

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

October 24, 2016

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

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

Committee Members Absent: Jon Commers

TAB Liaison Present: Randy Maluchnik

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05pm on October 24, 2016 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Schreiber made an addition to the agenda. The Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Director report will include an introduction of Nick Thompson, recently hired Metropolitan Transportation Services Director.

It was moved by Dorfman, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the revised October 24, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Letofsky to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2016 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

The following people were presented an Employee Recognition Award for their work:

Metro Transit Manager, Market Development Maria Cone presented the award to Metro Transit Sr. Market Development Specialist Kelci Stones.

Metro Transit Manager, TCC Chad Loeffler presented the award to Metro Transit Assistant Manager, TCC Operations Jim Chisholm.

Metro Transit Manager, Street Operations Dave Hanson presented the award to Metro Transit Supervisor, District Streets Kim Stine.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Commissioner Maluchnik reported the TAB met on October 19. TAB Chair had reported that TAB asked the funding and program committee to evaluate the Regional Solicitation Plan in regards to the inflation factor and there will be some discussion on that with the TAB. Commissioner Crimmins stated that MAC is working with Transportation Network Companies (Uber, cabs, etc.) on the new ordinance that will take effect beginning in 2017 and investments on solar panels and LED are being installed out there. Rodriguez shared the news that Nick Thompson was hired as the new Director, MTS. TAC report – all action items were of no controversy. Staff from MTS talked about the Travel Behavioral Inventory. Council member Rodriguez added that the TBI informs the regional model and the regional model is required for all projects that are federally funded so instead of doing the TBI every 10 years, this is a more robust program collecting the data more often. TAC came up with a funding proposal that would be divided into 3, with the 3 biggest users of TBI and the model would be funding it.

So asking for Regional Solicitation money off the top, ongoing – it will be \$850,000 from each two year solicitation; Metropolitan Council and MnDOT will pick up the same third.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INTERIM DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Assistant Director, Contract Transactions Service Gerri Sutton reported on behalf of Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Director Amy Vennewitz:

Introduction of Nick Thompson, newly hired Metropolitan Transportation Services Director. Chair Schreiber and Committee members shared with Nick information about their district and history.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Texting to NexTrip Information

As you know, we have working very hard at upgrading bus information at stops for more than a year now. In recent months, we have found that one of the features, in which riders can text a number to get real time information about when their bus is scheduled to arrive, has been getting a lot of attention.

When we first initiated this feature in June of 2015, we received just under 200 requests for information in this way.

So far we've been able to update about 5,000 bus stops in our system. As you would expect, when more and more bus stops were changed with the improved information for riders, including information on how to text and the specific identifying number for the stops, people began to use it more in more.

Late last year, as we publicized the feature more, text requests for the arrival information grew to just over 9,000 in December. In August of this year, that number had reached a 26,353.

Then in September, riders blew that number out of the water by texting for arrival information 47,818 times.

This reinforces something we already know: As we feed riders' hunger for information about their trips, and they become more and more familiar with the tools we offer, they will devour that information better armed with information of what to expect as they plan their trips.

Live broadcasting events

Along the same vein of giving riders the information they need, we have been exploring opportunities to broadcast events live through our social media channels, specifically Facebook.

At a C Line open house event last Tuesday, we took the opportunity to live broadcast the presentation by C Terrance of our Community Outreach and Engagement Team and Katie Roth, the C Line project manager.

This was the second time we have hosted live coverage of an event on Metro Transit's Facebook account. The first was the System of the Year announcement event held at Union Depot.

The C Line open house live video is permanently archived and available for viewing on our [Facebook page](#). It has garnered about a thousand views so far.

We received several comments from those who appreciated the opportunity to get the information remotely.

Single day light rail record ridership

Earlier this month, with Monday Night Football town for the Vikings game against the New York Giants, a new single day ridership record was set for our METRO light rail lines.

On Oct. 3, the football crowds and our regular daily service riders combined to take 122,529 rides on the Green and Blue lines. So far, we are finding that about a quarter of fans are taking light rail to Vikings games.

The Oct. 3 record, passes the previous single day record of just more than 117,000 rides on Sept. 1 of this year.

On that Thursday, you might remember that ridership got a boost from fans traveling to Twins, Vikings, Gophers and Saints games.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the following consent items. Motion carried.

1. 2016-189: Traction Power Energy Storage System

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Egan Company for construction of a Traction Power Energy Storage System at the METRO Blue Line 46th Street substation for a cost of \$1,042,990.

2. 2016-204: Authorization to Award and Execute Master Contracts for Materials Testing and Inspection Services for Metro Transit Projects – Contract 16P011

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute four contracts, totaling \$1,000,000 with American Engineering Testing, Inc., Braun Intertec Corporation, Northern Technologies, LLC and WSB & Associates, Inc. for material testing and inspection services.

3. 2016-209: Authorization to Execute and Award Contract 16P024A, On-Call Track Maintenance

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and award a contract with RailWorks Track Systems, Inc in an amount of \$1,100,000 to provide on-call track maintenance to the Blue and Green Lines for a period of five years, November 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020

4. 2016-212: Pocket Schedule Printing and Warehousing Contract

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a five-year contract with American Financial Printing to print and warehouse pocket schedules for an amount not to exceed \$794,275.

5. 2016-214: Authorization to Execute a Contract Option for 98 Bus Shelters

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract option for ordering 98 advertising and non-advertising shelters under an option in the existing contract 14P194 with Brasco International.

6. 2016-201: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-94 Resurfacing Project

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to adjust the cost and description for its I-94 bituminous pavement resurfacing project (SP# 2781-432). This action would occur pending the approval of the 2017-2020 TIP.

7. 2016-202: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: Dakota County US 52/CSAH 42 Interchange

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to adjust project cost and description of the Dakota County US 52 / CSAH 42 Interchange project (SP # 019-642-059 and 1906-68). This action would occur pending the approval of the 2017-2020 TIP.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-197 SW: Recommend Light Rail Vehicle Contract

Metro Transit Senior Project Manager Anne Taylor and Metro Transit Rail Vehicle Maintenance Manager Gene Sheldon presented this item. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb distributed a letter from the Chair of the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) to Council Chair Adam Duinick requesting that the CTIB Executive Change Control Board be given the opportunity to review the staff recommendation to exercise one of the options to purchase one additional vehicle in addition to the base award. General Manager Lamb indicated that while it was the staff's intent to make progress toward the Corridor Management Committee goal of building the Green Line Extension fleet up to 30 vehicles with the first use of contingency dollars, that CTIB's request was also reasonable to consider at this time. Barber suggested an amendment to remove the recommendation to exercise the one option for the purpose of given the assurance that would not impact the base contract award.

Barber asked if it is typical to receive only one proposal. Taylor responded that it's not typical, and that Council's procurement department staff contacted all light rail vehicle manufacturers that had expressed interest in the Council's solicitation, and learned that they did not submit proposals for individual business reasons. Barber also asked for comparable award prices, and Taylor compared the Green Line contract in 2010 for 41 LRVs at \$3.3 million per unit vehicle and Portland's (TriMet) procurement of 18 LRVs in 2012 at \$3.9 million per vehicle to the proposed \$3.9 million per vehicle unit price for the Green Line Extension base order of 27 vehicles in 2016. Dorfman asked for clarification about the Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) amount of \$3 million and Taylor said the LNTP amount is for Siemens Industry to begin design and engineering work and the award amount is a percentage of the total recommended award. Dorfman advocated for Council to take advantage of large investments such as light rail vehicles by encouraging the U.S. Jobs Employment Plan. Munt observed that the LRV RFP had already been issued last year prior to the Council's awareness of the Employment Plan and would not include the Employment plan.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the amended action:
Authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Award and execute a contract with Siemens Industry Inc. (Siemens) for the fabrication and delivery of 27 low floor light rail vehicles and related materials and services, at a total cost not to exceed \$118,092,506, with an option to purchase up to 50 additional low floor light rail vehicles.
- ~~Exercise the contract option to purchase one low floor light rail vehicle for a total cost not to exceed \$3,930,000 for a new total contract value not to exceed \$122,022,506.~~
- Issue Limited Notice to Proceed to initiate design and engineering in the amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.

Motion carried.

2. 2016-200: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Approval of Freight Rail Property and Operations Agreements

Metro Transit Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. Munt asked what liability comes with freight rail ownership and how is the project addressing community concerns regarding safety. Alexander stated that the project office has been working with the Council's Risk Management Department on insurance requirements and we expect to bring an item to the Transportation Committee for consideration in the coming months. Regarding safety, Alexander stated we have already undertaken a number of steps to ensure safety with an intrusion detection system between LRT and freight and wall barriers at appropriate locations. Dorfman asked who will be responsible for the new track costs. Alexander stated that the project includes replacing the existing freight track with new, and the basis of the agreement will be that TCWR will take on maintenance and pay a certain yearly

stipend that would go toward replacement. Dorfman asked if the freight trains will be going at a higher speed with the new track. Alexander stated no, the freight corridors will continue to be Class 2 track where the maximum speed allowed is 25 mph. Alexander noted that TCWR has indicated that they would continue to operate at a maximum speed of 10 mph in the Kenilworth Corridor. At the request of Chair Schreiber, Alexander explained what STB and their function is. Alexander stated that the STB is a regulatory body that has jurisdiction over freight rail transactions and will be asked to approve the proposed property and operations agreements.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Negotiate a Purchase and Sales Agreement between the Council and Canadian Pacific (CP) related to the acquisition of the Bass Lake Spur
- Negotiate a Property Transfer Agreement between the Council and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) related to the transfer of ownership of the Kenilworth Corridor as a permanent, in-kind property transfer for the SWLRT Project
- Negotiate an Operations and Maintenance Agreement between the Council and Twin Cities & Western Railroad Company (TCWR) related to freight access on the Bass Lake Spur and Kenilworth Corridor
- File petitions with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to transfer freight rail operating easements to TCWR and allow the Council to acquire the right-of-way and physical freight rail assets of the Bass Lake Spur and Kenilworth Corridor (collectively referred to herein as “Property”)

Motion carried.

3. 2016-198: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Resolution of Public Purpose for use of Eminent Domain - Resolution 2016-28

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. Munt asked for confirmation that there will be no full residential takings to which Fuhrmann responded that was correct.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2016-28 declaring that the Green Line Extension LRT Project is a valid public purpose for the use of condemnation proceedings.

Motion carried.

4. 2016-199: Blue Line Light Rail Transit Extension (BLRT) Resolution of Public Purpose for use of Eminent Domain – Resolution 2016-29

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from Committee members.

It was moved by Dorfman, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2016-29 declaring that the Blue Line Extension LRT Project is a valid public purpose for the use of condemnation proceedings.

Motion carried.

5. 2016-213: Blue Line Extension LRT Project Office Lease Agreement Amendment between Metropolitan Council and Crystal Gallery Developers

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from Committee members.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Met Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a lease agreement amendment between the Metropolitan Council and Crystal Gallery Developers for expanding the Metro Blue Line Extension (BLRT) Project Office by 5,509 square foot area in Crystal Gallery Office Building in Crystal, Minnesota for the 56 month period from February 1, 2017 through September 30, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

Motion carried.

6. 2016-215 SW: Authorization to Execute a Services Contract Amendment for the Blue Line Enhancement Project

Metro Transit Assistant Director, Engineering & Facilities Pat Jones presented this item. There were no questions from Committee members.

It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract amendment to contract 15P026 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, INC. (KHA), in the amount of \$519,980 for design and construction support services for the Park Avenue and Warehouse crossovers project.

Motion carried.

7. 2016-210 JT: Fourth Quarter Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Director Finance Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Service Manager MTS Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. There were no questions from Committee members.

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2016 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the Capital Program – Attachment #1 (Program Level).

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2016 Unified Budget – Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with the spreadsheet in Operating Budget - Attachment #2.

Motion carried.

8. 2016-203 SW: Interstate 35W and Lake St. Controlled Access

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager of Highway Planning and TAB/TAC Process Steve Peterson, Metro Transit Project Manager BRT Small Starts Christina Morrison and Scott Pederson-MnDOT presented this item.

Morrison and Pederson answered questions from Committee members regarding funding. They stated that the city/county asked for funding for Lake St. Station in last year's bonding bill and Orange Line as a whole is missing state funds. The project is looking at a payment schedule with MnDOT to allow them to do this work in 2017 and make payments; the project would include rebuilding and widening of the Franklin Bridge.

It was moved by Dorfman, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for improvements to the I-35W corridor in Minneapolis including a new southbound exit to Lake Street; a new northbound exit to 28th Street, a new 12th Street transit ramp, and extended MnPASS lanes. This request is subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

Motion carried.

9. 2016-196 SW: Draft Transportation Public Participation

Metropolitan Council Communications Outreach Coordinator Mai Thor presented this item. Thor answered questions from committee members as follows: Metro Council does offer assistance to local governments (smaller cities) who don't have outreach staff. Explanation of the difference between Engagement and Participation Plans - (Engagement Plan is broader while the Participation Plan builds off the Engagement Plan and specific to transportation that doesn't apply to broader engagement). Staff is open to suggestions about obtaining public comment. Barber stated the need to proactively go out to the smaller cities to inform them of how they can assist in this process.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council release the draft Transportation Public Participation Plan for the purposes of obtaining public comment.

Motion carried.

10. 2016-211 SW: CTIB 2017 Project Grant Applications Consistency with the 2040 TPP

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst, Cole Hiniker presented this item. There were no questions from Committee members.

It was moved by Dorfman, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council finds the ten grant applications (summarized in the Attachment) submitted to the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for CY 2017 funding to be consistent with the Council's 2040 Transportation Policy Plan adopted January 2015.

Motion carried.

11. 2016-217 SW: 2017 Small Bus Procurement

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager, Fleet Services Paul Colton presented this item. There were no questions from Committee members.

It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with:

1. Høglund Bus (MnDOT Contract 88294) for up to 39 replacement buses and 16 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$3,781,200; and
2. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 88331) for up to 55 replacement buses and 24 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$5,136,000.

Motion carried.

12. 2016-219 SW: Approval of Metropolitan Area 5310 Grant

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager, Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item. Harper and Assistant Director Contracted Transit Services Gerri Sutton responded to a question from Munt stating that some programs, such as counties for example, are aware that the Metropolitan Council is the organization awarding the grant awards while other programs are long-time recipients and it may not be as obvious since MnDOT releases the request for proposals.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following Metropolitan Area 5310 grant awards for 2017:

Organization	Project	Federal Award Amount
Achieve Services, Inc.	Replacement Bus	\$60,800
Augustana Chapel View Homes, Inc.	New Bus	\$60,800
Northeast Contemporary Services, Inc.	Replacement Bus	\$60,800
Mankato Rehabilitation Center, Inc. (Rosemount)	2 Replacement Buses	\$121,600
Midwest Special Services, Inc.	3 Replacement Buses	\$228,800
NEWTRAX, Inc.	6 Replacement Buses	\$364,800
ProAct, Inc.	2 Replacement Buses	\$168,000
Mankato Rehabilitation Center, Inc. - Chaska	2 New Buses	\$121,600
Volunteers of America of Minnesota	Replacement Bus	\$60,800
Dakota County	Mobility Management	\$235,000
Newtrax, Inc.	Mobility Management	\$144,000
Scott County	Mobility Management	\$84,000
Total		\$1,963,200

Motion carried.

13. **2016-220:** Rejection of bid for contract 16P073 – Payment Agreement for Management and Operations of Metro Vanpool
 Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager of Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item and answered a question from Letofsky about the status of notifying Enterprise of MC’s intent to reject the bid, and negotiation conversations.

It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins:
 That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to reject the bid for contract 16P073 titled Payment Agreement for Management and Operations of Metro Vanpool.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Plan
 Metro Transit Director Finance Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Service Manager MTS Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. There were no questions from Committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:34pm.

Becky Davidson
 Recording Secretary