

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 23, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: None

TAB Liaison Present: None present

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Commers to approve the January 23, 2017 agenda. Motion carried.
Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Metro Transit Sr. Manager BRT Charles Carlson who presented Employee Recognition Awards to the following people for their work on the Orange Line: Christina Morrison, Project Manager, BRT Small Starts
Natalie Westberg, Associate Planner

TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Councilmember Katie Rodriguez reported from the TAB meeting of 1/18/17. TAB approved the selection of 2016 Regional Solicitation projects (more information in MTS Director report) and also approved projects in the HSIP program.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. 2016 Regional Solicitation

The TAB approved projects in the 2016 Regional Solicitation at its meeting on 1/18/17. More than \$200M in federal funds are distributed in the Regional Solicitation, matched by the same amount of local funds. Most of the construction on these projects will begin in 2020 & 2021; in some cases, the construction will be advanced. An announcement will be released to the media, and an information item presented to the full Council in February. These projects will be included in the Draft TIP and will come to the Transportation Committee and the Council in the fall.

2. Presentation to the Legislature

This week the Metro Council will be making a presentation to the Transportation Regional Governance Committee at the Legislature about the transportation planning process.

3. Bus Accident in Anoka County

The vehicle involved in an accident this week was an Anoka County contracted bus. There were no serious injuries (to driver, three passengers or home occupant), although the house was damaged significantly.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Weekend service

Up to 100,000 people were drawn to the State Capitol on Saturday, and Metro Transit helped safely transport a good portion of them. Initial estimates suggest that more than 15,000 people boarded the Green Line as events wound down on Saturday afternoon. That estimate is based on the fact that full three-car train sets, each with a maximum capacity of 700 people, were observed between noon and 2:30 p.m. Thousands more people rode local bus routes that serve the Capitol area.

Plans to supplement scheduled LRT and bus service had been made in advance, and additional service was quickly added as it became clear event attendance was far surpassing expectations. Although the lines were long, customers were overall pleased with the experience. Lamb read customer comments that were received by Metro Transit.

2. Stroller policy update

A policy that required customers to fold strollers before boarding the bus is being changed in an effort to provide a more welcoming experience for those traveling with children. For the last decade, customers have been asked to fold their strollers before boarding. But operators found it difficult to enforce the policy and customers said it was hard for them to separately manage children and a stroller.

Effective this week, customers may board the bus with their children in a stroller, provided the aisles and doorways remain clear. The child in the stroller must be belted in and the stroller brakes must be in the locked position. The parent or guardian must remain with the child.

If there is no room, a customer may still be asked to fold their stroller after boarding. Customers with a disability continue to have priority in the securement area. The change was presented to the TAAC in December. The securement areas remain designated priority seating for people with disabilities, mobility devices and seniors. There will be updates on the policy at future Transportation Committees.

3. Commuter Choice Awards

Metro Transit and partnering TMOs will celebrate sustainable commuters at the Commuter Choice Awards on Wednesday, April 26. Council members are encouraged to recommend employers, government organizations, building owners and individuals who have actively promote alternatives to driving alone to submit nominations. The nomination form is available on Metro Transit's website. Nominations will be accepted through the end of February. Lamb encouraged committee members to attend the awards, and said that committee members will be reminded of the date prior to the ceremony.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

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

1. 2017-36: Amendment to Contract 16P018 with Apollo Video Technology

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend Contract 16P018 with Apollo Video Technology in an amount not to exceed \$1,060,000.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2017-28: Sole Source purchase of goods and services from Rockwell Collins
Metropolitan Council Assistant Director-IS Pancho Henderson presented this item and explained the reasons for sole sourcing to the committee. In reply to a question from Elkins, Henderson stated that the original contract was negotiated by the Green Line project office and there were not price protections in the original contract. Members said that Met Council should look into price protections in future contracts.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute individual sole-source purchases for the 13 projects listed below (in Business item 2017-28), and enter into negotiations with Rockwell Collins Inc. in an amount not to exceed a total of \$30,645,000. Each contract will follow Council procurement policies and procedures before execution.

Motion carried.

2. 2017-4: Blue Line Extension LRT Project – HCRRA/Met Council Engineering Agreement
Metro Transit Deputy Project Dir./Blue Line Extension MarySue Abel presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an Engineering 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 \$50.89 million.

Motion passed.

3. 2017-30: Bus Battery Procurement

Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Technical Support Michael Joyce presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 16P291 with CMD Properties DBA Batteries Plus, for the procurement of bus battery purchases and used battery disposal for a three-year term with an option of a fourth year in the amount of \$1,147,409.48.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objections, Chair Schreiber said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

4. 2017-31: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement with CenterPoint Energy

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Utility Agreement with CenterPoint Energy to allow for reimbursement of costs, not to exceed \$800,000, associated with relocation of utilities that conflict with the Southwest LRT Project.

Motion passed.

5. 2017-32: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement with Century Link

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Utility Agreement with Century Link to allow for reimbursement of costs, not to exceed \$1.5M, associated with relocation of utilities that conflict with the Southwest LRT Project.

Motion passed.

Regarding Items 2017-31 & 2017-32, Alexander answered questions from Dorfman stating that these expenditures are project eligible costs and Metro Council will be reimbursed 50% from FTA project funds. The project office will know more about the timing of expenditures and reimbursements when the FFGA is executed.

6. 2017-33: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) SouthWest Station Property Agreement

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item and answered questions from Barber – that property rights need to be in place prior to the FFGA being issued, from Elkins – regarding the timing of Regional Solicitation money to Eden Prairie, and from McCarthy – regarding the soil conditions & structural construction challenges.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Property Agreement (Agreement) between the Council and SouthWest Transit (SWT) related to the transfer of property rights and any Federal interest of a portion of the property (Property) at SouthWest Station from SWT to the Council and Council payment for the functional replacement of southwest Transit's office building and related improvements in an amount not-to-exceed \$8,000,000.

Motion passed.

7. 2017-34: Orange Line MnDOT Design Partnership Agreement

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize Green Line Extension LRT Project Office to initiate condemnation proceedings on the following parcels appraised at greater than \$1 million that staff is not able to acquire by negotiation.

Parcel 202 (CHCR, LLC), Parcel 413 (Kant-Sing Partnership), Parcel 414 (Liberty Property LP – OMF 1), Parcel 418 (MJTA Partners, LLC), Parcel 419 (Liberty Property LP – OMF 2), and Parcel 608 (Hasselbring Family LTD. Partnership).

Motion passed.

8. 2017-14: Procurement of Bus and Light Rail Vehicle Surveillance Systems Maintenance Contract

Metro Transit Manager Communications Systems Chad LeVasseur presented this item. Dorfman asked how this amount compared to the last contract and LeVasseur stated that it is less.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract No. 16P270 with Alarm and Communications Systems, Inc. for the procurement of bus and light rail vehicle surveillance system maintenance services for a three-year term in the amount of \$660,960.00.

Motion passed. Hearing no objections, Chair Schreiber stated that this item could continue to the full Council as a consent item.

9. 2017-35 JT: 2017 Unified Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 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 2017 Unified Budget – Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with the spreadsheet in Operating Budget – Attachment #2.

(attachments to Business Item 2017-35)

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. 2016 Park & Ride System Survey

Metro Transit Manager Planning & Urban Design Anna Flintoft and Intern Rachel Auerbach presented this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.