

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 28, 2016

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso

TAB Liaison Present: Randy Maluchnik

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2016 In the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins to approve the March 28, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.
Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2016 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Rodriguez reported that the TAB approved the Regional Solicitation, which is on today's Transportation Committee agenda. The TAB also heard from Scott McBride-MnDOT, regarding the Legislative Auditor's report regarding MnDOT's project selection process.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Metro Transit Director of Strategic Initiatives John Levin who presented the employee recognition awards to the following core team of employees for their work on the HASTUS project:

Metro Transit Systems Engineer 3 Marty Geyer;
Metro Transit Database Administrator 2 Mahbubul Huq;
Metro Transit Manager Scheduling Shaun Morrell;
Metro Transit Dispatcher Terry Dolney;
Metro Transit Dispatcher Robin Gerdesmeier;
Metro Transit Manager Business Systems Donathan Brown; and
Metro Transit Business Systems Analyst II Juan Villanueva.
Levin also noted Kellie Miller, since retired Manager of Scheduling, for her work on HASTUS.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Metro Transit Director Rail Vehicle Maintenance Rick Carey who presented the employee recognition awards to the following core team of employees for their work on a Wig Wag circuit for the Light Rail Vehicles:

Metro Transit Paint & Body Technician Brooks Letourneau;
Metro Transit Electronic Shop Technician Scott McDowell;
Metro Transit Paint & Body Technician Doug Robinson; and
Metro Transit Electronic Shop Technician Bruce VonDrashek.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER and METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy had nothing to report.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Jan Homan retirement:

Jan Homan, who has become a pillar of our organization over the last four decades, will celebrate his retirement this coming Friday, April 1. Homan's retirement celebration begins at 11 a.m. at the Instruction Center, which is just north of our Heywood Garage. Lamb also introduced Brian Funk, who will be serving as Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Bus Operations.

2. Metro Transit Police Awards:

The Metro Transit Police Department will celebrate outstanding officers at their 19th annual Awards Ceremony this Thursday, March 31. The event begins at 2 p.m. at the Midpointe Event Center, just south of the Green Line's Snelling Avenue Station. Council members are invited to attend. Officers who participated in the department's first-ever Somali language class will conclude their coursework this week with a visit to the Brian Coyle Center in Cedar-Riverside. Officers will practice their language skills by engaging in conversations with community members.

3. Rail Rodeo:

Council members are invited to attend our Rail Rodeo competition this Saturday, April 2 at the Hiawatha Operations & Maintenance Facility. Like our annual Bus Roadeos, the competition will include a series of trials that test operators' knowledge and safety skills. Judges will observe operators in out-of-service trains on the main line and completing tasks in the yard; operators will also go through a uniform inspection, written exam and vehicle inspection. Around two-dozen operators will participate in the competition, which will begin around 8 a.m. First- and second-place finishers will be invited to compete in APTA's International Rail Rodeo in Phoenix this June.

4. A Line update:

Progress continues on the A Line, which opens in just 75 days. Just over a week ago, technicians installed the first ticket-vending machines that customers will use to purchase and validate fares prior to boarding at the County Road B and Snelling Avenue stations. In the coming weeks, installation will begin on the station pylons that include real-time displays. Electrical and communication testing remains underway. Planning for our opening day events also continues.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no consent items on the Transportation Committee agenda for 3/28/16.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-45: Authorization for design services for the Blue Line Enhancement Project – Park and Warehouse Crossovers

Metro Transit Lead Project Manager Engineering & Facilities Mark Leemon presented this item and answered questions from Dorfman about the amount of crossovers being replaced and the lifecycle of the new crossovers; from Schreiber about details pertaining to the funding paragraph in the business item; from Commers detailing the construction schedule as it pertains to the Super Bowl event; and from Barber explaining that the rebuilds of the crossovers has been exhausted.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute an engineering contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA), for design and construction support services in the amount of \$1,981,667 for the upgrades to the Park Avenue and Warehouse Crossovers. Motion carried.

2. 2016-66: Authorization to Award and Execute a Construction Contract for the Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Engineering & Facilities Claudius Toussiant presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Sheehy Construction Company, for the construction of the Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station in Eagan, MN, at a cost of \$13,141,300.25. Motion passed.

3. 2016-67: Concur with the Transportation Advisory Board action to approve the Regional Solicitation package and its release

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Peterson presented this item and replied to questions from members explaining the changes that were made to the Regional Solicitation as a result of comments received, clarifying outreach and technical support to be provided, and outlining the schedule and opportunities for applicants to appeal qualifying criteria and scoring.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to approve the attached Regional Solicitation package for 2020-2021 funding (2016-2019 funding for TDM projects), including the scoring guidance and weighting, and to release the solicitation. Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Electric Bus Update

Metro Transit Assistant Direct Bus Maintenance Chuck Wurzinger presented this item and answered questions from committee members regarding the location of the various bus manufacturers, the “newness” and the capabilities of the technology, compatibility of the technology between bus manufacturers, etc. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb added that Metro Transit has an application in for a Lo-No (low/no emissions) grant which would allow for a pilot project for electric buses. Without this grant, Metro Transit is struggling with the cost effectiveness of using electric buses.

2. Twins Service and Marketing

Metro Transit Senior Marketing Development Specialist Kelci Stones presented this item and answered a question from Commers regarding the “trade” value with the Twins, and how the \$170,000 value is used in marketing. Commers commented on the good partnership that Metro Transit has with the Twins organization. Rodriguez commented that she would like to see the same type of partnership with Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) for rides to/from the airport. Lamb said there would be a future report on the challenges that exist in partnering with MAC.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.