

# Minutes of the SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (time change)

May 9, 2016

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

**Committee Members Absent:** Katie Rodriguez, Deb Barber

**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 4:35 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2016 In the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt to approve the May 9, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.  
Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2016 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## TAB LIAISON REPORT:

TAB Liaison was not present at the meeting. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported that the TAB will be taking an A Line tour next week in conjunction with the TAB meeting.

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

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

### 1. Metro Mobility Community Meeting

The Metro Mobility summer community conversation will be held Tuesday 6/14 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Central Library. The event has been advertised to Metro Mobility customers.

### 2. Metro Mobility/GoTo cards

Metro Mobility has been transitioning to GoTo cards for electronic fare payment. A soft transition began on 01/01/16. On 04/01/16 the sign-up was open to all customers and on 05/01/16 open to counties and other social service agencies. Today, 10% of Metro Mobility revenue is collected on GoTo cards. Metro Mobility continues to sell the paper tickets through 08/31/16 or until the supply runs out. Metro Mobility will buy back and convert paper tickets to GoTo cards. The goal is to completely phase out paper tickets by June 30, 2017.

### 3. Metro Mobility Ridership

Metro Mobility ridership is up about 7% for the first quarter 2016. For the month of April 2015, ridership is up 7.5% from the same period in 2015. The average weekday ridership for the first 4 months of 2015 was 6,800. For that same time period in 2016, Metro Mobility is averaging 7,300 rides a week.

### 4. Regional Solicitation

On 5/18/16 the Regional Solicitation will be issued requesting projects to be submitted. Applications are due 7/15/16, then scoring will begin. Projects are to be selected early 2017.

5. 2017 Project Funding

For 2017, there is an estimated \$10.7M federal funds available. Staff is working with the TAB and technical advisory committees to look at options for the process to allocate these funds. Additional 2016 funds that needed to be allocated in a short time were used to pay for “advance Constructed” projects freeing up funding in later years.

6. MVST

In April 2016, Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) revenues were at 96.3% of the state November 2015 forecast, lower than previous months. The year to date MVST is at 101% of projection.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. ATU Local 1005 contract

Local 1005 of the ATU approved its labor contract proposal by more than 70%. The contract will go to the Council for ratification.

2. Summer Student Passes available soon

High school students across the metro will have access to low-cost transit throughout the summer as we build on our successful Summer Student Pass program this year. Any ninth- through twelfth-grade student attending a state-certified school within the seven-county metro region can purchase a Summer Student Pass beginning Wednesday, May 18. The passes will cost \$30 and can be used for unlimited rides daily between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m., from June 1 to Sept. 6. Purchases can be made online or at a Metro Transit Service Center.

Select area schools have provided Student Passes to students over the summer months for several years. But in 2015, we expanded this opportunity to students at any school participating in the regular school year Student Pass program by allowing them to buy Summer Student Passes directly through Metro Transit. Nearly 5,000 Summer Student Passes were sold and more than 390,000 rides were taken in 2015. This year, more than 160,000 students at 432 schools are eligible to purchase the pass.

3. Northstar ridership continues to climb

Ridership on the Northstar Commuter Rail Line continues to climb. According to preliminary ridership numbers, nearly 59,000 rides were taken in April – the highest monthly total so far this year. Year-to-date, more than 221,000 rides have been taken, nearly 4 percent above the first four months of 2015. The growing ridership reflects sustained reliability – trains were on-time 99 percent of the time in April and on-time performance has been above 94 percent for the past 17 straight months. In addition to our regular service, Northstar is also serving all Twins games and some special events, like the recent Paul McCartney shows in Minneapolis. Special service will also be provided to the Zac Brown Band concert at Target Field on May 28.

4. Downtown Minneapolis SafeZone

Metro Transit police will have a greater presence in downtown Minneapolis this summer as we once again partner with the Minneapolis Police Department and the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office for the Downtown SafeZone initiative. This annual partnership responds to increased activity downtown during the event-filled summer months, and gives our officers more opportunities to proactively connect with customers, visitors and business owners. For our part, we’ll have two additional officers working with the Downtown Community Policing Team Monday through Saturday.

**BUSINESS**

**Consent Items:**

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky to approve the following consent item. Motion passed.

1. 2016-78: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds – Resolution No. 2016-10

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2016-10 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

#### **Non-Consent Items:**

1. 2016-74: Adopt the Minnesota Department of Transportation statewide ITS Architecture – Resolution 2016-09

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached resolution recognizing the Minnesota Department of Transportation statewide ITS Architecture.

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

2. 2016-81: Approval of Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Metropolitan Council and Local Government Information Systems (LOGIS)

Metro Transit Manager of Business Systems Timothy Lynaugh presented this item.

Dorfman asked for explanation about how this information could be shared with cities who have their own systems. Lynaugh explained the advanced features of this system. Schreiber questioned the financial obligations of this system as the business item does not address this. Lynaugh stated that the budget is being worked on, this item is for a joint powers agreement and not the budget portion.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit Police and Local Government Information System (LOGIS).

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

3. 2016-94: Approval/Renewal of Joint Powers Agreement between Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Metro Transit Police Department

Metro Transit Manager of Business Systems Timothy Lynaugh presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit Police Department and Minnesota Department of Public Safety/Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

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

#### **INFORMATION**

1. MTS Regional Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item. Munt expressed concern with the dip in Metro Transit ridership, and asked what could be the cause. Lamb stated that some contributors to the lower ridership numbers are: former Nicollet Mall routes impacted by the mall's reconstruction, lower gas prices, increase in choice options (shared rides/Uber, bicycling, etc.). Metro Transit continues to look into causes and developing strategies for outreach to young riders.

For a future meeting, Schreiber requested information on per passenger subsidies and comparisons to peer systems.

## 2. 2017 Transportation Division Operating Budget Strategies

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

Specific discussions:

Travel Behavior Inventory - A. McCarthy stated that MTS continues to look into other funding sources and options to fund the proposed 2-year schedule for the TBI.

Regional Fare Policy review/increase – Lamb stated that staff continues to look at fare policy review and impacts with a potential fare increase. It has been 8 years since a fare increase. Dorfman suggested looking at cities that have based fares on income, and other cities' experiences.

Metro Mobility jump in ridership – A. McCarthy stated ADA and Non-ADA rides are the two components that make up Metro Mobility rides. ADA rides are mandated by Federal Law. Discussions are being held about the possible options in the Non-ADA area.

## 3. A Line Marketing Campaign and Launch Events

Metro Transit Director Customer Service & Marketing Bruce Howard introduced Market Development Specialist Anj Olsen and Assistant Manager Street Operations – Greg Tuveson who presented this item. The presentation included events that will be held at various stations along the A Line. The ribbon cutting will be at 9:30 am, Saturday June 11, with a 10:00 am start for operations.

## 4. Street Operations Update

Metro Transit Assistant Manager Street Operations Demetairs Bell and Assistant Director Field Operations Lisa Johnson presented this item. Commers questioned whether operators were trained for reporting jaywalk violations. Johnson stated that the Transit Security and Safety Committee and Right-to-Know classes stress awareness of pedestrians to operators, but often the violations are random. If there is a specific location where operators note a high number of jaywalk violations, then the Metro Transit Police Department could be directed to conduct a saturation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the special meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.