

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 27, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: Gail Dorfman, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber

TAB Liaison Present: none

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, February 27, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

The following people were presented an Employee Recognition Award for their work:

Metro Transit Instruction Manager Dan Stoffer presented to Scott Lindquist, Brian Orr, Cheryl Kienietzhall, CJ Camp, and Steve Nichols, Bus Operator Instructors.

Metro Transit TCC Manager Chad Loeffler presented to Eric Isakson, TCC Supervisor..

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Rodriguez reported that the TAB met on February 15; the meeting consisted of mostly routine business. MPCA gave a presentation named "The Air We Breathe", which Rodriguez recommended to the committee.

CTIB UPDATE – Lona Schreiber

Schreiber was not present at the meeting. Rodriguez noted the CTIB timeline which has been linked to the Transportation Committee agenda online, and also noted a MinnPost article shared with the committee which discusses CTIB.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. MVST report

MVST revenue for January was 2.5% over the projected revenue. The February forecast is to be released on 2/28/17 which is more of an implication of what we use for budgeting.

2. U of M Ridership

At last month's meeting, members asked for clarification on U of M ridership trends following a ridership report from MTS. In 2016, the U of M realigned

service to connect to off-campus housing; they are now seeing the results of that change in service and they expect that a lot of their growth in ridership is due to that change in service.

3. Outreach

Thompson continues to conduct outreach with various partners. A meeting was held last week with Washington County. Councilmembers Rummel and Melander were also present. Discussion included highway interchanges – studies, prioritization and regional solicitation, the Gold Line, and parks.

4. Metro Mobility

Last Friday was Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger's last day. MTS Assistant Director/Contracted Transit Services Gerri Sutton will be taking over while the position is being filled.

5. Minnesota Transportation Conference

The Minnesota Transportation Conference will be held at the RiverCentre on March 1 & 2. The conference is being coordinated by MnDOT and will include various sessions that look at state and national trends, and also includes speakers from around the country.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Service changes

Several route and schedule changes will take effect this Saturday, March 4, including some service reductions that reflect lower bus ridership. The changes will lead to slightly less-frequent service at select times on about 35 express and local routes. Routes 5, 7, 10, 16, 94 and 515 are among those impacted. As a result of the changes, there will be eight fewer buses in service during the morning peak period and five fewer buses in service during the afternoon peak period. A complete list of changes can be found on our website. The next round of service changes will take effect in mid-June.

2. Impressions

Local artists whose work will be featured on Metro Transit vehicles, waiting shelters and rail stations will be celebrated at a kick-off event this Wednesday, March 1. The artists participated in what's called the Impressions project, a partnership between Metro Transit and Saint Paul Almanac, with grant funding from the Knight Foundation. Residents were encouraged to submit short poems last year and 24 submissions were selected to be illustrated by local artists. Six collaborative pieces will be put into circulation at a time. Among the first group of poems to be unveiled is a reflection on Prince's death. Wednesday's kick-off begins at 7 p.m. at Golden's Lowertown. The event is free and open to the public.

3. St. Patrick's Day

Metro Transit will continue a St. Patrick's Day celebration, partnering with Miller Lite to promote transit as a safe alternative to driving. Free rides will be provided on all buses and trains from 6 p.m. on Friday, March 17, through 3 a.m. the following day. MVTA, SouthWest Transit and Anoka Transit are also participating in the annual promotion. In addition, Metro Transit will be marching in the Minneapolis and St. Paul parades. Council members are welcome to join staff marching in these parades. (CM's can work through Andrew or Zoe, who will coordinate with Marketing/PR.)

4. Transit Driver Appreciation Day

Council members are invited to help us celebrate Transit Driver Appreciation Day on Monday, March 20, by riding transit and thanking their operators. Bus and train operators will also be recognized by sharing breakfast and lunch on that day. Council members who are interested in spending time with operators at one of our garages are encouraged to do so. (CM's can work through Andrew or Zoe, who will coordinate with Bus Transportation/PR.)

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

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

1. 2017-56: TIP Amendment for Metro Transit Police Station Construction

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concurs with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add construction of a Metro Transit Police Facility.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2017-42 JT: 2017 Unified Budget Amendment Regular Carryforward

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Agesen-Huebner, and Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

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) – attached to the business item.

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 Unified Budget – Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with the spreadsheet in Operating Budget – Attachment #2 – attached to the business item. Motion carried.

2. 2017-45: 2017 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson and Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb presented this item.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Transportation Committee adopt the attached as its 2017 Work Plan (plan is attached to the business item).

Motion carried.

This item does not need to proceed to the full Council.

INFORMATION

1. West Broadway Transit Study Results

Metro Transit Sr. Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented this item. Councilmember Cunningham (Chair of West Broadway PAC) was also present and gave a background of the project study.

2. Financial Overview/Fare Changes

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

3. TAP Program Update

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull and Supervisor Revenue Operations Mary Capistrant presented this item.

4. Regional Highway Spending Study

Due to time constraints, this item will be moved to a later Transportation Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.