

## **Minutes of the**

### **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

August 22, 2016

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

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

**Committee Members Absent: Jon Commers**

**TAB Liaison Present: Randy Maluchnik**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Schreiber called the special meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:04 p.m. on August 22, 2016 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Munt to approve the agenda. Motion carried.  
It was moved by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2016 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

The following people were presented Employee Recognition Awards for their work:

Metro Transit Director Customer Service & Marketing Bruce Howard presented the award to Senior Communications Specialist Drew Kerr.

Metro Transit Manager Bus Maintenance Paul Slesar presented the award to Bus Cleaner David Tuveson.

Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operating Officer – Bus Brian Funk presented the award to Bus Operator Alton Thorton.

#### **TAB LIAISON REPORT**

Commissioner Maluchnik reported the TAB met on August 17. There was major conversation around funding of the Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI). TAC had met before the TAB meeting and had vigorous and passionate discussion regarding the funding and will continue to work through that process and provide a recommendation.

MnDOT representative Scott McBride noted we are half way through the construction season and TAB received the following reports: Airports Commissioner Carl Crimmins that a public hearing that was held on TNC Ordnance and Delivery Ordnance (how Uber, etc. are going to work coming in and out); and Rodriguez reported that Metro Transit received the American Public Transportation Association's System of the Year award.

Actions items were passed without any discussion and controversy.

Member Goins, who is also an Executive at FedEx, and Bridget Rief (MAC staff) are setting up a tour for September. Maluchnik extended the invitation to any Council Members who would like to attend to learn how freight is moved through the region. Maluchnik will have staff forward necessary information.

## **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INTERIM DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Director Amy Vennewitz reported:

Minnesota received one federal TIGER reward for the Trunk Highway 169/41 interchange, amounting to \$17.7M received. MOA project did not receive funding. Barber commented that it's a big thing for this project to move forward and Maluchnik expressed how proud he is of our region for their work in the solicitation.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

### U.S. Bank Stadium Service:

Concertgoers visited U.S. Bank Stadium for the venue's first-ever shows on back-to-back nights over the weekend. Just over 8,000 people took light rail to and from Friday night's show featuring Luke Bryan, and more than 12,900 people used light rail for Saturday's Metallica show. Some minor changes, including improved signage, and an all-hands service approach helped us handle post-event crowds quickly and efficiently. On Friday night, U.S. Bank Stadium Station was cleared in about 35 minutes; the station was cleared in about 50 minutes on Saturday. Most importantly, everyone got home safely and there were no service disruptions. Stadium management and other partners were extremely pleased and impressed with our performance as we now look forward to the first pre-season Vikings game on Sunday and a litany of events – Twins, Vikings, Gophers, Saints and State Fair – that will occur on Thursday, Sept. 1.

### Route 2 added to High Frequency Network:

Service improvements went into effect on two popular urban bus routes on Saturday, Aug. 20. On Route 2, buses are now operating every ten to 15 minutes on Franklin Avenue between Uptown and the University of Minnesota throughout the day, seven days a week. Bringing Route 2 into the High Frequency Network was among the highest-ranking priorities in the Service Improvement Plan. The route serves areas of concentrated poverty with a large portion of transit-dependent customers and a growing number of University of Minnesota students who live off-campus in the Marcy Holmes neighborhood.

On Route 62, weekday trips are now running on Rice Street every 15 minutes between Larpenteur Avenue and downtown St. Paul throughout the day; weekend service was also improved. This route also serves areas of concentrated poverty/

These service improvements are part of an ongoing effort to build ridership on our most popular urban bus routes. Service was improved on a portion of Route 11 this Spring, expanding the High Frequency Network to include all or part of 11 urban bus routes. High Frequency routes have service every 15 minutes throughout the day on weekdays and on Saturdays.

General Manager Lamb answered a question from Dorfman regarding how we get the message out when we expand service on an existing line, in which Lamb stated we post along the line (shelters, etc.) and also have a corridor wide focused marketing effort.

### Ryder Cup:

International Golf event being hosted in Hazeltine, September 27<sup>th</sup> through October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The network of supported services is being focused on Chaska area, using Canterbury Park and parking lot facilities. The Downtown market was one yet to be congealed but there was concern about charter regulations. Last month we solicited and no other private providers were expressing interest. There are some larger hotels providing charters but projected that approximately 1500 people will be coming into town, residing in Downtown that will be going to the event. It was estimated that our market is about a third of those people and so we've focused our service plan on that. So we are focusing a service plan of about 500 people that will be going back and forth each one of the 6 days of service. Since we don't want to use tax payer subsidy for this service, we've worked two ways: 1) looked at what it would cost

for service for that many people and priced our product appropriately; we have the ability to put in a short term demonstration fare: \$10 each direction. 2) really promoting this on Ryder Cup website and using advance tickets sales to right size our operation.

Lamb answered questions from Council members: will this include the practice days (yes; practice days 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>), service frequency (still teasing out; will depend on demand but know there are some peak times from past years' experience 7am & 6pm), unlimited/3-day pass or any discount (we want people to advance purchase and will have week discount - \$100/week), Southwest Transit participating (yes but most of their resources are focused on trying to provide the local circulation from park and ride/golf course). Barber stated that the center area for parking is Canterbury and Southwest is doing the shuttling back and forth over the river. Lamb said it will be a value to riders to not have to transfer and our service will go to the same spot the circulating buses go. Commissioner Maluchnik expressed his confidence in Metro Transit's service to get people to/from the event.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

1. There are no consent items on the agenda.

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

1. 2016-168: Authorization to Execute Contract No. 16P036 with VSIS Inc, for the Procurement of MTS Maintenance and Installation Services of Electronic Equipment on the MTS Fleet.

Metro Transportation Services Manager, Contracted Transit Services, John Harper presented this item. Harper answered a question from Dorfman regarding if there was shock that there was only two proposals received to the the RFP; no it was expected as this is speialed service and in the previous RFP process, only received two proposals also – one being from VSIS. Harper also confirmed to Council members that VSIS is our current vendor.

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract No. 16P036 with VSIS Inc. for the procurement of maintenance and installation services of electronic equipment on the MTS fleet for a period of four years in an amount not to exceed \$1,400,700.

**Motion carried.**

## **INFORMATION**

1. 2016 Step Up Program

Metro Transit Assistant Director OEO Aaron Koski introduced the Step Up interns who were in attendance: William Reed (Southwest High School), Ahmed Ali (South High School), Eve Xiong (Patrick Henry High School) and Michael Archer (Southwest High School). Interns William and Eve presented this item which included 6 short videos from their Media Project that will be sent out on social media and focuses six issues on Transit services: littering, loud music, rowdiness, courtesy, cussing and safety. Letofsky suggested that when students get their passes, we encourage them follow Metro Transit on social media and they can see the videos. Dorman thanked the interns for their work and spending the summer with Metro Transit/Metropolitan Council.

2. State Fair Service and Marketing

Metro Transit Assistant Manager Street Operations Greg Tuveson and Metro Transit Market Development Specialist Adam Mehl presented this item. Letofsky asked about the 16.2% if that included the free park and rides and if we know how many people get to the fair by all modes, to which Mehl confirmed that number includes just State Fair Express services provided by Metro Transit. General Manager Lamb added that per history we were trending at about 1M rides and Express Site Service accounted for about half of that.

Dorfman asked about how we get information about our services to people and Mehl explained we have looked at sales data from tickets, reached out via e-mail or mail to past customers, using Google networking so when someone searches the fair our ads will appear and also working closely with the State Fair itself who gives Metro Transit good exposure. Chair Schreiber wondered if the employees'

hours worked during the fair were overtime and Lamb explained while the hours are mostly overtime, during summer we have less services and our 'new' operators who won't have a schedule until the pick will be covering some shifts. Munt expressed her thanks on how customer friendly we've made the process/services.

### 3. Orange Line Triannual Update

Metro Transit Senior Manager Transitway Development Charles Carlson and Metro Transit Project Manager Engineering & Construction Jim Harwood presented this item. Chair Schreiber asked what our timeline is for the State share, to which Carlson explained we are aiming for a good project rating and recommendation for funding from the FTA when they publish their annual report the first quarter of next year. If we secure this recommendation, it opens the door to actually request the funding commitment which we can't do until we have secured 100% of the funding. If we aren't recommended we would try again next year. Elkins asked if the Lake Street interchange was the biggest problem and Carlson explained that there is significant work in Lake Street area with MnDOT and much of this work would be preceding ahead of when we get the full funding commitment. With a good rating, it opens the doors for expending those dollars before the full funding agreement but we need to obtain those dollars to commitment to MnDOT. In addition there is \$25M that is required outside Transit project for the local road and exit ramp components that will also need to be secured.

Munt expressed how refreshing it was to see communities allies board a bus in orange t-shirts as a testimonial about how important Orange Line is.

### 4. Everyday Equity Update

Metro Transit Project Manager Everyday Equity Allison Bell presented this item. Munt questioned if the 5 different Council groups talking and sharing, to which Bell explained the team leads meet at least monthly and have also met with the Executive team. Letofsky and Reynoso expressed their thanks for this work, how fantastic and inspirational it is and thoughts that this will just get better over time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Becky Davidson  
Recording Secretary