

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 8, 2015

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Lona Schreiber, Steve Elkins, Jennifer Munt, Marie McCarthy, Cara Letofsky, Gail Dorfman, Deb Barber, Jon Commers

**Committee Members Absent:** Katie Rodriguez, Edward Reynoso

**TAB Liaison Present:** None

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2015 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers. The committee began with the Employee Recognition noted below while waiting for a quorum.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A quorum being reached, the committee proceeded with business.

Chair Schreiber stated that Information Item #3–Transportation Funding Overview will not be presented at tonight's meeting. It was moved by Commers, seconded by Munt to approve the agenda as amended striking Information Item #3. Motion carried.

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Dorfman to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following:

Metro Transit Acting Director Bus Maintenance Overhaul Base Bill Beck who presented the employee recognition awards to: Mechanic Technicians Chris Antholz, Latchminarine Timaul, and Dan Aasen, for their participation in the annual APTA National Roadao Competition in which they won first place in the written exam portion of the competition.

Northstar Commuter Rail Supervisor of Maintenance Chris Anderson who presented the employee recognition award to: Jeffrey Mossak, Mechanic Commuter Rail Northstar Maintenance Facility for his many modification works on Northstar Rail, including most recently the installation of windshield washers, which the locomotives were not originally equipped with.

## TAB LIAISON REPORT

Arlene McCarthy reported that the TAB's primary action at the May meeting was approving the final slate of projects to be funded in the Regional Solicitation. This will be presented in the Regional Solicitation information item as part of today's agenda.

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

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Green Line anniversary

As you may be aware, this Sunday marks the one year anniversary of the METRO Green Line. Media members are already publishing and reporting on numerous stories about what the line has meant to the community and our

riders. We also expect that some will focus on the wild success when it comes to ridership. We expect to celebrate beginning a week from today with a kickoff in the morning where you will all be invited to help us hand out commemorative pins to our riders.

Additionally that week, we are planning:

- Partnerships with Green Line neighborhood businesses and specials for community members who have the button.
- Online activities that promote, educate and engage the community including slideshows, videos and trivia conversations.
- Highlight a busy Saturday that will culminate the week along the Green Line. On Saturday, June 20, the Twins play in the afternoon, the Saints play in the afternoon and there is a concert at TCF Bank Stadium on the University of Minnesota campus by country music superstar Luke Bryan.

2. Taking the Green Line to see the Boys of Summer in each of the Twin Cities:

For opening weekend of the Saints games as thousands came to see them and their new home in Saint Paul's Lowertown, we were able to highlight how important transit is to the sold out crowds. About 1,900 fans took the Green Line to and from the games. We also know that the Green Line can be at least partially credited with an 18% increase in ridership to see the first place Minnesota Twins at Target Field. That's an increase of about 900 rides from last year.

In addition to all of that, initial estimates are that more than 15,000 rides were to and from the TCF Bank Stadium the day of the Rolling Stones show.

3. Spanish speaking operators

Eighteen operators out of our East Metro Garage recently completed a Spanish course so they can better communicate with their riders. We know that Spanish is the most common language other than English recognized by our riders. The graduates now wear pins saying "Yo aprendo el espanol" (I understand Spanish) so they are easily identifiable as having some Spanish speaking skills. We've also written a blog about the course that can be found on our website and we have translated the blog into Spanish as well.

4. Ovations Operators awards ceremony

A gathering will be held next Wednesday morning to honor our operators at the annual Ovations Awards ceremony. Social hour starts at 9 a.m. with the ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. at the Ramada Plaza in Minneapolis.

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. Federal Transportation Funding

On 5/29 President Obama signed the second MAP-21 short term extension of highway Trust Fund spending authority and program authorization, lasting through July 31. The latest Congressional Budget Office estimates that \$3B in cash is needed to stabilize the highway trust fund through September 30, and another \$5B to accomplish this through December 31, 2015. The DOT claims that \$11B is needed.

What's next? Here is an update on each chamber's activity:

House of Representatives: Propose an extension to December 31, giving legislators time to work on a revenue solution within the context of tax reform.

Senate: Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a markup of a six-year surface transportation bill on June 24. The Senate Finance Committee is allegedly working on a multi-year highway bill pay-for combined with a permanent extension of some expiring tax provisions. Democrats are talking about filibustering any future Highway Trust Fund extensions lasting more than 30 days, or forcing an FHWA shutdown unless a six year bill is passed.

House of Representatives: Began consideration of the FY 2016 THUD bill last week. Steep cuts in Capital programs in the bill were demanded by a tight cap on overall discretionary spending. The president has said he will veto the bill.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

Motion was made by Commers, seconded by Elkins, and carried to approve the following consent items:

1. 2015-103 SW: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: Washington County Civil Engineering and St. Croix Boom Site Recreational Area.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add civil engineering to and increase the cost of its rehabilitation at the St. Croix Boom Site Roadside Recreational Area in Washington County

2. 2015-113: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds, Resolution No. 2015-5

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve Resolution 2015-5 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

3. 2015-116: Authorization to Execute Diesel Fuel Contract 15P041 with Western Petroleum  
Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to exercise contract 15P041 with Western Petroleum to supply diesel fuel to the Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit for a two year period, with options to extend for years three and four. The contract will be in an amount not to exceed \$114,651,674.

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

1. 2015-111: Authorization to Amend the 2015 Unified Budget – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Amendment  
Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented their respective divisions' budget amendments.

Letofsky, Dorfman and Barber asked general questions about certain projects, and how and when projects are moved from the CIP into the budget.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

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 spreadsheet in Capital Attachment #1 (Program Level), and

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

Motion carried.

2. ~~2015-127: Approval of Southwest Corridor Light Rail Transit Cash Flow Financing Plan~~  
This item was stricken from the agenda prior to adoption of the agenda.

3. 2015-117: Authorize release of 2015 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) solicitation  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize release of the 2015 Innovative Travel Demand Management Solicitation for 2015, 2016 and 2017 CMAQ set-aside funding.

Motion carried.

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

3. 2015-123: Authorization to Award Contract for Hennepin County Transit Link  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Project Administrator Sheila Williams presented this item.  
Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Midwest Paratransit Services Inc. to provide Transit Link dial-a-ride service in Hennepin County from August 31, 2015 through July 31, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$6,773,910.

Motion carried.

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

4. 2015-124: Authorization to Enter into Interagency Agreement with Anoka County  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Project Administrator Sheila Williams presented this item.  
Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Anoka County to administer transit service in Anoka County and northwest Ramsey County from August 31, 2015 through July 31, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$10,236,003.

Motion carried.

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

5. 2015-125: Authorization to Award Contract for East, West, Crosstown Regular Route Transit Service

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Services John Harper presented this item. In response to Dorfman and Letofsky, Harper explained briefly the type of service and area covered by this contract. Munt commented that First Transit drivers are union members and this is good for the continuity of drivers.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with First Transit, Inc. to provide regular route local and express transit service within the East, West, Crosstown contract from September 27, 2015 through September 30, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$19,335,285.

Motion Carried.

6. 2015-126: Authorization to Amend Premium Same Day Service Contract

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger presented this item.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 13P232A with Taxi Services Inc. to increase the maximum contract amount by \$159,470 from \$317,807 to \$477,277 and extend the term from June 30, 2015 to August 31, 2015.

Motion carried.

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

7. 2015-114 SW: Authorization to award and execute a construction contract for A Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Metro Transit BRT/Small Starts Project Manager Katie Roth and Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented this item.

Barber asked what a “pilot” station is and Roth explained it is a separate station that will help get a sense of how stations will operate. The pilot station is funded by previous funds that were not used. Dorfman asked about what aspects of the project made it novel and complex, and Roth explained that the dispersed nature of work , the coordination with other projects, and the substantial communications systems added to the project’s novelty and complexity. The committee discussed wording in the motion and agreed that the motion should be clarified by adding the word “project” as indicated below: That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Global Specialty Contractors, Inc., for the construction of the A Line BRT **project** and arterial BRT Pilot Station at a cost of \$11,492,841. Motion by Commers, seconded by M. McCarthy and passed to approve the **amended** motion above.

8. 2015-118: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Request for Additional Construction Change Order Authority for the Systems Contract

Metro Transit Deputy Program Director Chris Beckwith presented this item.

Members asked questions about whether it is typical to go beyond the contingency amount. Beckwith answered that it is not unusual to go beyond in systems contracts.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize an additional 3.5% (\$3,074,762.2) above the currently authorized construction contract change order authority of \$8,345,784 to a revised change order authority of \$11,420,546 and authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a claims settlement Change Order 325 not to exceed \$2,500,000 for additional cost and schedule related impacts for the Central Corridor (Green Line) Systems Contract.

Motion carried.

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

## INFORMATION

1. Metro Mobility Customer Service Manager Andy Streasick welcomed and introduced the new TAAC Chair: Kjensmo Walker. Chair Walker gave a brief background of her work on accessibility issues and her plans for TAAC and how TAAC provides input to the Metropolitan Council on projects.

2. Regional Solicitation Project Selection

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Peterson presented this item. The list of projects which was approved by TAB on 5/20/15 for funded 2014 Regional Solicitation Projects was provided.

3. ~~Transportation Funding Overview~~

This item was stricken from the agenda prior to the adoption of the agenda.

Information Items 4 & 5 were presented together.

4. Campus Master Plan

Metro Transit Facilities & Engineering Associate Planner Pierce Canser and Assistant Director Facilities & Engineering Pat Jones presented this item.

5. Transit Police Building Design Concept

Metro Transit Project Manager Facilities & Engineering Cathy Nordin presented this item.

Facilities & Engineering staff answered questions about what the current use is of the proposed parcels to be acquired and the extent of community group involvement.

6. Southwest Corridor Light Rail Transit Cash Flow Financing Plan  
Metropolitan Council Chief Financial Officer Mary Bogie and Metro Transit Program Director of Light Rail Projects Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. At this time, the State has rescinded its funding share for SWLRT. The item presents creative ways to continue to finance SWLRT to 2016, but members said it creates distress of setting a bad precedent. Also, the rescinding of state funding does not send a good message to the FTA; an updated financial plan to the FTA will be needed by the end of the summer.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.