

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 25, 2016

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

Committee Members Absent: Gail Dorfman, Marie McCarthy

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, January 25, 2016 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the 1/25/16 agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Randy Maluchnik reported from the January 20 2016 TAB meeting. Chair Hovland welcomed new TAB members and shared a summary of the Equity Workshops. A TAB Bylaws Task Force is being formed and will look into representation on the TAB. They will meet late January or early February. The TAB approved the TAB Executive Committee membership. MnDOT reported that the TED grant recipients have been named. MAC reported that they are exploring alternate forms of transportation at the airport – Uber, etc. and are drafting a “Transportation Network Company Ordinance” to address this. The bulk of the TAB meeting was spent on the 2016 Regional Solicitation; the results of those discussions and actions will be covered in Information Item 2 presentation by Steve Peterson later in today’s Transportation Committee items.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services and Metro Transit

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz introduced Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich who presented the employee recognition award to Brian Cihacek, Principal Contract Administrator in the Contracts and Procurement Department, for his work on the complicated and various consultant contracts in MTS.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Metro Transit Nicollet Garage Manager Tony Harris who presented the recognition award to Metro Transit Operator Melanie Benson.

Melanie recently observed her 39th anniversary on the job and has 29 years of safe driving. She also served as a Local 1005 union officer from 1994-97 and was a founder of and an officer in the ATU International Women's Caucus. More recently, she chaired the Local 1005 Education Committee, where she wrote for and edited the union newsletter "The 1005 Line".

Brian Lamb also introduced Metro Transit Metro Transit Director Light Rail Operations Brian Funk who presented recognition awards to:

Metro Transit Senior Rail Transit Supervisor Nick Pellegrin for his work on the night of December 27, 2015. It was a Sunday evening and the Vikings played to a sold out crowd during a nationally televised game at TCF Bank Stadium. Approximately 13,000 fans rely on LRT service for each home game and evening games pose a special challenge because of the reduced service levels. This means that he was responsible for an entirely different

game plan to safely and efficiently transport our customers home at about 10:30 pm in very cold weather. I was present to observe the outcome of his efforts and Metro Transit was able to deliver exceptional service, as our customers expect us to.

And to:

Metro Transit Senior Rail Transit Supervisor Mark Ammend for his work on Dec 23 when the Blue Line experienced a service disruption for about two hours because of a Black Lives Matter protest at the MOA and the Airport. Mark safely and professionally protected our employees and customers while communicating the status of the very fluid situation back to the Rail Control Center. There were numerous protesters and over 60 police officers at the location. The scene was very chaotic with people yelling and officers bombarding Mark with questions about the Light Rail operations. Mark worked very well under pressure and was a key component in communicating information through RCC and to the officers on the platform. With his assistance, officers gained control of area. Mark's coordinated effort was vital in reducing the amount of protesters using the rail system to divide police resources.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER and DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORTS

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Metro Transit Technician program

The MTT program is approaching the transition from Phase II 'Participant Readiness' to Phase III 'Customized Training / Internship'. One week from today marks the last day of formal Empowerment training where 20 participants will receive certificates marking completion of this phase. This group will begin their paid internship (\$15.50 per hour) and training on March 7th. This will include a customized 120 hour diesel engine classroom training course administered by Hennepin Technical College. Also, a customized 400 hour hands-on training course administered by Metro Transit's Training Department and mentorship from Metro Transit Mechanic staff.

2. Univision Minnesota

We're continuing to broaden our outreach efforts with a new partnership with Univision Minnesota with some Spanish public service announcements around transit safety that are going to be aired on Univision in the coming months. We know the importance of these kinds of partnerships in helping us to reach out to more of our community members, especially our community members who might speak English as a second language, and helping them to understand the benefits that transit can bring to them.

3. Upcoming chances to showcase our service and staff members who make all things possible

It might not look much like spring outside, but baseball fans can get in the spirit this weekend at TwinsFest 2016. Metro Transit will also have a booth at the event to share information about transit options to Target Field. Ridership to Twins games at Target Field increased 16 percent last season. We'll take the opportunity to showcase our service to Target Field, providing free rides on any bus or METRO line on Friday afternoon and evening, and throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday. Northstar family passes will also be available for purchase.

MTS Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz was filling in for MTS Director Arlene McCarthy. There was no report from MTS.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no consent items on this meeting agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-1: Delegation of Authority Policy Green Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project and Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project of Right of Way Acquisitions
Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrman presented this item. He explained that the modifications to the right-of-way acquisition oversight authority would help to keep the project on schedule given the amount of parcels needed (428), and avoid overburdening committee agendas. He also stated that there are instances where it is important to settle with property owners quickly. In response to Letofsky, Fuhrmann explained the past practices from the Blue Line and Green Line projects. Rodriguez asked if the Regional Administrator and Finance Department have looked at the proposal to be sure there won't be issues with internal control and future audits. Munt stated she was hesitant to delegate authority for projects over \$1M, there have been times in the past where Council members were helpful in creating a relationship with a landowner. In answer to Barber, Fuhrmann stated that this delegation of authority change in Policy 3-31. D. would apply only to the two projects: Green Line Extension and Blue Line Extension.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize modifications to Metropolitan Council Policy 3-3 I.D. Expenditures for the Acquisition of Real Property, by inserting a category outlining the Metropolitan Council's oversight authority in relation to acquisition of right of way for the Green Line Extension Light Rail Transit and Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit projects as set forth in the tables below. Project staff will provide regular project updates, including right of way acquisition status, approximately quarterly to the Council.

An amendment to the motion was made by Munt, seconded by Reynoso to maintain the present authority in Metropolitan Council Policy-Expenditures 3-31. D. for projects over \$1M, and to have this item also be reviewed by the Management Committee. The amendment to the motion carried
The original motion including the amendments carried.

2. 2016-16: Authorization to release the recommended *C Line Station Plan* for public comment
Metro Transit Planner BRT/Small Starts Scott Janowiak and Project manager BRT/Small Starts Katie Roth presented this item. Discussion followed including pop-up displays and door knocking - that these methods gave a better idea and captured the opinions of people. Roth said that there has been indication that there is appeal for ABRT among non-transit riders. Commers suggested that this may be a time to consider whether the C Line should be renamed B Line. Lamb and Roth said that this has been, and continues to be discussed. The naming of ABRT won't have a geographic orientation. Staff is open to renaming, however the C Line is quite embedded with the project partners.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Authorize release of the recommended C Line Station Plan for public review and comment
- Direct staff to collect comments through Friday, March 11, 2016 via mail and email, summarize comments, and report the findings to the Metropolitan Council

Motion carried.

3. 2016-18 SW: Resolution of Support for Smart City Challenge Grant Application
Metro Transit Director of Customer Services and Marketing Bruce Howard and Metro Transit Director of Strategic Initiatives John Levin presented this item. The committee discussed the importance of including freight rail, if possible, when considering safety. Munt asked if this region was not the finalist to receive \$40M grant, whether we would still continue with the vision that was created using the \$100,000 grant. Levin responded that at that point it would be up to the region whether to continue with the vision.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the attached resolution supporting the application for the USDOT Smart City Challenge Grant

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Rail Right-of-Way Worker Protection

Metro Transit Director Rail Systems Maintenance Mark Benedict presented this item. Metro Transit has been testing the Railway Worker Protection System from PROTRAN. The testing confirmed the system functioned as designed and advertised. The system is great for people who don't regularly work in R/W, there is some small internal concern that people who work in R/W on a regular basis may become complacent and rely only on the equipment.

2. Update on the 2016 Regional Solicitation

Council member Rodriguez explained that the Regional Solicitation went through a major reorganization in 2014. The basic elements of that reorganization are still present in the 2016 Regional Solicitation with some changes made following survey responses from TAB members, TAC members, TAC Funding & Programming members, applicants and scorers. The Regional Solicitation has been through the TAC/TAB committees and changes are reflected in this presentation.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Peterson presented this item, highlighting the changes that were requested through the TAC/TAB. The Draft 2016 Regional Solicitation has been approved for release for public comment with final approval scheduled in March.

3 Proposed 2016 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb and Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Lamb and Vennewitz explained where the requests from committee members from the 1/11/16 Transportation Committee meeting have been slotted into the 2016 Transportation Committee Work Plan. Some of the requested items would be better addressed at other committees (Management, full Council), and those were noted by Lamb and Vennewitz.

Members Letofsky, Rodriguez and Schreiber expressed an interest in hearing about signage and PA system at the MAC to better serve customers and also finding ways to grow ridership on alternate modes to the airport. Regarding growing the ridership on alternative modes, Lamb said that this may be best served by a Park-and-Ride situation, but the construction is how to accommodate long term parking and where to position this between public and private interests.

Members are welcome to add items with Lamb and McCarthy prior to final approval of the 2016 Transportation Work Plan scheduled for 2/08/16.

ADJOURNMENT

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