

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 27, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: Marie McCarthy

TAB Liaison Present: Randy Maluchnik

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 27, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

The following employee was presented an Employee Recognition Award for his efforts:
Metro Transit Vehicle Maintenance Manager James OBrien presented to Metro Transit Electro-Mechanic John Paul Luc.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

TAB Liaison Randy Maluchnik reported from the 3/15/17 TAB meeting. TAB Vice Chair Laufenburger stated that the TAB will be asked to act on Overprogramming in April. Scott McBride-MnDOT announced that Pat Bursaw-MnDOT will be retiring in May. McBride also reported that 1½ years ago the Federal Government passed the FAST Act and MnDOT was given \$105M additional to spend on projects, but no authority has been given to MnDOT to spend these funds to date. Projects are ready and waiting to be let. Lettings have been delayed due to politics. If these funds are not spent in the fiscal year, they will go back to the Federal Government. Carl Crimmins-MAC gave an update on the construction and checkpoints at the airport. The TAB approved various business items as part of their agenda. Rodriguez added that a clean bill is being sent to the governor this week regarding the \$105M FAST Act funds, in hope of a resolution. Rodriguez there are 5 projects in the overprogramming item and said she will forward the overprogramming business item to the committee members once it is final and posted as part of the TAB agenda for April.

CTIB UPDATE – Lona Schreiber

Lona Schreiber reported that CTIB held their regular meeting with business as usual, no discussion on the dissolution of CTIB. It is now up to the counties to pass resolutions by the 3/31/17 deadline set by the Department of Revenue.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Asst. Director Contracted Transit Services
Gerri Sutton reported:

1. Regional Travel Forecasting Technical Committee

This committee will have its first meeting this week. The committee consists of staff from around the Council and MnDOT, counties, cities, MPCA and WisDOT. It will be reviewing work plans for specific Travel Behavior Inventory tasks and serving as the technical advisory input for each project, starting with the upcoming 2018 household travel survey.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Employee recognition

Several Council members generously helped celebrate Metro Transit staff last week. Last Monday, we thanked our bus and train operators for their service on Transit Driver Appreciation Day. We look forward to building on this now-annual celebration in the years ahead. Last Thursday, several Council members also attended our Police Awards, where we recognized Officer Katherine Spear as our Officer of the Year. Spear spent a decade in financial aid and became interested in law enforcement after serving as a volunteer member of the St. Paul Police reserves a few years ago. Since becoming a full-time officer, she's spent most her time on the Green Line, where she's become familiar to many of our customers.

2. Rail Rodeo

Council members are invited to our Rail Rodeo competition this Saturday at the Hiawatha Operations & Maintenance Facility. Like our annual Bus Roadeos, the competition tests operators' knowledge and safety skills through a series of operating trials, as well as a uniform inspection, written exam and vehicle inspection. A group photo will be taken at 9 a.m. and the competition begins shortly thereafter.

3. Go-To Card anniversary

Stored-value Go-To Cards became available to the public for the first time a decade ago this week. The roll-out followed several years of development and a more limited effort to transition Metropass customers to the automatic fare payment cards. Today, around 59 percent of all fare payments are made with a Go-To Card.

Munt gave an update on the press conference that Metropolitan Council Chair Adam Duininck held at the Capitol today.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins and passed, to approve the following consent item:

1. 2017-73: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concurs with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding for three "Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities projects.

Non-Consent Items:

1. There were no non-consent business items on the agenda.

INFORMATION

1. TOD Update

Metro Transit TOD Director Lucy Galbraith presented this item. She reviewed the TOD policy & goals and gave an update on TOD projects. Dorfman expressed frustration with the possible cuts to transit, when there are developers who want to develop TOD.

2. Twins Service

Metro Transit Senior Marketing Development Specialist Kelci Stones presented the marketing campaign for the 2017 Twins Games, the past ridership and 2017 goals.

3. Fare Policy Schedule Update and Financial Impact Analysis

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull presented this item. He presented the proposed next steps (schedule) and used an interactive excel worksheet to explain various scenarios. He will provide the worksheet to Council members for their use. Rodriguez reminded the committee that the proposed fare increase cannot increase once this item goes to the public for public comment, but can decrease. She stated that \$.25 is barely keeping up. She asked for suggestions from the committee about how many options and scenarios should be part of the public comment information. The committee thought that three options with low/middle/high ranges should be provided, with at least one including a \$.50 increase and TAP. Munt stated that the public should be reminded that Metro Council's preference would be a ½ cent sales tax. Communications Manager of Public Involvement Michelle Fure was present to answer questions about communications and public outreach. Lamb said that staff will be making times available to meet in small groups to further discuss the fare policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.