

## **Minutes of the**

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

June 26, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

**Committee Members Absent: Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman**

**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 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 26, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

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

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

Motion by Barber, seconded by Letofsky to approve the minutes of the June 12, 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 Manager-Street Operations Greg Tuveson presented to Metro Transit Supervisor Lance Wallace.

Metro Transit Assistant Manager-Transit information Ben Rajkowski presented to Metro Transit Project Coordinator-Transit Information Laura Matson and Metro Transit Senior Rail Transit Supervisor–Transportation Dana Alexon.

#### **TAB LIAISON REPORT**

Peter Dugan reported from the TAB. The TAB heard a report on the status of MnDOT's FAST LANE grant application for 35W MnPASS, and a report from MPCA on the funds from the Volkswagon settlement. A technical advisory group has been formed to identify projects that could use the Volkswagon settlement funds. The TAB acted favorably on two action items: the TIP amendment to add a small bus for MVTA, and approval of the Draft 2018-2021 TIP for public comment.

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

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. CTIB

CTIB took final action to initiate their dissolution. CTIB will continue through September 30 in order to work out final agreements. Counties are taking actions to approve a transportation sales tax. Seven counties will have a transportation sales tax. Four of the counties will be at .50 cents and the other three will be at a .25 cents.

2. Fare Increase

Today (6/26/17) is the last day to receive public comments on the proposed fare increase. The schedule going forward is as follows:

7/12 Committee of the Whole – summary of public input, begin discussion.

7/24 – Transportation Committee action

7/26 – full Council action

### 3. Metro Mobility Task Force

Invitation letters are being sent out to partners asking for appointment of a representative to the Metro Mobility Task force. The Legislature passed a bill this year creating a Metro Mobility Task Force. The purpose of the task force is to examine the Metro Mobility program, identify options and methods to increase program effectiveness and efficiency, minimize program costs, and improve service including through potential partnership with taxi service providers and transportation network companies.

The legislation is specific about the membership. Counties can name a representative either from the county or an elected official from jurisdiction within their county that has Metro Mobility service.

Metropolitan Council is providing a list of the qualifying cities to the counties. Counties are being asked to submit their appointments by mid-July. The task force is expected to begin meeting in August and complete a report by February 2018.

### 4. Transportation Policy

Information will be going out to Transportation Committee members, Council Members, and TAB members for various information sessions to be held on the TAB meeting days, to provide more time for discussions pertaining to transportation policy and issues that go into the TPP and the Regional Solicitation. There have been two sessions for the Regional Solicitation; next month's subject is Transit Investments, followed by Highway Investment and other modes.

This gives TAB members and others an opportunity to ask questions and delve deeper than can be accomplished at a TAB meeting.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

#### 1. Ovations

Council Members are reminded that they can join a celebration of our top-performing bus and light-rail operators at the annual Ovations awards banquet this Wednesday. The program will begin at 10 a.m. at the Ramada Plaza in Minneapolis (1330 Industrial Boulevard). More than 40 operators who have achieved career milestones for their safety, attendance and customer service records will be recognized this year. Chair Rodriguez will be the featured speaker.

#### 2. Construction

Favorable weather has allowed us to get a good start on light rail maintenance in downtown Minneapolis, and our customers seem to be taking the construction in stride. Buses will continue to replace trains through early next Monday as crews continue installing new sections of rail and crossovers that will be easier to maintain and operate. Things will become a bit more complicated tomorrow evening when the intersection of Hennepin Avenue and 5th Street closes and we begin detouring buses from Hennepin Avenue to the Marq2 corridor. The intersection will reopen on Monday.

Construction on I-94 also picked up over the weekend, leading buses to be detoured through downtown Minneapolis instead of using the Lowry Tunnel and some key entrance ramps. Weight and speed restrictions aren't directly impacting our customers, but buses that pull in and out of our Heywood Garage or use I-94 to get to the beginning of a route will need more time. Construction-related traffic has led many in the northwest metro to turn to transit: compared to last year, May's Northstar ridership was up 19 percent. We're up about 17 percent so far this month.

#### 3. Outreach

We've reached the time of year when our event calendar starts to fill up. The next community event Council Members might want to mark on their calendars is Rondo Days. Metro Transit will be participating in the parade on Saturday, July 15. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at the St. Peter Claver Catholic Church (1060 West Central Avenue, St. Paul). Those interested in marching should meet at the parade line-up site

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

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

1. 2017-132: Renewal of Transit Cooperation Agreement with City of Minnetonka

Metro Transit Senior Transit Planner Steve Mahowald presented this item.

Munt thanked Mahowald for being so responsive to the City of Minnetonka.

Letofsky asked if Metro Transit has had conversations with other cities in our service area. Mahowald said that conversations with cities do take place, especially when there are considerations for service changes. Mahowald also answered a question from Letofsky, that there were no major service changes to this agreement between 2013 and today. Lamb added that there will be discussions with cities moving forward regarding the Green Line Extension and changes to bus service once the Green Line Extension is running.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to renew the Transit Cooperation Agreement with the City of Minnetonka.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2017-131 SW: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: MVTA Bus Acquisition

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

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding for the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) to purchase a small bus.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

1. TOD Update

Metro Transit Manager TOD Lucy Galbraith presented this item which included status on various sites (Snelling, Central Station, Gold Line & Blue Line). TOD materials and reports are available on the website. Two conferences are coming up: Sustainability & Multimodal Planning Workshop in August, and Rail~Volution in September.

2. Transportation Improvement Program

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. Barbeau answered a question from Munt that Trump's proposed investments in highways are not reflected in this TIP, and he also gave examples of parties that might comment on the TIP. Members asked questions about Corridors of Commerce projects and the timing to include them in the TIP. Corridors of Commerce applications are due in December with selection of projects in January/February.

Depending on when the projects are programmed, it is most likely that they will be included in the next TIP. This will be decided on a project-by-project basis.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.