

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 11, 2016

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

Committee Members Absent: Jon Commers

TAB Liaison Present: None

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 11, 2016 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by M. McCarthy to approve the 1/11/16 agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Letofsky to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services and Metro Transit

Metropolitan Transportation Services Asst. Director Contracted Services Gerri Sutton, introduced the following Metropolitan Transportation Services (Metro Mobility) Employees being recognized: Andrew Krueger, Andy Streasick, Clay Stenback, Greg Schuck, David Russel, Dana Rude, Jim Nieman, Debra Basemore, Cheryl Schmidt, Theresa Long and Pamela Hall-Clemens. These employees are being recognized for their work on significant 2015 program changes in Metro Mobility – reassigning 8,000 riders to three providers, transfer of vehicles, and policy changes as a result of ADA audit, etc.

Metro Transit Director of Bus Operations Christy Bailey introduced Metro Transit East Metro Garage Manager Dylan Gillespie who presented the recognition award to East Metro Garage Bus Operator Neng Yang for his work in the Hmong community encouraging recruits for bus operator hiring.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Randy Maluchnik reported from the December 16, 2015 TAB meeting. TAB Chair Jim Hovland recognized outgoing TAB members and welcomed new TAB members appointed by the Metro Council: Doug Anderson, Brad Tabke, Suzanne Sandahl, and Jamez Staples; David Van Hattum, Kenya McKnight and Ethan Fawley were reappointed by the Council. The TAB Executive Committee is established each year in January. The TAB Bylaws Committee will be looking at alternatives for all forms of representation on the TAB. The TAB heard a report from Councilmember Rodriguez on the new Equity Advisory Committee to the Council. The TAB also heard three options for the Functional Classification in the Regional Solicitation. TAB did not act on this but made the decision to ask TAC for the pros/cons for each scenario for consideration.

DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. Metro Council Family of Transit Services.

A. McCarthy presented a 1-pager prepared by Metro Council describing the “family of transit services”. This is the first version; McCarthy encouraged feedback from council members for future updates.

2. MVST Report.

A. McCarthy reported that in December 2015 MVST receipts were at 113.79% of projections. For the six months beginning July 2015, the State fiscal year-to-date revenues are at 101.6%, still above the forecast.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Year-end ridership

Final ridership numbers for 2015 will be available later this week, but we can expect to see a year-over-year increase for the 11th time in 12 years. While final numbers aren't yet available, we anticipate final ridership to be around 85.8 million. Average weekday ridership on all modes is estimated to be 276,400. Highlights include:

- A record year on the Blue Line, which saw about 10.6 million rides and average weekday ridership of 31,500;
- Nearly 12.4 million Green Line rides, with an average weekday ridership of 37,400;
- A slight uptick in Northstar ridership, which reached nearly 722,000 total rides;
- 62 million bus rides, down from last year as customers transitioned to light-rail in the Central Corridor.

2. Light-rail safety campaign – with campaign imagery

New billboards promoting safety around our light-rail lines will go up this week, part of a refreshed marketing campaign that will also include new materials at light-rail stations and on trains. On the Green Line, a billboard will be located near the corner of University and Hamline avenues; another billboard will be located near the Blue Line's 46th Street Station. The billboards will be up through mid-February. Other campaign elements include:

- Train wraps that say 'See Tracks? Think Train';
- Signs inside the train, at stations and on recently-installed digital displays;
- Ads that will play on-screen before movies.

The campaign is supported in part by a \$20,000 FTA grant administered by Operation Lifesaver, a nonprofit focused on rail safety. Metro Transit routinely updates its safety materials – and had planned to do so before the recent collisions – to capture peoples' attention.

3. A Line shelter install – with video if there is time/interest (it's just under two minutes long)

The latest sign of progress on what will become the region's first arterial Bus Rapid Transit Line, the A Line, arrived last week near the corner of Snelling and University avenues. The shelter installed on the northbound side of Snelling Avenue is the largest of the BRT shelter types that will be used at 20 station locations along the A Line; about 700 people board or get off a bus at this location today.

Each BRT shelter will include on-demand heat, emergency phones, schedules and route maps. Off-board ticket vending machines and pylons featuring predicted real-time departure information will be installed in the coming months.

Heavy station platform construction is nearly complete at all stops and around 20 shelters have now been installed. Shelters will not be available for use by customers until the A Line opens to ensure the safety of customers and to prevent damage to shelters prior to A Line launch.

4. Demand for transit information growing

The demand for information continued to grow in 2015.

- Nearly 84 million real-time departures were requested through our website, and we received nearly 18,000 NexTrip requests through a new text service that debuted last fall.
- In addition, around 8,500 people have signed up to receive text or e-mail alerts about detours and other scheduled service disruptions.
- Another 6.3 million trips were planned online; and TIC reps helped plan 1.2 million trips.

To better serve customers, we'll launch a new app later this year that will include enhanced trip planning capabilities, real-time departure information and other features. About 70 percent of the visits to our website last year were on a mobile device

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no consent items on this meeting agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-2: Resolution of Support for Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update – Resolution 2016-1

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Cole Hiniker presented this item.

Hiniker answered a question about the Council's station-area planning guidance, stating that the Council uses the Transportation Policy Plan, Thrive MSP 2040, and the comprehensive plan review process to work with communities on station-area planning.

Hiniker and Arlene McCarthy answered a question about the funding of station-area planning efforts and Dakota County's commitment to help with funding assuming some small local contribution.

Hiniker also addressed a question about whether local communities were on board with more transit-oriented development. Hiniker stated that communities without stations were taking a wait-and-see approach and Dakota County will now work with them to do more intensive station-area planning with the IPU in place. Hiniker stated that Apple Valley has done extensive visioning and more detailed planning is the next step, but implementation and change will take time.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the attached Resolution supporting the Cedar Avenue Transitway Implementation Plan Update (IPU) dated December 2015.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2016-7 SW: Review of Metropolitan Airports Commission 2016-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Russ Owen presented this item. Owen stated that Bridget Rief and Jeff Hamiel from MAC will be presenting to the Council on Wednesday, 1/13/16.

There were no questions from committee members regarding the business item.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council find:

1. That the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) had an adequate public participation process for the development and review of its 2016-2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including preparation of an assessment of environmental effects (AOEE) for 2016 projects with potential environmental effects.
2. That there are no projects that need to be approved in the CIP since no projects meet both the funding level and "significant effects" criteria.
3. That the 2016 CIP projects are in conformance with the region's Aviation System Plan and consistent with Council policy.

Motion carried.

3. 2016-6 SW: Authorization to award contract to ETC Institute to conduct the 2016 Transit On-Board Survey

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. Letofsky questioned why the survey was more expensive than previously estimated and White explained the high quality product and larger volume of surveys that will be conducted. She also explained the intent of the survey as it feeds into transportation modeling, and the survey is required by the FTA for New

Starts projects. Rodriguez questioned whether this survey would also survey the people who do not use transit. White explained that is part of the Transit Behavior Inventory which is also periodically conducted. Dorfman asked if the contractor can be required to have a diverse employment pool doing the work. A. McCarthy said that staff will look at the procurement documents and report back to the committee members.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into negotiations and to execute a contract with ETC Institute to conduct the 2016 Transit On-Board Survey for an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.

Motion carried.

4. 2016-5: Metro Transit Police Department Facility Contract Amendment

Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator Cathy Nordin presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to the professional services Contract #14P186 with Snow Kreilich Architects in the amount of \$537,280/ Motion carried.

Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

INFORMATION

1. Bus Operator Engagement

Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Admin. Christine Kuennen introduced Metro Transit Manager Instruction Dan Stoffer who presented this item. Examples were provided to show how this training program uses different methods of training to involve operators and their managers.

2. Application of GoPro Technology

Metro Transit Director Rail Systems Maintenance Mark Benedict presented this item. Benedict also introduced Metro Transit Supervisor Traction Power Department Paul Wills, who was instrumental in creating this GoPro method to aid in the videotaping the interface between the pantograph and the wire on LRT.

3 2015 Transportation Committee Work Plan Accomplishments and 2016 Work Plan Discussion

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb and Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item and received suggestions from the committee for subjects to cover in 2016 (below). A draft 2016 Transportation Committee Work Plan will be presented at the next Transportation Committee meeting for more input, and the final Work Plan is scheduled to be adopted in February.

Munt – Discuss how procurement policies align with Thrive equitable outcomes. Management Committee may be the lead on this item.

Letofsky – Presentation on Ladders of Opportunity – bus shelters.

Letofsky - Two committee meetings “on the road” – strategic timing with legislative issues.

Reynoso- Update on Wi-Fi on express system – possible impact on ridership numbers.

Reynoso – Update on emergency texting to MTPD.

Elkins – suggested a tour of BNSF yard in Columbia Heights.

Schreiber – Information about at-grade RR crossings & safety.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.