

## **Minutes of the**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

November 27, 2017

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

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

**Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso**

**TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:06pm on Monday, November 27, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

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

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.  
Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### **Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:**

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following, who presented recognition awards to employees:

Metro Transit Assistant Director Field Operations David Hanson presented to the following:  
Metro Transit Manager of System Operations Gary Nyberg  
Metro Transit Transit Supervisor Brad Smith  
Metro Transit Transit Supervisor Tom Gurrola

#### **TAB LIAISON REPORT**

Peter Dugan relayed the following information from the last TAB meeting:

MPCA reported that MN is designated as a beneficiary of the VW Settlement and requested TAB input for spending allocations. Staff presented the TPP.

The following items were approved at the meeting: two TIP amendments, TAB Bylaws, MPO MOU with MnDOT and 2018 Regional Solicitation draft. Some key highlights from the 2018 Regional Solicitation were: historic ranges of spending will be the same, fund one roadway project in each class, reinstate allocating \$10M for bridge rehabilitation and replacement, allowing funding for transit maintenance and support facilities and garages, higher scoring projects can't be surpassed by lower scoring projects unless regional balance is needed, requirement that an application earn a minimum score to be eligible for funding and no inflation adjustment.

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

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

##### TPP

Starting follow up meetings with the counties and their policy makers to discuss the draft TPP. List of meetings to be sent out to Council members, who are welcome to attend meetings in their districts.

### Allocation Policy for Regional MVST

Update to be provided at the December 11<sup>th</sup> Transportation Committee meeting; draft is still being worked on. By law, policy will need to be implemented by 2018.

### Congested Management Committee

Second meeting of committee (that includes staff from each county, MnDOT, FHWA and some major cities) will be held this week.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

### Buses returning to Nicollet Mall Saturday

After more than two years of construction, buses will be returning to Nicollet Mall on Saturday, Dec. 2. Routes 10, 11, 17, 18, 25 and 59 have been detoured off the mall since construction began in November 2015, most recently to Hennepin Avenue. Combined, these routes make 800 weekday trips and have more than 26,000 average weekday boardings. In addition to new public art, landscaping and other amenities, a dozen new custom shelters with heat, light and real-time signs will be installed along Nicollet Mall beginning later this month.

Metro Transit staff will be out sharing information with customers on Hennepin Avenue all this week. We'll also have staff out on Nicollet Mall thanking customers for their patience on Monday, Dec. 4, between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Council Members who are interested in joining us can contact Customer Relations Manager Pam Steffen.

The return to Nicollet Mall coincides with our regularly-scheduled service changes. We'll have to move routes back to Hennepin Avenue between Saturday, Jan. 13 and Wednesday, Feb. 7 (3.5 weeks) while the mall is closed for Super Bowl festivities.

### Transit police holiday outreach

Metro Transit police officers and their families joined hundreds of volunteers to pack and deliver Thanksgiving meals for Meals on Wheels last week. Transit police will continue their holiday season outreach by joining "Shop with a Cop" events on Saturday, Dec. 2, and Monday, Dec. 11. Along with St. Paul and Minneapolis police, officers will be partnered with area youth given a small allowance to shop for their families at Target. After shopping, officers share lunch and help the kids wrap their gifts. Chief Harrington and a former colleague created the Shop with a Cop program in 2000 when Harrington was with the St. Paul Police Department.

### Northstar Holiday Train coming to Union Depot Dec. 9

A Northstar "Holiday Train" will make a special trip all the way to St. Paul's Union Depot on Saturday, Dec. 9. A six-car train will depart Big Lake Station at 2:45 p.m. and stop at every station except for Target Field, arriving at the Union Depot by 4 p.m. The train will depart St. Paul at 6:15 p.m. All rides are free. BNSF is covering the cost.

At the Union Depot, passengers can enjoy an outdoor European Christmas Market. Santa's elves will also appear on the train ride. Guests are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the Neighborhood House's holiday food drive. Neighborhood House supports families in need in and around St. Paul.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

**Non-Consent Items:**

**1. 2017-267:** Designation of Potential TOD Sites

Metro Transit Director of Transit Oriented Development Lucy Galbraith presented this item. Munt and Chair Rodriguez expressed their excitement about the list of projects. There were no questions from Council members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council designate the attached list of Council properties as potential TOD projects eligible for use of the TOD fund allocated to the TOD Office. Funds will be used for expenses necessary to pursue TOD opportunities on these sites. Examples of tasks include title reports, surveys, appraisals, market studies, engineering studies, etc.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

**2. 2017-268:** C Line / Penn Avenue – Hennepin County Cooperative Construction Agreement

Metro Transit Manager Arterial BRT Katie Roth presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 171066 with Hennepin County for funding and construction of street improvements on Penn Avenue associated with the C Line rapid bus project.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

**3. 2017-269:** C Line / Penn Avenue – Real Estate Acquisition and Condemnation, Resolution 2017-32

Metro Transit Manager Arterial BRT Katie Roth presented this item. Letofsky asked if there is potential for condemned property to be owned by the Council in the long term. Roth responded that the easements are temporary and easement documents define the dates of use based on construction schedules.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2017-32 authorizing acquisition of temporary easements necessary for the C Line / Penn Avenue Improvements Project, and authorizing Council staff to initiate condemnation proceedings for parcels that cannot be acquired by negotiation.

Motion passed.

**4. 2017-270:** Master Operations Funding Agreement with Funding Transitway Counties for Transitway Services

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. Petrie answered two questions from Council members: is there an over arching agreement for capital (the master funding agreement is for operations only); Sherburne County is a contributor, why aren't they listed (Sherburne County has their own separate funding agreement with the Council; Sherburne County wasn't part of CTIB sales tax).

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Operations Funding Agreement with the Funding Transitway Counties of Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey. This agreement will be for the period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2022

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

**5. 2017-271:** 2018 Capital and Operating Grant Agreements with the Funding Transitway Counties  
Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute agreements for the calendar year 2018 with the Funding Transitway Counties of Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin and Ramsey to receive funds in 2018.

### Capital

- METRO Orange Line \$12,300,000
  - Dakota County Regional Rail Authority – \$672,000
  - Dakota County - \$1,050,000
  - Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority – \$4,128,000
  - Hennepin County - \$6,450,000
- METRO Green Line Extension \$319,988,023
  - Hennepin County – \$245,593,222
  - Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority – \$74,394,801
- METRO Blue Line Extension \$93,008,503
  - Hennepin County – \$71,846,552
  - Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority - \$21,161,951

### Operating

- METRO Blue Line LRT \$13,081,374
  - Hennepin County - \$13,081,374
- METRO Green Line LRT \$12,694,849
  - Hennepin County – \$7,616,909
  - Ramsey County – \$5,077,940
- Northstar Commuter Rail \$7,277,181
  - Anoka County – \$5,923,625
  - Hennepin County – \$1,353,556

Motion passed.

**6. 2017-272:** Orange Line Real Estate Expenditures

Metro Transit Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Barber:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and purchase METRO Orange Line property easements, including easements with an appraised value of over \$500,000.

Motion passed.

**7. 2017-276 SW:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Construction Agreement with SouthWest Transit

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented the item. Munt questioned if we are providing support for SWT customers during construction at SouthWest Station. Alexander responded yes, we will be providing three station ambassadors when bus operations shift at the station during construction. Barber asked if the construction agreement was going to SWT Commission for approval. Alexander responded yes, it is scheduled for their December 7 SWT Commission meeting.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Construction Agreement with SouthWest Transit (SWT) related to the construction of SouthWest Station for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project.

Motion passed.

**8. 2017-273:** TAB Bylaws Revisions

Metropolitan Transportation Services TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos presented this item. Koutsoukos answered some questions from Council members: who selects Executive Committee (members put names forward, list is compiled allowing the Chair to recommend candidates and then the board votes); was there an issue in the past that led to the deletion of quorum language (there has been actions that come through during an information item); does Robert Rules allows members to ask for a quorum (yes; old TAB Bylaws was consistent with Robert Rules, expect where Bylaws stated differently).

Motion by Commers, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the TAB Bylaws as shown on the attached document.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item can proceed as Consent to Council.

**9. 2017-274:** Two Rivers Contract

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager, Contracted Transit Services John Harper John Harper presented this item. Harper answered a couple questions from Council members: does the low cost on this proposal come at the expense of driver's wages (no; this contract does require \$16/hour wage, which all contracts submitted met or exceed); will the vendor use our maintenance or facilities (no; contract structure within MTS is that we provide the vehicles and technology and the contractor provides all other things); what percentage of service are these contracts (MTS contracts out 10% of the region's regular routes).

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with First Transit Inc. to provide regular route local and express transit service from April 1, 2018, through March 31, 2023, in an amount not to exceed \$12,082,146.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

**10. 2017-275:** 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: West St. Paul Wentworth Avenue Trail Project

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the City of West St. Paul's Wentworth Avenue Trail project (SP # 173-020-017).

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

## **INFORMATION**

### **1. Hwy 169/BRT Implementation**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager, Transportation Planning Cole Hiniker introduced Brad Larsen, MnDOT who introduced and co-presented with Adele Hall from SRF Consulting Group. Answering a question from Letofsky about where both alternatives intersect with Blue & Green lines, Larsen stated Green Line extension intersects at the downtown Hopkins station and Blue Line extension at Penn Ave station, along with C Line. Munt asked why new housing development wasn't included in the data that supports conditions goals. Hall answered that is an item that could start to be included and take advantage of that data. Hiniker provided a comment that Golden Valley is more excited about BRT, than St. Louis Park and the cities interest will help guide direction – not just the data.

### **2. Corridors of Commerce**

Patrick Weidemann, MnDOT, presented this item. Weidemann answered questions from Council members: is criteria defined in State law (yes, some language in each of them – some are very detailed while others are vaguer), while adding lane miles without funding to maintain those roads is that coming at an expense at funding another project (yes, it would come as an expense – unless Trunk Highway Fund increases, then no). Weidemann provided comments from concerns express by Council members: concern with 50/50 split (agency is open to others option – recommended to send comments); timeline is troubling (project is up against many time blocks and under extreme pressure). Answering a question from Commers on where this fits into the TPP, Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson stated that a requirement is that there is MPO local support for projects (Met Council would have to give a letter of support), so if a project is not in conformance with TPP we wouldn't give support. Thompson also added that Met Council will be submitting high priority projects from the TPP and will bring forward a list to Transportation Committee mid-December or first part of January.

### **3. Fare Policy Update**

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Collection Nick Eull presented this item.

### **4. Better Bus Stops Year-end Update**

Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities Senior Project Coordinator Paul Lamb, Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities Senior Planner Berry Farrington and Metro Transit Transit Information Service Coordinator Barrett Clausen presented this item. Dorfman stated that she's had neighborhoods reach out to her regarding shelter improvements and asked where she can direct those calls. Farrington answered that herself or Lamb could be contacted, or customers can contact Customer Relations and the message will be filtered to appropriate department. Munt asked how many stations we would need to add if we looked at 30+/boardings a day and if we had funding for those. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb answered that the number is 1500 and we do not have enough funding for additional 350 but some of the 350 won't qualify.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Becky Davidson  
Recording Secretary