

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

July 25, 2016

LOCATION: Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

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

**Committee Members Absent: Katie Rodriguez, Marie McCarthy**

**TAB Liaison Present: None**

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present when Committee Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 2016 in the Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the July 25, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

The following people were presented Employee Recognition Awards for their work:

Metro Transit Director Light Rail Operations Mark Benedict presented awards to Rail Coordinator Christina House and Train Operator Karl Obermeyer.

**TAB LIAISON REPORT:** No TAB liaisons present but Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Director Amy Vennewitz briefly updated the committee on the last TAB meeting. There was a lot of robust debate and the TAC recommendation was amended for a couple different reasons and a different recommendation for the 2017 Federal Funds reallocation was passed. Most funding went to two roadway projects that had been next on application list in last solicitation (one in the modernization category and one in the expansion category) which was about \$11M. One Transit project moved up from 2018 to 2017 and \$1M went primarily to trail projects to bring some projects higher that weren't at 80% so they received additional federal funding.

## METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER and METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INTERIM DIRECTOR and METRO

Metro Transit Director Finance Ed Petrie reported on behalf of Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb:

### 1. National Night Out

Metro Transit police will attend community gatherings throughout the metro to celebrate National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 2. The annual community-building campaign encourages residents to get together with one another and local law enforcement. In 2015, Transit Police visited more than 50 different community gatherings. In addition to attending locally-hosted events, Transit Police will have a presence near Central

Station in downtown St. Paul and at the 46th Street Station in Minneapolis for National Night Out. Officers will be passing out water and cookies at each location from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## 2. All-Day pass

A new All-Day Pass has been introduced as a low-cost, convenient option for event-goers and customers taking multiple trips throughout the day. The All-Day Pass can be used for unlimited light-rail, local bus and off-peak express bus rides from the point of purchase through 2 a.m. the following day. Passes will be purchased from ticket-vending machines and at Metro Transit's Service Centers.

On weekdays, an Adult All-Day Pass will cost \$4.50 before 9 a.m., \$4 between 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and \$3.50 after 6:30 p.m. Weekend Adult All-Day Passes will cost \$3.50. There are reduced rates for youth, seniors, Medicare card holders and persons with disabilities.

All-Day Passes replace the Six-Hour Pass, providing customers more assurance that they can travel to and from events without needing to purchase an additional fare. While advanced round-trip tickets are available online for many events, most customers continue to buy fares at ticket-vending machines.

## 3. Slim Shelters

A new type of shelter that can be placed in locations with limited sidewalk space will be installed for the first time this week. The shelters were developed with input from customers, members of the Transit Accessibility Advisory Committee and facilities maintenance staff. The shelters are two feet deep at the base but still have the standard four-foot deep rooftop to provide shade and protection from the elements. The shelters will also have a small bench and a location for transit information. The new shelters were designed to fit in spaces where standard designs – four or six feet deep at their base – would have gotten in the way of pedestrians.

The new shelters are part of an ongoing effort to improve bus stops throughout the region. Several new and replacement shelters have been installed this year and Metro Transit continues to work with local community groups to get feedback that will influence potential changes to shelter placement guidelines and future bus stop improvements.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Director Amy Vennewitz reported:

1. Regional Solicitation Application: Period to apply closed on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Received a total 149 applications across all categories, which was up from the 134 range in 2014. Total federal funding request is about \$550M for the 2 year period and we have about \$170M available for award. One the TAB website, there is a link to the actual applications for your reference.

2. Steve Peterson: Steve was promoted to Manager of Highway Planning and Programming. He will be the point person for TAB and TAC process within Metropolitan Transportation Services

Before proceeding to Business Items Chair Schreiber updated the committee on:

1. Update on TMO Business item: 2016-137: After item was approved at last meeting, it was suggested that Council member Chavez's committee have a review as well. Council members Chavez and Schreiber wanted Chair Duininck to weigh in. Chair Duininck wishes to learn more about the issues and still has some concerns/questions, so he is delaying action in Council member Chavez's committee. Action expected by mid-August, as its thought there is enough money from the city of Minneapolis to keep the office going until then.

2. Proposed Tour: Tour of the new station/plaza/pedestrian bridge area at US Bank Stadium for Committee member is being considered prior to an August meeting. Becky Davidson will coordinate availability with Committee members.

3. September Meeting: Will travel to Council member Barber's, District 4 to hold Committee meeting at the McColl Environmental Learning Center in Savage.

## BUSINESS

### Consent Items:

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Elkins and carried to approve the following consent item.

1. 2016-154: First Amendment to Contract No. 16P018 with Apollo Video Technology

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend Contract 16P018 with Apollo Video Technology in an amount not to exceed \$400,000. The original contract value was \$482,848. This amendment would increase the total contract value to \$882,848.

### Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-155: Final Draft Lake Elmo Airport 2035 Long Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP)  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Russ Owens presented this item. Owens and MAC representative Neil Ralston answered questions from committee members about: noise impact assessment (was completed; noise contour will shift to the southwest from approximately .6 miles today to approximately .3 miles); impact to emergency response with relocation of 30<sup>th</sup> St. (still learning but primary medical/fire response, Bayport, would not see much of impact); main driver (based on FFA guidance, primary runway length should be between 3300 ft and 3900 ft; currently at 2850 ft); timing (2019/2020 construction); increase in traffic volume (1 -2% growth but project is not capacity driven); runway lights at night (lights on remote). Reynoso expressed favorable comments regarding improving safety and Letofsky provided feedback from pilot community at previous MAC meeting regarding issues with planes not being able to take off with passengers/fuel due to runway length. Members of W. Lakeland Township (Vince Anderson, Dave Schultz, Mary Apelt, Mary Vierling, Mick Cashman and Tom Vierling) addressed the committee with their opposition and concerns including: decrease in property/home value; security; noise impact.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council determine that the Lake Elmo Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) conforms to the metropolitan aviation system plan and is consistent with Council policy.

Motion carried.

2. 2016-132 SW: Three administrative amendments to the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. White answered a question from Munt about why we would outsource the TPP engagement work when we've been recognized as an innovator of public engagement, explaining that we don't know how we will do TPP engagement yet but will go with recommendation from Communications.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council approve three administrative amendments to the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to add the following Products as described in detail below: (1) Gold Line Station Area Planning; (2) Spending on the Regional Highway System; and (3) TPP Engagement Work.

Motion carried.

3. 2016-144: Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF) Policy Modification

Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Director Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Vennewitz answered questions from committee members: repayment term (no typical term for repayment, could be 8, 10, 30 years); existing loans to be sold on a non-MDOT project (would need written communication from MDOT that they have no plans to use, then we'd notify city); outstanding loans/parcels (outstanding loans \$45M; parcels – unknown, would have to get back to Committee); list

of RALF properties (will bring update in future). Commers expressed concerns about loan repayment while Barber had favorable comments regarding communities benefiting.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council modify the eligibility requirements of Right-of-Way Loan Fund (RALF) parcels as follows:

- Limit RALF loan requests to rights-of-way threatened by development or to hardship acquisitions of homestead properties, with exceptions for other properties considered on a case-by-case basis.

Motion carried, with Commers voting against.

Chair Schreiber had commitments that caused her to leave and Council member Elkins took her place to chair for the remainder of the meeting.

#### 4. 2016-147: Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Determination of Adequacy

Metro Transit Assistant Director Environment & Agreements Nani Jacobsen presented this item. Jacobsen indicated the comments and responses to the comments received can be found on the project website in Attachment C and D of the ROD.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council): (1) determine the adequacy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project (Project) (METRO Green Line Extension); and (2) authorize its Chair to sign the Final EIS Determination of Adequacy on behalf of the Council.

Motion carried.

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. 2017 Operating Budget

Metro Transit Director Finance Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Hueber presented this item.

Due to time constraints, the following information items were deferred to a later meeting:

1. Metro Transit Community Outreach
2. TOD Quarterly Update
3. International Rail Rodeo
4. 2017 Federal Funds Reallocation

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 6:47p.m.

Becky Davidson  
Recording Secretary