

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 9, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Lona Schreiber, Jennifer Munt, Marie McCarthy, Steve Elkins, Deb Barber, Katie Rodriguez

**Committee Members Absent:** Cara Letofsky, Edward Reynoso, Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman

**TAB Liaison Present:** Randy Maluchnik

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:20 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN. The committee heard non-business items (employee recognition, Director and General Manager reports, information item on Arterial BRT) while waiting for a quorum. A quorum was reached prior to acting on any business of the committee.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt to approve the January 9, 2017 agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services

MTS Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner introduced the following people who were presented an Employee Recognition Award for their work:

MTS Fleet Manager Paul Colton, MTS Senior Accountant Nick Hendrikson, MTS Senior Accountant Christopher Nguyen, and Principal Financial Analyst Sara Haggerty.

#### TAB LIAISON REPORT:

TAB Liaison Randy Maluchnik reported from the 12/21/16 TAB meeting. The TAB Executive Committee and the TAB discussed Regional Solicitation scenarios, reports from the agencies at the meeting included Scott McBride-MnDOT report on the FAST Lane applications submitted by MnDOT, David Thornton-MPCA report on the Volkswagen settlement, Carl Crimmins-MAC reported on construction projects at the airport. The TAB voted to not adopt an inflation adjustment for projects in the 2016 Regional Solicitation, and also approved funding for the TBI and Regional Model off the top of the Regional Solicitation with stipulations.

#### METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. TAB approved TBI

The TAB approved funding for the TBI to be off the top of the Regional Solicitation funds. An RFP is being developed and should be out this spring for the 2018 TBI. A forecast committee is being formed and will be part of the process for developing RFPs.

## 2. MVST

An MVST report was received last week based on the State Fiscal Year. Receipts for the last six months of the calendar have come in at 96% of budgeted. December was close to the target.

## 3. Continued visits to counties/partners/locals

Thompson continues to make local visits to counties, cities, partners. He has made visits to Dakota, Scott, Carver counties, City of Minneapolis, Chaska, Carver, some industry, and more are scheduled or being scheduled.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

### 1. Increase in retirements

Metro transit continues to see an increase in retirements. In the first two weeks of the new year, more than a dozen employees have retired with combined service of 351 years. This presents hiring challenges for Metro Transit. Metro Transit continues to conduct outreach and technical training, CDL license testing, etc. Messages regarding hiring will be shown on the overhead displays on buses.

### 2. MT Partnering

Metro Transit is partnering with the City of St. Paul, St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, Building Owners Management Association of St. Paul, and the Musicant Group to bring activity to the underdeveloped portions of the Central Station Block over the next year. Future plans call for more pop-up events, creation of a temporary wood deck with seating, and places for food trucks to park. These activities are being supported by a \$75,000 grant from the Knight Foundation. Metro Transit and City of St. Paul continue to move forward with plans to solicit development proposals for the Central Station Block.

### 3. Vikings

Metro Transit provided 300,000 rides to/from the Vikings games this year – up 3% from last year. The next big event that Metro Transit will help serve is the Red Bull Crashed Ice event in St. Paul in February.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

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

#### 1. 2017-1: BLRT Updated Station Name

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the revised station name for the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Project of Plymouth Avenue to Plymouth Avenue/Theodore Wirth Park.

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

#### 1. 2017-6 SW: Approval of an administrative amendment to the 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council approve an administrative amendment to the 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to incorporate a Federal Transit Administration grant for Transit Oriented Development planning along Blue Line Extension station areas.

Motion carried.

#### 2. 2017-12 SW: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: I-35 Maintenance and Bridge Replacement

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item, and Ryan Coddington -MnDOT was also present to answer questions, if necessary. Munt asked for an

explanation of the cost differences between design/bid/build and design/build projects. Schreiber and McCarthy asked if this project covers the issues that Anoka County has with the bridge over Hwy 35. Coddington replied that yes, although the issues will be covered in two separate projects, this project being one of them.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council concurs with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost and separate elements from MnDOT's I-35 maintenance and bridge replacement project.

Motion passed.

3. 2017-13 SW: Review of Metropolitan Airports Commission 2017-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Russ Owen presented this item and MAC Representative Bridge Rief was also present to answer questions, if any. Schreiber questioned how the Lake Elmo Airport plans fit into the findings. Owen replied that the work at the Lake Elmo Airport is scheduled for 2019 or 2020 and is part of the CIP now although in the "out" years. The Metro Council will also be approving a CIP for the years 2019 & 2020 when that time comes. Rief answered questions from Munt about the noise mitigation program for homes. Rief also answered questions from McCarthy about non-aeronautical parcels on airport property.

Motion by Barber, seconded by McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council find:

1. That the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) had an adequate public participation process for the development and review of its 2017-2023 Capital Improvement Program (CIT), including preparation of an assessment of environmental effects (AOEE) for 2017 projects with potential environmental effects.
2. That there are no projects that need to be approved in the CIP since no projects meet both the funding level and "significant effects" criteria.
3. That the 2017 CIP projects are in conformance with the region's Aviation System Plan and consistent with Council policy.

Motion passed.

4. 2017-11: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Authorization to Execute Canadian Pacific (CP) Bass Lake Spur (BLS) Real Estate Purchase Agreement

Metro Transit Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. Munt asked questions about whether the maximum speed allowed for trains will change, she also acknowledged that negotiating with railroads can be difficult and praised MT for their work. Alexander said the maximum speed is 25 mph and would not change.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute:

- A Real Estate Purchase Agreement (Agreement) between the Council and CO related to acquisition of the Bass Lake Spur in an amount not-to-exceed \$27,450,000. (*Amount not to exceed is contingent upon FTA concurrence.*)
- An associated Bass Lake Spur Freight Rail Easement Agreement among CP, Twin Cities & Western Railroad Company (TCWR), and the Council.

*(Both agreements are contingent upon a positive decision by the Surface Transportation Board and TCWR's assumption of the common carrier obligations.)*

Motion passed.

5. 2017-2 SW: Approve Knorr Sole Source and Purchase Order for Knorr Brake Parts

Metro Transit Manager LRV Overhaul & Special Projects Chris Royston presented this item. There were no questions from committee members

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to approve the Knorr sole source and the purchase order in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for Knorr brake parts used on the motor trucks as part of Overhaul 2 of the Bombardier Type 1 vehicles.

Motion passed.

6. 2017-3 SW: Approve 2017 Metropolitan Council Title VI program for the FTA

Metropolitan Council Office of Equal Opportunity Special Projects Manager Luis Morales presented this item and Office of Equal Opportunity Assistant Director Aaron Koski was also present to answer questions, if any.

Rodriguez asked if the STAs prepared their own analysis, or whether they give information to MT to submit to the FTA. Morales stated that the STAs submit their own Title VI plans to the FTA.

Barber asked about the timing of public engagement and analysis for a possible fare increase and Lamb stated that staff will present on this subject at a Committee of the Whole meeting on 2/01/17.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the 2017 Title VI Program.

Motion passed.

7. 2017-5: Orange Line MnDOT Design Partnership Agreement

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

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a partnership agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for funding of the final design of the I-35W and Lake Street Transit station and I-35W Transit Bridge in the amount of \$2,210,927.38.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Arterial BRT Quarterly Update

Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operating Officer/Bus Brian Funk, Metro Transit Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Office Charles Carlson Metro Transit BRT/Small Starts Project Manager Katie Roth and presented this item.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.