

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

August 24, 2015

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

Committee Members Absent: Vice-Chair Katie Rodriguez

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:07 p.m. on Monday, August 24, 2015.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by CM Barber, seconded by CM Reynoso to approve the minutes of the Monday, August 10, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Commissioner Randy Maluchnik reported that, due to increased attendance, the TAB Executive Committee will now be meeting in a larger room in the basement of the Met Council building. At the last meeting (Wednesday, August 19th) de-federalization was discussed at length; a by-laws update will include the new opt-out member, with a vote at the next meeting; regarding TIP amendments, the only one that generated discussion concerned the I-94 overlay by MnDOT, but was voted for unanimously after a question and answer session. The 2016 Regional Solicitation schedule is now available; the solicitation goes out for review May 18, 2016, with a return deadline of July 15th, and will be placed on the Council website October 20th. Commissioner Maluchnik also reported that the Equity Workshops schedule is being decided, and that a Minnesota consultant has been hired; additionally, Maluchnik has accepted the role of sole TAB liaison to this Committee as Robert Lilligren will be unable to continue as a co-liaison. CM Reynoso thanked Commissioner Maluchnik for his work on the Committee's behalf.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Transportation Manager Doyne Parsons, who introduced Heywood Garage Instructor and Bus Operator Dakota Nyaribo. Ms. Nyaribo has consistently received commendations for her excellent attitude and performance as a garage instructor, bus operator and member of the garage's safety & security committee.

Mr. Lamb introduced Director of Light Rail Operations Brian Funk, who introduced Light Rail Transit Supervisor Matt Walker. Matt's quick thinking during a recent crisis greatly helped a customer who was frightened and disoriented due to taking the wrong medication. Matt's consideration in speaking calmly and reassuringly to this individual while connecting with emergency staff is to be highly commended.

CM Dorfman asked Mr. Walker who the emergency contact would be in a situation like this, and he answered that he contacted the TCC dispatcher, who then followed through with the Transit Police.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER AND MTS DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

1. **Blue and Green lines top 1 million rides in July.** The Blue and Green lines each topped 1 million rides in July. This is the third time the Green Line has topped the 1 million monthly ride mark since service began. Average weekday ridership last month was 37,654 – about 20% higher than last July. This is the first time the Blue Line has surpassed the 1 million monthly ride mark since August 2011, and the fifth time it's done so since the line opened. Average weekday ridership on the Blue Line was 33,859 in July, up 8 % over last year.

Another bright spot this summer has been Twins ridership. More than 400,000 rides have been provided to Twins fans through the end of July – a 12 percent increase over last year and the highest level since 2012.

There have been 49.4 million rides on all modes through the end of July, up 5 % from last year. We expect continued strong ridership as summer vacations wind down, students head back to class and the Vikings and Gophers return to the field. Typically, October is the month where we see our highest ridership.

2. **Student Pass.** Thousands of Minneapolis Public Schools high school students took transit to their first day of classes today. This is the fourth year we've partnered with MPS to provide Student Passes, which give high schoolers not just a chance to get to and from school, but the freedom and flexibility to pursue before and after-school activities, get to work and participate in their community. In St. Paul, students at Johnson High School will begin receiving Student Passes for the first time in September. Providing Student Passes to these students will help us further evaluate whether and how we can expand this program at other Saint Paul Public Schools.

The beginning of the school year will bring our Summer Student Pass trial to a close. We'll evaluate the program before determining next steps but believe it was a success. More than 5,500 Summer Student Passes were purchased, generating nearly 231,000 rides since June 1.

3. **WiFi now available on portion of bus fleet.** Free WiFi service is now available on 57 coach buses and ten 40-foot buses as part of a pilot project that will continue through at least the end of the year. WiFi-equipped buses are rotating through a number of local routes and nine designated express routes, in addition to some Maple Grove Transit express service.

4. **Respect the Ride.** A new campaign promoting good behavior on transit was introduced to customers last week. The "Respect the Ride" campaign addresses several disrespectful behaviors that frequently lead to customer complaints, like listening to loud music, having loud conversations on a mobile device or putting feet on seats. The campaign includes posters inside buses and trains and a variety of online advertisements and social media messages.

5. **State Fair.** Discounted tickets are available online through midnight on Wednesday, Aug. 26th.

No MTS report given this meeting.

BUSINESS

CONSENT ITEMS

1. 2015-187 SW: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: MnDOT Interstate 94 Unbonded Concrete Overlay. Proposed action: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to adjust the project description and funding levels for the Interstate 94 unbonded concrete overlay project.
2. 2015-205: Authorize Execution of Contract Options with Gillig LLC. Proposed action: That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options on Contract 12P227 with Gillig Corporation to purchase fourteen transit buses in an amount not to exceed \$6,699,000. This purchase is contingent on approval of project #35987 in Business Item 2015-173 and satisfactory results of the Pre-Award Buy America Audit.
3. 2015-206: 2016 Metro Mobility Small Bus Procurement. Proposed action: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with:
 1. Hoglund Bus (MnDOT Contract 88294) for up to 23 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,587,000; and
 2. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 88331) for up to 23 replacement buses and 10 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,145,000.

Purchase of these buses is contingent on Council approval of project #35990 in Business Item 2015-173.

It was moved by Dorfman, seconded by Letofsky, that the above Business Items be sent to full Council as Consent Items. Motion carried.

NON-CONSENT ITEMS

1. 2015-161: Mutual Aid Pact with Hennepin County Chiefs' Association. Presented by Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington. It was moved by CM Barber, seconded by CM Reynoso, that the Metropolitan Council approve the mutual aid agreement between the Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit Police Department and the Hennepin County Chiefs' Police Association.

CM Letofsky asked if this was an extension to an already existing mutual aid agreement; Harrington confirmed. CM Reynoso asked whether there were other cities and counties that we don't have a mutual aid agreement with; he also asked about texting 911 during an emergency for customers.

Motion carried. **Consent to Council.**

2. 2015-162: Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of St. Paul. Presented by Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington. It was moved by CM Reynoso, seconded by CM Munt, that the Metropolitan Council approve the mutual aid agreement between the Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit Police Department and the City of St Paul / St Paul Police Department. Motion carried. **Consent to Council.**
3. 2015-199: Authorization to Acquire Fee Title and File Condemnation Petitions for 613 11th Ave N, 578 8th Ave N. and 554 8th Ave N. in Minneapolis, MN. Resolution 2015-18: Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Property for the Heywood Campus Expansion Property for the Heywood Campus Expansion Project. It was moved by CM Letofsky, seconded by CM Commers that the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution No. 2015-18 and authorize the Regional Administrator to

negotiate the acquisition of fee title, at up to the appraised value, for three properties totaling 3.27 acres in Minneapolis to construct the Heywood II Bus Garage and Transit Police Headquarters and authorize Council legal staff to initiate condemnation proceedings for those parcels that cannot be acquired by direct negotiation. Chair Schreiber asked that the first page with the maps be attached when it goes before the Council. CM Dorfman asked whether the planners think that these properties may go into condemnation. Mr. Jones stated that all of the property owners are aware of our interest and have been involved in the due diligence process. All three property owners were interested sellers as of our last contact with them, but the property market in the North Loop area changes day-to-day. A motion by CM Letofsky was seconded by CM Commers. Motion carried. Non-consent to Council.

4. 2015-173: Authorization to Amend the 2015 Unified Budget – 3rd Quarter Budget Amendment. Presented by Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie. It was moved by CM Munt, seconded by CM 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 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. **Non-consent to Council.**

5. 2015-197: Authorization to Enter into Interagency Agreement with Scott County. Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Project Administrator Sheila Williams presented this item. CM Reynoso asked for clarity related to Scott County's contract outsourcing and the Council's responsibility in terms of oversight. He also asked about the procurement process. CM Munt stated that she would abstain from the vote because the Scott County employees are represented by AFSCME.

CM Letofsky asked about the County's new versus past process the County's decision to outsource rather than continue operating as they do today. She also commented that she would have appreciated better understanding of the potential consequences of the County no longer providing ADA services. CM Reynoso voiced concerns about the possibility that current Scott County employees were not guaranteed a job and/or paid lower wages with the new contractor. CM Dorfman asked about the impact of not approving the motion. CM Barber clarified the reasons of the County's decision to subcontract and encouraged the committee to support the motion.

It was moved by CM Barber, seconded by CM Elkins, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Intergovernmental agreement with Scott County to provide Transit Link service in Scott County and Carver County and support the transit share of Scott County facility costs from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$7,000,000. Motion carried, with CM Munt abstaining from the vote. **Non-consent to Council.**

6. 2015-179 SW: 2015 Unified Planning Work Program Administrative Amendment. Presented by MTS Senior Planner Katie White. It was moved by CM Reynoso, seconded by CM McCarthy, that the Metropolitan Council adopt an administrative amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program to include the Regional Truck Highway Corridor Study. Motion carried. **Non-consent to Council.**

INFORMATION

1. Metro Transit Voice & Data Communication System. Presented by Metro Transit Communications Systems Manager Chad LeVasseur.
2. I-35E MnPASS Extension Study and MnPASS Overview. Presented by MnDOT's MnPASS Policy and Planning Program Director Brad Larsen.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5.41 p.m.

Linda Thayer
Recording Secretary