

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 9, 2015

**Committee Members Present:** Acting Chair Lona Schreiber Jennifer Munt, Steve Elkins, Edward Reynoso, Katie Rodriguez, Marie McCarthy, Jon Commers

**Committee Members Absent:** James Brimeyer, Adam Duininck

**TAB Liaison Present:** None

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Acting Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2015 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Brian Lamb introduced the following managers to present the recognition awards to their employees.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented to: Steven Fastis, Judith Phillips, and Anne Taylor from the Transit Systems Development Unit for their work in keeping three project offices functioning for the employees that are stationed at the project offices.

Assistant Manager Street Operations Dave Hanson presented to: Jon Spurgetis, St. Paul Street Supervisor, for his work during the many events held in St. Paul (Crushed Ice, St. Patrick's Day parade, etc.).

## TAB LIAISON REPORT

Katie Rodriguez and Arlene McCarthy reported from the TAB. The February 18 TAB meeting was the last meeting for Chair Bill Hargis. Hargis was recognized for his service with a reception following the TAB meeting. The TAB also heard a Freight Rail presentation from David Christianson-MnDOT and a presentation about the Governor's Transportation funding proposal from Met Council Director of Governmental Affairs Judd Schetnan.

## DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. Same Week items to Council.

There are a number of Same Week business items at today's meeting. This is due to the cancellation of the February 23 Transportation Committee.

2. Pioneer Press letter from Metro Mobility Rider.

McCarthy noted a Sainted/Tainted letter from a Metro Mobility rider, particularly complimentary of the drivers. The letter is being forwarded to the contract providers to share the recognition with their drivers.

3. Council Members' interview(s) of TAB candidates.

McCarthy thanked the Council members who participated in the interviews of potential TAB members.

4. Highway 55 Transit Study

Cole Hiniker gave a report on the Highway 55 Transit Study at the January 26 Transportation Committee. The report is now final and has been posted on the Council website.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. St. Patrick's Day

This year marks the 19<sup>th</sup> year that Metro Transit has partnered with Miller Coors to provide free rides on St. Patrick's Day. 48,000 riders were served in 2014; more than 1 million free rides have been subsidized by Miller Coors since the inception of the program.

Metro Transit will be participating in the St. Paul and Minneapolis St. Patrick's Day parades. Contact Lamb for more information if interested in participating.

2. Service Changes Last Weekend

Some service changes/schedule changes were made last weekend affecting some routes in the west metro area reflecting upcoming Highway 100 construction. The Lake Street park-and-ride was closed as part of the Hennepin County redevelopment.

3. Blue and Green Line Schedules

The Blue and Green Line LRT schedules have been adjusted, and the lines are running on time.

4. Transit Driver Appreciation Day

Transit Driver Appreciation Day will be celebrated on March 18 with recognition events at various facilities. Contact Lamb for details.

5. Metro Transit Fact Book

Lamb called attention to a supply of Metro Transit Fact Books located in the council member retiring room behind the Chambers. He encouraged the committee members to take and share the fact books.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

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

1. 2015-29: Articulated Bus Purchase

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options, on Contract 13P183 with New Flyer Industries, to purchase 11 articulated buses in an amount not to exceed \$8,140,000 contingent upon approval of Business Item 2015-31.

### **Non-Consent Items:**

1. 2014-301 SW: Purchase of Three Option Buses for ARBT

Metro Transit Asst. Dir. Bus Maintenance Chuck Wurzinger presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options on contract 12P227 with Gillig Corporation to purchase three option buses and bus rapid transit (BRT) styling options for twelve buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,960,092 contingent on satisfactory results of the Pre-Award Buy America Audit and completion of environmental clearance for the A Line project.

Motion carried.

2. 2015-31: Authorization to Amend the 2015 Unified Budget – Carry Forward Amendment Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie and MTS Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented the Capital and Operating amendments on behalf of their respective divisions.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2015 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the Capital – Attachment #1 (Program Level), and;

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2015 Unified Budget – Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with the Operating – Attachment #2.

Motion carried.

3. 2015-41: Approval of the Award of a Sole-Source Contract for Upgrading Fixed Route Go-To Card Readers (Contract No. 14P184)

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull presented this item. M. McCarthy asked a question about the location of the go-to readers on the buses and why they are not always located in the same place. Eull said that not all buses are configured the same, Metro Transit is cognizant of ADA regulations, but he will also check with the Maintenance Department to see if there is a way to standardize the location of the readers.

Motion by Munt, seconded by M. McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract award with Cubic Transportation Systems for the upgrade of all regional bus fixed route Go-To card readers in the amount not to exceed \$5.3 million.

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

4. 2015-42: Approval of the Award of a Contract for Armored Transport Services (Contract No. 14P245a)

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by M. McCarthy, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a two year contract for Armored Transport Services to Star Security in an amount not-to-exceed \$617,000 for a two-year period.

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

5. 2015-43 SW: Approve Knorr Sole Source and Purchase Order for Knorr Brake Parts

Metro Transit Manager Rail Vehicle Maintenance Chris Royston and Assistant Director Rail Vehicle Maintenance Rick Carey presented this item. Munt asked if there was concern about funding for the second phase of repairs to come later and safety concerns, and Royston answered there are enough funds for the first half of the repairs, and anticipated funding for the second part later this year, so no safety issues are anticipated during these phases.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to approve the Knorr sole source and the purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$1,005,000 for Knorr brake parts used on the motor trucks as part of Overhaul 2 of the Bombardier Type 1 vehicles.

Motion carried.

6. 2015-48 SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Memorandum of Understanding with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council):

1. approve the attached resolution to direct the Green Line LRT Extension and Blue Line LRT Extension Project Offices to closely collaborate with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) for the development of design, engineering, environmental review, and construction of both LRT projects and
2. approve the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board relating to the Green Line LRT Extension and Blue Line LRT Extension.

Motion carried.

7. 2015-38: 2015 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb and MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item. It was agreed that it is a very full work plan and there is a need to be flexible; there will likely be a number of topics that will arise throughout the year that will need to be balanced in the work plan.

Comments and additional items brought up by committee members:

Elkins: fare policy discussions (already on list);

Schreiber: interacting with TAB members (already on list);

Schreiber: general freight rail update (will be added);

Commers: dialog on what should be included in system statements (will be added);

Munt: joint meetings with Community Development Committee on TOD; Lamb advised some of the listed quarterly TOD Updates can be joint with CDC.

Chair Schreiber also suggested the committee consider holding meetings off-site to highlight local projects and promote outreach; this will be coordinated with the committee chair.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Transportation Committee adopt the attached work plan as its 2015 Work Plan, with comments from today's meeting incorporated, as necessary.

Motion passed. This item does not require approval by the full Council.

(final work plan attached to minutes)

## **INFORMATION**

1. Regional Travel Demand Model Update

MTS Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich presented this item. He stated that the 2010 Travel Behavior Inventory is nearly complete. Elkins commented that he is pleased to see transportation treated as a drive demand in the model and said he may want to follow-up with Ehrlich at a later date. Munt asked if we know what we hope to find in terms of equity analysis. Ehrlich stated that the model will be able to measure things that could not be measured before, for example: who is benefitting from a transportation investment and who is not. In response to Rodriguez's question about whether there is information regarding the impact of lower gas prices on travel behavior, Ehrlich stated that the models do reflect gas prices, but the best assumption in the model is to assume gas prices don't change because it is difficult to project the long term direction or effects of gas prices. Regarding timing, Ehrlich stated that the report will be ready in about two months.

2. 2014 Annual Park-and-Ride System Report

Metro Transit Planners Berry Farrington and Stephen Hannon presented this item and stated that the report will be available on line next week. Committee members discussed the license plate origins and how park-and-ride users outside the metro area can be addressed. Lamb stated that riders from

outside the metro area contribute in the form of fares and relieving congestion. Lamb suggested the committee discuss this further during upcoming fare policy discussions.

3. Bus Stop Improvements and Ladders of Opportunity Grant

Metro Transit Planner Berry Farrington, Community Outreach Coordinator Jill Hentges, and Executive Director Alliance for Metropolitan Stability Russ Adams presented this item. This was a report on the accomplishments stemming from the Ladders of Opportunity grant received in the fall of 2014 and the improvements planned for the next two years.

4. Metro Transit Solar Portfolio Update

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to a later meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.