

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 22, 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, Lona Schreiber, Marie McCarthy

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso

TAB Liaison Present: none present

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the May 8, 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 Director Rail Operations & Transportation Mark Benedict presented to Metro Transit Train Operator Donnie Freeman

Metro Transit East Metro Maintenance Manager Tony Kolnik presented to Metro Transit Mechanic Technician Carlos Garcia Rodriguez

Metro Transit Manager Rail Training Development Ona Pradhan presented to Metro Transit Instructor/Supervisor Rail Maintenance & Training Chuck Vittitow

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Steve Elkins reported from the TAB. David Thornton from MPCA informed the TAB that the Twin Cities will reach full attainment for air quality standards for carbon monoxide in 2019 which could potentially affect the amount of CMAQ funding awarded. The Volkswagen settlement language is in several bills at the Legislature (Transportation, Jobs & Energy, & Environment). The TAB also received information about the Regional Solicitation survey results and presentations on the Transportation System Performance Evaluation (TSPE) and the Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP).

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. Regional Solicitation training

Members should have received an email invitation from Steve Peterson regarding Regional Solicitation trainings geared toward TAB members to be held June 15 & 21. These training sessions will prepare TAB members with a base understanding of the Regional Solicitation (RS) as the next RS is being developed.

2. CMP Workshop

The FHA is sponsoring a Peer Exchange for Congestion Management that will be held on the 3rd Floor of Cray Plaza in the Galtier Theater in St. Paul on May 23 & 24. Peers from Portland, Wilmington, Delaware, Salt Lake City & St. Louis will be visiting to share information about how they handle their congestion management process

3. Legislative Update

Substantive issues are being discussed at the legislature; no bill(s) adopted yet.

4. Potential Fare Increase

Open houses on the fare increase continue; the first public hearing was held in Anoka and there were no members of the public present to speak. Over 500 surveys have been received. Pop-up events will also commence at various transit locations which may generate more input from surveys.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Memorial Day

A recent extension of Route 7 is being promoted as a good way to get to events at Fort Snelling over the Memorial Day holiday. Route 7 serves north Minneapolis, downtown and the West Bank and connects with the Blue Line's 46th Street and Fort Snelling station, which is about a mile west of Fort Snelling. A recent schedule change added Route 7 trips to Fort Snelling every half hour on holidays and weekends. To promote the new service, customers are being offered a free ride pass through the Minnesota Historical Society website that allows them to ride buses and light rail free from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Memorial Day.

2. Light Rail Construction

Buses will replace trains in downtown Minneapolis next weekend as construction and maintenance activities continue. Buses will replace trains between Target Field and U.S. Bank Stadium from the evening of Thursday, June 1, through early morning on Monday, June 5. Buses will also replace trains in downtown Minneapolis for more than a week beginning on Thursday, June 22, or Friday, June 23. In addition to replacement buses, we'll be sharing information about navigating the skyway system, walking and using Nice Ride to reach destinations downtown. Since this is the first time we've ever had to interrupt light-rail service during the week, we're being especially proactive about communicating with customers in advance.

3. Northern Lights Awards

Several Metro Transit and Council marketing and communication efforts were recognized by the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC) last week. Opening celebrations for the A Line, an Everyday Equity brochure, the Yarn Bus and a video featuring two Metro Transit bus operators took first place in their respective categories. Our Toward 2020 plan, the Council's Thrive 2040 policy plan summaries and a photo by Council staffer Jeff Syme were also recognized during an awards banquet last week.

4. Summer Student Pass

Summer Student Passes are now on sale. The \$25 passes are available to any current ninth- through twelfth-grade student attending one of around 80 participating schools in the metro area. Students can use the passes to take unlimited rides on buses and trains from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. through Sept. 5. The passes can be purchased through Metro Transit's website or at one of our Service Centers.

5. MTPD Chief Harrington

Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington addressed the committee regarding a facebook posting of a police officer questioning a customer on their immigration status. An investigation into the incident has begun. He stated that the police department is working on more refined policy language clearly

delineating that it is not the purpose of the MTPD to question immigration status. The MTPD has also been handing out Spanish language brochures that state this.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins and passed to approve the following consent item:

1. 2017-110: Authorize NorthStar Corridor Funding Agreement with State of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Resolution No: 2017-10

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to:

- Enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for Calendar Year 2018 to provide funding for public commuter rail services in Sherburne County, Minnesota for an amount up to \$1.5 million.
- Execute the Attached Resolution of the Governing Body (Metropolitan Council) to enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for Calendar Year 2018.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2017-103 SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement with Verizon

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

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Utility Agreement with Verizon to allow for reimbursement of costs, not to exceed \$553,000, associated with relocation of utilities that conflict with the Southwest LRT Project.

Motion passed.

2. 2017-104 SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement with Xcel

Metro Transit Project Director Jim Alexander 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 negotiate and execute a Master Utility Agreement with Xcel to allow for reimbursement of costs, not to exceed \$3,000,000, associated with the relocation of utilities that conflict with the Southwest LRT Project.

Motion passed.

3. 2017-111 SW: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: MnDOT-MN Highway 149 Bridge (High Bridge) over Mississippi River

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Steve Peterson presented this item. Peterson and Nick Thompson answered questions from Commers concerning the reason for the increased cost. Thompson explained that the original bridge construction estimate was done 5 years +/- ahead of construction schedule and was most likely estimated per square foot of construction. Once additional engineering was performed, additional deterioration was found in the bridge and the repair proved more complicated. Also, the type of bridge made it a complex project to estimate.

Motion by Munt, 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 update the description, mileage, and project

funding for the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) Minnesota Highway 149 Bridge ("St. Paul High Bridge") over the Mississippi River (SP#6223-20).
Motion passed.

4. 2017-112 SW: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: MnDOT US Highway 169 Pavement and Acceleration Lane

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Steve Peterson presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project to rehabilitate pavement and construct a southbound acceleration lane on US 169 in Champlin (SP#2750-85).

Motion passed.

5. 2017-114: Metro Mobility Gasoline Supplier Contract

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Western Petroleum to supply gasoline in accordance with Council specifications in an amount not to exceed \$23,258,727 for a three-year term.

Motion passed.

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

6. 2017-116: Transit Link-Airport Pilot Contract Amendment

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item. Harper answered questions from committee members regarding: number of employers that have signed up for this program, number of employees that are being served by this program, how the program is being evaluated, whether there are any other programs like this serving other locations. Harper said that MTS and Metro Transit staff are working on solutions for first mile-last mile employment access across the region and will report back about the status of those efforts.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 15M126 with Midwest Paratransit Services, Inc. for operation of a pilot transit project at MSP airport. The amendment adds \$250,000, for a total contract amount of \$795,000, and extends the termination date to June 30, 2018.

Motion passed.

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

INFORMATION

1. Route 5 TSP – North Minneapolis

Metro Transit Manager Technology Systems presented this item.

2. Bus Operator Health & Wellness

Metropolitan Council Director Human Resources Marcy Syman and Supervisor Health Promotions Joy Ahern presented this item.

3. Everyday Equity Update

Metro Transit Everyday Equity Manager Allison Bell, and Everyday Equity Fellows Spolinsky Jacox, and James Griffin presented this item.

4. 2017 First Quarter Ridership Report

MTS Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item.

ADJOURNMENT

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