

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

September 12, 2016

LOCATION: McColl Environmental Learning Center, Savage, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Lona Schreiber, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Steve Elkins, Gail Dorfman, Jennifer Munt, Marie McCarthy, Jon Commers, (Council member Wendy Wulff)

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso, Katie Rodriguez

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 4:05 p.m. on September 12, 2016 in the McColl Environmental Learning Center in Savage, MN.

Mayor of Savage Janet Williams provided a welcome to the Committee and public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Barber to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2016 special meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Commissioner Maluchnik reported that the TAB has not met since the 8/22/16 Transportation Committee meeting.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INTERIM DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Director Amy Vennewitz reported:

Transit onboard survey which kicked off last spring, is now back in full swing. Surveyors are riding transit routes and rail lines surveying our customers. Over the next few weeks we are going to be collecting an excess of up to 27,000 surveys. If you hear anything related to questions to what we are doing or why, send them to Amy or Jonathan Ehrlich. Results will be reported back sometime in early winter.

MVST receipts which are typically reported on quarterly are down a bit; we are collecting right now at about 90% of forecast. Since we are just 2 months into the fiscal year, it's not something we are flagging at the moment.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann reported on behalf of Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb:

System of the Year

Many of our colleagues are in Los Angeles this week attending the American Public Transportation Association's Annual Meeting. This year's event will be particularly meaningful for attendees since we'll be accepting our System of the Year award during a ceremony on Tuesday. This award will be celebrated by all

staff in the coming weeks and at an appreciation event on Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Target Field Station amphitheater. The appreciation event will begin at 3 p.m. and continue through the start of that night's Twins game. Discounted tickets to the 6 p.m. game vs. the Mariners are also available; information can be found on our website. Please help spread the word and join us later this month.

Record ridership

The end of summer is always a busy time for Metro Transit, and that has been especially true over the last few weeks as we worked to serve fairgoers, sports fans, students heading back to class and the commuters who ride with us on a daily basis.

Amid this flurry of activity one day stand out: Thursday, Sept. 1, when commuters, fairgoers and fans traveling to Twins, Vikings, Gophers, Saints home games contributed to our highest single-day ridership in recent memory. Combined, there were nearly 370,000 rides taken that day – including more than 117,000 rides on light rail. The Blue Line also set a single-day ridership record, with nearly 59,000 rides.

This unusually busy day contributed to another milestone – the highest express bus and regular route ridership to the Minnesota State Fair. In all, just over 632,500 rides were taken to and from the fairgrounds this year. Most of these rides were taken on express buses serving park & rides across the region, but we were also proud to see average weekday ridership on the A Line nearly double from early August while the fair was going on.

With that experience behind us, we now look forward to the Vikings regular season, which kicks off this Sunday evening against the Green Bay Packers.

Bus Rodeo

If you've ever wondered what it takes to be a bus operator, you can test the waters at Metro Transit's annual Bus Rodeo, which begins this week at the Como Avenue fairgrounds. Operators will have a chance to try out the course on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and the competition will officially begin on Saturday. The competition continues the following Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Council Members are invited to observe or get behind the wheel. For more information contact Marilyn Hood (349-5154) or Mark Kitzerow (349-5149).

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2016-179:** 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. Dorfman asked how constituents would go about providing input on TIP to which Barbeau confirmed this would be done through their TAB representative (not at this stage) but there is a variety of input, depending on where the project funding comes from. Barbeau also validated for Letofsky the proposed action for this business item (to concur with TAB action).

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:
That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

2. Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
 - a. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
 - b. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
 - c. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
 - d. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
 - e. Section 1101(b) of Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub L. 114-357) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in US DOT funded projects;
 - f. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
 - g. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;
 - h. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
 - i. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
 - j. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.
3. Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements.
6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period.
7. Transmit the 2017-2020 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Motion carried.

2. 2016-185: Approval of 2017 Unified Planning Work Program – Resolution 2016-25
 Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. Barber asked that if there were to be a transportation bill passed, if that will effect this document to which White confirmed that they do experience changes and the action taking today as part of the Resolution permits MTS staff to engage in amendments as needed.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:
 That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$5,377,200.
- Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under MAP-21.

- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

Motion carried.

3. 2016 – 01 Revised: Delegation of Authority Policy for 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 Fuhrmann introduced Tori Nill Metro Transit Project Director for DOT who presented this item. Chair Schreiber asked what the thresholds were before to which White referred to Table 2 – Initiating Condemnation (on the attachment) stating that now over \$1M would come back to Council which previous thresholds did not. Nill validated for Letofsky that today's action involves thresholds for appraisals, not condemnation and that per State statute before initiating condemnation we would need a Resolution from this Council establishing public purpose.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

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.

Motion carried.

4. 2016-169: Bottineau Light Rail Transit (BLRT): Cooperative Funding Agreement (CFA) with Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) for Project Development Continuance
Metro Transit Director Transit Systems Development MarySue Abel presented this item. Abel confirmed for Dorfman that the project budget isn't changing but the action would be to recognize new money to be received from HCRRA.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Project Development (PD) Continuance Cooperative Funding Agreement for the Blue Line LRT (BLRT) Extension Project between the Council and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) in an amount not to exceed \$10.34 million.

Motion carried.

5. 2016–176: Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT): Cooperative Funding Agreement (CFA) with Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) for Engineering Phase
Metro Transit Director Transit Systems Development Joan Hollick presented this item. Wulff expressed concerns about the repayment of the Certificates of Participation and the future possibility that we might have to cut some transit to pay. Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann responded to Wulff that the working assumption right now is that if the Council does issue Certificates of Participation the ability for Council to finance those over the term could tap any combination of revenue streams (general funds, legislature, motor vehicle sales tax). In the event this proves not to be adequate, there would need to be policy consideration by the Council as to how it wanted to allocate those resources between Certificates of Participations and other transit division activities. Munt stated that Certificates of Participation was not our desired way to fund SWLRT but what this did was secured our position in line for Federal funding so we didn't throw away nearly \$1B in Federal matching funds.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Project Development (PD) Continuance and Engineering Cooperative Funding Agreement for the Southwest LRT (SWLRT), Green Line Extension Project between the Council and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) in an amount not to exceed \$53.134 million.

Motion carried.

6. 2016 – 182: Southwest Light Rail Transit Internal Cash Flow Financing

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from Committee members but Barber asked that when this item is presented to Management if additional information can be provided on how this worked with Central Corridor it would be helpful.

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. Without limit to frequency, borrow from the Council internal investment pool in a maximum amount of up to \$50 million at any one point in time until the federal Full Funding Grant Agreement is executed; and
2. Utilize Metro Transit available bond arbitrage dollars to fund interest expense on internal borrowings (loans).

Motion carried.

7. 2016-164: Q3 Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Director Finance Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Service Manager MTS Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Barber asked about the \$8.4M CTIB funds and whether that has or has not already been decided on to which Metro Transit Director Transit Systems Development MarySue Abel responded that the \$8.4M from CTIB is part of the 2016 Grant Agreement in which we already have approval but it did have a stop date at the end of PD so we needed to get approval from CTIB (which was already taken) for remainder of this calendar year. The action for additional funding that was previously talked about would be in the 2017 Grant.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Barber:

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.

INFORMATION

1. Regional Solicitation Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. Barbeau answered a question from Munt about how transit system modernization is different than system expansion (expansion involves service increase and modernization improves service for those who use it).

2. Highway Truck Corridor Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steven Elmer presented this item. Barber expressed how impressed she was by both the Metropolitan Council and county staff and how they used good collaborative discussion, utilizing data and local knowledge for this process. Chair Schreiber

asked if Elmer could research how Minnesota is ranked among other states in how much freight is moved. Elmer answered a question from Wulff about the heat map and how it's impacted by things like gravel, where it weighs a lot to move around but doesn't have much value (best available data was used; might have biased towards these movements and might not include all haulers; also would have these type of discussions with the counties and try to incorporate that information into the analysis).

3. State Fair Service Recap

Metro Transit Assistant Manager Street Operations Greg Tuveson and Metro Transit Market Development Specialist Adam Mehl presented this item. McCarthy asked about the time it took to get through Snelling on A-Line, to which Tuveson responded that the first Friday of the State Fair there were a lot of cars on Snelling, Como, Raymond, etc. but worked with police to get the north/south traffic to move better and the remainder of days of the fair there was better traffic flow. Dorfman was curious what the numbers for Scott County express trips to fair on MVTA were and if they experienced increase (numbers were not available but increase was notable by higher number of buses operating than in past). Letofsky asked what the collective percentage was for those who used non-individual car for transportation – including Park & Ride, A-Line, MVTA, etc. (not exact but Mehl estimated it was around 30%).

SCOTT COUNTY/CITIES PRESENTATION

1. Welcome by Scott County Commissioner Jon Ulrich

2. Scott County Transportation presentation by Lisa Freese Transportation Program Director and Janet Williams Mayor of Savage that included information about SCALE and Regional Priority Corridors (Highway and Transit).

3. Dan Patch presentation by Barry Stock, Savage City Administrator. Dorfman asked if there were efforts for increasing housing opportunities to which Mayor Williams responded that Savage was the first city in Scott County to get workforce housing due to a Livable Community Grant and there is also a lot of redevelopment potential in downtown. Freese added that the county has been doing a Max Field Housing Study that falls under the umbrella of SCALE working with the communities to find potential sites for workforce/senior housing.

4. Mayor of Elko New Market Bob Crawford spoke briefly about challenges they are experiencing with the current County Road 2/ I-35 interchange.

Barber expressed her thanks to Council members, staff and local officials for traveling down to Savage/Scott County for the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:34p.m.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary