

## Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

September 8, 2014

F. T. Heywood Chambers

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Adam Duininck, James Brimeyer, Jon Commers, Steve Elkins, Marie McCarthy, Jennifer Munt, Katie Rodriguez.

**Committee Members Absent:** Edward Reynoso, Vice-Chair Lona Schreiber.

Chair Duininck deferred approval of the agenda and minutes until a quorum could be reached.

**TAB LIAISON REPORT:** Robert Lilligren explained that there was no report this meeting as the TAB will not meet again until September 17<sup>th</sup>. At that time TAB will continue to review the Regional Solicitation process.

**MTS DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS** – Arlene McCarthy and Brian Lamb

**MTS Director Arlene McCarthy:** Ms. McCarthy reminded everyone that the next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be a special meeting held at the Robert Street Chambers on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. It will include a Public Hearing on the Draft Transportation Policy Plan at 5:00 p.m., time certain. The regular Transportation Committee will not meet again until October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Registration for Rail~Volution continues at a very good pace. It is anticipated that there will be at least 1,400 attendees, which will set a record. McCarthy commended mobile workshop leads Robin Caufman, Metropolitan Council and Lyssa Leitner of Washington County for the fabulous job they have done in accommodating high mobile workshop demand, recently increasing the mobile workshop capacity by 15%. McCarthy reminded Councilmembers about the Sunday, September 21st State and Local Officials Workshop at the Union Depot that precedes the Rail~Volution Welcome Reception. Council members do not need to be registered for the conference to attend this workshop but do need to RSVP.

McCarthy also reminded Council members that Chair Haigh and Councilmembers are invited to a meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> hosted by five of the Metro counties, Dakota, Anoka, Washington, Carver, and Scott, to share concerns regarding the TPP and Thrive, adding that equity is expected to be one of the issues to be discussed, but not the only issue. Regional Administrator Pat Born is working with the county administrators to set an agenda. The meeting will be held at 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Dakota County Northern Services Center in West St. Paul.

**Transit General Manager Brian Lamb:** Mr. Lamb stated that record attendance and a new Transit hub helped boost ridership to the Minnesota State Fair 15% this year. There were 511,940 rides on Metro Transit express and regular route buses during the Fair, representing 14 percent of attendance. A single-day attendance record was set on Saturday, Aug. 30, when 252,092 people attended. Metro Transit provided 74,621 rides to the Fair on that date, the highest single-day ridership since 2008. The new State Fair Transit Hub was largely seen as a success.

Nearly 14,000 U Passes have been sold so far this semester, up 11.5 percent compared to last year. The new passes are available to registered students, faculty and staff to ride the Green Line between Stadium Village and West Bank stations. Metro Transit police and other staff were out on campus during the first week of class educating students, faculty and staff about light rail safety and transit service.

Metro Transit's website and online Trip Planner set new records in August. A total of 351,525 unique visitors accessed metrotransit.org, while the online Trip Planner was used 723,936 times. Previous records were set in June 2014, when the new website was launched and the Green Line opened. Year-to-date, there have been 4,984,349 trips planned online, up 7.4 percent compared to the same period last year. A new daily Trip Planner record was set on Tuesday, Sept. 2, when there were 37,048 trips planned.

Buses will replace trains on the METRO Green Line overnight on Friday, Sept. 12, and Saturday, Sept. 13. The disruption in light-rail service will allow Xcel Energy to conduct maintenance on overhead power lines along the Green Line corridor, among other activities. The disruption will occur in two phases: From 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12, until 3 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, buses will replace trains between Union Depot Station and Snelling Avenue Station. From 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13 until 3 a.m. Sunday, Sept 14, buses will replace trains between Snelling Avenue Station and Downtown East Station. Service will be fully restored in time to serve the Vikings first regular season home game, which kicks off at noon Sunday.

With a quorum now present, Chair Duinick asked for approval of the Agenda and the Minutes.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by McCarthy to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2014 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## **BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

1. 2014-219: Amend Contract 12P226 with Cubic Transportation Systems.  
(Paul Colton 651-602-1668)
2. 2014-218: Authorization to Approve the Purchase of Three 60' Articulated Option Buses.  
(Chuck Wurzinger 612-349-5007)

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt, that the above items go Consent to full Council. Motion carried.

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

1. 2014-213: 2015 Unified Planning Work Program, Resolution 2014-21. MTS Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. It asked that the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$5,047,548; adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with MnDOT for a planning grant under MAP-21; and authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds. There were no questions or comments from the committee. Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt and passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duinick stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2014-214SW: Adopt 2030 TPP Amendment for I-694 and I-494 General Purpose Lane Addition. This business item asks that the Metropolitan Council accept the public comment report and adopt the amendment to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan that adds funding received through the

Corridors of Commerce program for improvements to Interstate 694 between Lexington Avenue and Rice Street, and adds increased funding derived from cost savings in the Chapter 152 Bridge Preservation program for improvements to Interstate 494 between I-394 and I-94/694. It also asks that the Council affirm that the amendment maintains the fiscal constraint and air quality conformity of the plan.

MTS Manager, Systems Planning Connie Kozlak presented this item. Councilmember Commers asked how this amendment related to the earlier TPP amendment regarding Corridors of Commerce funded projects, and why I-494 and I-694 were linked into one amendment. Kozlak said that there were three such projects in the metro area, and the I-94 and TH 610 projects were amended into the TPP earlier this year so they were not delayed while the final design for I-694, whether it should be a dynamic shoulder lane or a general purpose lane, was determined. There was similar discussion about design of I-494, so the two are now moving through the amendment process together. Commers stated that he was opposed to the I-494 project as the new draft TPP states a bold new vision for the region and he did not think building more general purpose lanes was bold enough. Elkins said he was also opposed to adding more general purpose lanes, and thought a dynamic shoulder lane could provide 80% of the capacity on I-494 at 20% of the cost.

Councilmember Rodriguez spoke in favor of the amendment, pointing out that I-494 has been very congested for many years and that the area continues to grow, especially Maple Grove, and there is very little transit in the area, as this is the last remaining stretch of I-494 with only two lanes in each direction. She also said that linking this lane addition to the current preservation project made it very cost effective, and she felt it was a low cost, high benefit project. Councilmember Munt also spoke in favor of the resolution, reiterating that there is no transit in the I-494 corridor and that it is a lower priority for construction of a MnPASS lane.

A motion was made by Munt and seconded by Rodriguez to approve the item; Commers and Elkins dissented; the item passed 5-2.

3. 2014-215SW: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for I-494 in Plymouth between I-394 and I-94. This business item asks that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), pending approval of a related Transportation Policy Plan amendment, to add a project (SP# 2785-330) in 2014 for a general purpose lane between Hwy 55 and I-94/I-694, an auxiliary lane between Hwy 55 and Co Rd. 6, and an auxiliary lane from I-394 to Carlson Pkwy with bridge replacements, pavement resurfacing and reconstruction, lighting and signal revisions. Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. There was no discussion. Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Munt; Elkins and Commers dissented; item passed 5-2.

4. 2014-220: 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program. This business items asks that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities metropolitan area, and certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:

- a. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
- b. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
- c. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
- d. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;

- e. Sections 1101(b) of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (Pub. L. 112-141) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in US DOT funded projects;
- f. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
- g. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;
- h. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
- i. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender;
- j. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities; and

certify the TIP conforms with the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities; find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations; find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements; find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period; transmit the 2015-2018 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented this item. Councilmember Elkins asked if this item was affected by the TPP amendment in item no. 2014-214SW. Chair Duinck said the TIP is approved as a whole; Duinck asked if there was a breakout of the funding for property tax and state taxes listed in the funding summary presentation slide. Schallberg said the TIP includes that information; local funds account for \$320 million and regional transit capital bonds and other local transit funds account for \$863 million. Councilmember Munt asked for more information about the relationship with Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). Schallberg said this was the first time to include any Wisconsin projects in the TIP, due to the recent expansion of the MPO boundary.

A motion was made by Munt and seconded by Elkins to approve the item, and passed.

5. 2014-216: Approval of the Budget Amendment to the 2014 Unified Budget. This business item asks that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2014 Unified Budget - Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the attached table, Capital – Attachment #1. Presented by Steve True, Metro Transit Senior Manager and Heather Agesen-Huebner, Manager, MTS Administration. Motion by Elkin, second by Munt and passed. This item will next be heard in Management Committee September 10.

6. 2014-210: Service Improvement Plan Public Meetings/Hearing Approval. This business item requests that, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council authorize a public comment period from November 1, 2014 to November 30, 2014. This comment period will include several public meetings and an official public hearing on November 18, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in St. Paul. Cyndi Harper, Metro Transit Manager of Route Planning, gave a presentation about the purpose of the Service Improvement Plan (SIP), the development process and timeline, opportunities for stakeholders to give feedback on the draft SIP, and the date, time and location of the proposed public meetings and public hearing.

Councilmember Brimeyer asked for clarification of the content of the information item scheduled for the September 17th meeting and whether it would include the results of the SIP survey. Harper stated that the results were presented at the May meeting but a short summary will be included in the information

item. The item will focus on the guiding principles, evaluation measures, process and methodology of drafting the SIP and highlight some of the projects that will be included. Brimeyer asked when information about the projects in individual districts would be available. Harper replied that this level of detail will be available at the briefings that will be held in late September and early October.

Councilmember Munt inquired about why staff was seeking approval of the public meetings and hearing prior to seeing the projects in the draft SIP. Harper agreed that the order is a bit unconventional but the constraints of needing 45 days advance notice for the hearing, desire to have the public comment period before the holidays and overall goal of having the plan substantially complete before the start of the 2015 legislative session influenced the timeline.

Chair Duinick asked how the feedback from the Green Line bus changes, implemented in June, will be included in the draft SIP. Harper answered that staff worked on developing the specific service improvements during the summer, after feedback about the June changes was available.

Councilmember Elkins asked how long-term projects such as Bottineau would be included in the project. Harper said that local bus needs for all projects in the TPP planned for implementation prior to 2030 would be considered. There are preliminary versions of a connecting bus plan for Green Line extension, Blue Line extension and for Gateway Corridor, and all will be reviewed and evaluated for inclusion in the SIP. Moved by Munt, seconded by Elkins and passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duinick stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

7. 2014-217: Assignment of Capital Grant Agreement with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and Counties Transit Improvement Board for the Blue Line Extension Project. This business item requests that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the assignment of 2013 Counties Transit Improvement Board Capital Grant Award from Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority to Metropolitan Council for the Blue Line Extension Project, the term of which shall end December 31, 2015. Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. There was no discussion. Moved by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez and passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duinick stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Regional Solicitation Overview (Heidi Schallberg 651-602-1721, Steve Peterson, SRF Consulting).
2. Penn and Broadway Transitway Update (Charles Carlson 612-349-7639).

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Linda Thayer  
Recording Secretary