committee members noted the difficulty working with three property owners and are pleased with the progress that has been made so far. This is an opportunity for the Council to share its interest and vision for what becomes of this site. Ownership of the properties after development is yet to be determined. Lamb stated that the TOD Office Director – Lucy Galbraith- has been hired, and the TOD Office is in the process of hiring a Development Manager. The TOD Office will help to foster MC objectives in the development of this site.

4. Bottineau Transitway (Blue Line Extension) Update

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item with emphasis on the schedule for the project. He noted the upcoming public hearing schedule and invited members to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.