

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 8, 2016

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

Committee Members Absent: Gail Dorfman, Edward Reynoso

TAB Liaison Present: None present

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2016 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Commers to approve the 2/08/16 agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

TAB Liaison Randy Maluchnik was not present. Council member Rodriguez reported from the TAB. There has not been a TAB meeting since the last Transportation Committee. The TAB Bylaws Committee has met and continues to work on crafting language in their bylaws regarding alternates.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. TIP Amendment regarding defederalization.

A TIP Amendment is on today's agenda which involves defederalization. In short, defederalization has been used when two projects have been awarded federal funds with requirements. The idea is to move all federal funds with their requirements to one project and swap out with local funds. TAB supports this and has done this in the past. The TAB is working on a process and procedures for approving defederalization in the future. Elkins said he has seen this defederalization practice in Dallas. MTS Senior Planner Joe Barbeau can relay this to the technical committees as they discuss the process, an example of peer practice.

2. MTS Manager Systems Planning Connie Kozlak and MTS Senior Planner Karen Lyons will be retiring on March 11. Between the two of them, they possess a vast amount of institutional knowledge which will be missed.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Metro Transit employee retirement

Deputy Chief of Operations-Bus Jan Homan will be retiring after 40 years of service. Jan's last day will be Friday, April 1. We're obviously thrilled for Jan, whose story stands as a remarkable example of how hard work and dedication can lead to great things. Jan's career began in December 1975, when he started as a Cleaner at what was then known as Shingle Creek Garage. He later worked as a Helper, Mechanic, Senior Mechanic, Service Garage Supervisor and Overhaul Shop Foreman. He was promoted to Maintenance Manager at Heywood Garage in 1992 and was named Bus Maintenance Director in 2000. Jan will be

remembered for his efforts to improve and modernize our fleet and to guide others toward their own goals. More information about Jan's retirement will be forthcoming.

2. Stepping up amid first significant snowfall of the season

We had our first real taste of winter last week, with up to a foot of snow falling in parts of the metro. While congestion slowed road traffic, all Northstar trips arrived on time and light-rail operated very close to schedule. More than 3,000 people rode Northstar on Tuesday and Wednesday, about 20 percent above average. Bus and light-rail ridership was slightly lower than usual as many people avoided travel altogether. Nearly 5,000 customers called the Transit Information Center on Tuesday, 25 percent higher than a typical weekday. We heard from many customers who were thankful to get home safely thanks to our efforts. Said one commuter: "My evening commute on Route 272 was exceptional. The driver did a tremendous job navigating heavy traffic, backed up highway ramps and icy roads and the bus ran pretty much on time — truly remarkable."

3. Big events coming up this month

We'll serve a couple of large events this month. Next weekend, Feb. 20-21, hockey fans will fill TCF Bank Stadium for alumni and regular season match-ups between the Wild and the Blackhawks. Capacity crowds of more than 50,000 people are expected on Friday and Saturday nights. The following weekend, Feb. 26-27, Red Bull Crashed Ice returns to St. Paul. More than 100,000 people are expected to attend, and transit will be a great way to avoid parking hassles. Free rides will be available with a downloadable pass from noon to 1 p.m. on Saturday. These events help us continue to prepare for the 2018 Super Bowl, now just two years away. Planning is underway now and we'll send a group of Transit Police and operations staff to Houston next year to better understand best practices.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Letofsky to approve the following consent items.

Motion carried.

1. 2016-23: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: City of Minneapolis East-West Pedestrian Improvements
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reduce the scope and amend the funding amounts for the City of Minneapolis's East-West Pedestrian Improvements project (SP# 141-030-022).

2. 2016-27: Authorization to Execute an Operating Grant Agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for \$1,600,533 to operate service between the Marschall Road Transit Station in Shakopee to downtown Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-22 SW: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: Hennepin County CSAH 53 Increase in Federal Funds
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. Members asked for the location of the Godfrey Bridge. Barbeau replied that it is located in Minneapolis on 46th Street just west of the Mississippi River. Members asked whether the federal funds were being removed from the bridge replacement due to complexities of meeting federal bridge requirements. Barbeau replied that the decision was based on the larger size of the CSAH 53 project. Committee members requested that project location maps be provided on future TIP amendment business items whenever possible.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to move \$1,792,000 in federal STP funds from Hennepin County's Godfrey Bridge Replacement project (SP# 027-646-007) to its CSAH 53 Reconstruction (SP# 027-653-021) project in exchange for local funds.
Motion carried

2. 2016-12: Southwest LRT: Updated Station Names

Metro Transit Asst. Dir. A/C/O Robin Caufman presented this item.

Letofsky and Munt agree with community feedback that the name Van White should stay on Blue Line Extension (Bottineau LRT). In response to a question from Barber, Caufman explained that outreach staff are engaging the adjacent neighborhoods regarding Van White station name for Southwest LRT with the intent to have a recommendation by the February 24 Council meeting.

Commers asked if there had been any discussion about dropping "Royalston Ave" from the Royalston Ave/Farmers Market. Caufman responded that there hasn't been any discussion.

Schreiber asked if the Transportation Committee was being asked to approve the rest of the station names listed on page two of the business item. Caufman replied that the Council is being asked to approve new station names for only those that have substantial changes; the other names do not have substantive changes from what has been shown on the planning and design documents.

Schreiber also asked why the Council needed to approve these names. Caufman explained that the Transitway Guidelines state that the Metro Council will get input from cities, and that the Council has the final approval.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) approve the revised station names for the Southwest (Green Line Extension) Light Rail Project (as noted on the Business Item 2016-12).

Motion carried

3. 2016-31: Adopt 2016 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy and Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb presented this item.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt:

That the Transportation Committee adopt the attached plan as its 2016 Work Plan.

Motion carried

This item does not proceed to the full Council.

INFORMATION

1. MTS Regional Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Services John Harper presented this item. Members had questions about local bus ridership decreases and what could be the cause. Because Metro Transit operates the majority of local bus service, Brian Lamb answered. Lamb explained that it is very vexing to Metro Transit; Metro Transit continues to perform analysis but has not reached any major conclusions. Metro Transit is also looking for ways to boost ridership in 2016.

2. Metro Mobility Supplemental Service Pilot Program

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger presented this item. He explained the differences in the two programs: the former Peak Demand Overflow (PDO) and the new Supplemental Service by medical assistance (MA) providers, and answered questions about the method of calculating ride cost, subsidy, service areas. Barber suggested looking into clusters of medical campuses and monitoring their use by Supplemental Service riders to become more efficient by grouping trips to these types of destinations.

3. Schreiber introduced Metropolitan Council Director of Community Relations Jennifer O'Rourke. O'Rourke is working with Dakota County and the City of Inver Grove Heights to plan the Transportation

Committee which will be held at Inver Grove Heights City Hall on 2/22/16. O'Rourke shared a description of the proposed format for the meeting. The second half of the meeting will focus on Dakota County, and Dakota County cities and townships.

4. Northstar 2015 Operations Update

Metro Transit Director Northstar Commuter Rail John Paul Zanaska presented this item. The presentation included information on ridership, reliability, projects, special events and a look forward to 2016.

5. LRT Operations Safety Briefing

Metro Transit Director LRT Operations Brian Funk presented this item. The presentation included information on collision statistics and initiatives being undertaken to improve equipment, educate riders & LRT employees, and enforce rules around LRT to reduce collisions.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.