

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

April 24, 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 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Brian Lamb received correspondence from Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator City of Maple Grove listing the following employees who received 2017 Maple Grove Transit Awards at the Maple Grove Transit Commission meeting in April.

Metro Transit Reuter Garage Manager Doyne Parsons presented the awards to these employees at the Transportation Committee.

Distinguished Service Award - Metro Transit Drivers: Pao Xiong, Dan DeVries, Tonya Houston, Philip Wostrel, (*not present*)

Distinguished Service Award - Metro Transit Customer Service Representative: Yumi Nagaoka

Distinguished Service Award - Metro Transit Street Supervisor: Leonard David, Jason Bordenave

#### TAB LIAISON REPORT

Chair Rodriguez reported from the TAB. The TAB acted favorably on the Regional Solicitation Overprogramming/Selection of Additional Projects which is an information item later on the agenda today. The five projects selected will be part of the TIP which will go out for public comment following TAB action 6/21.

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

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. Metro Mobility Spring Convening

The Metro Mobility Spring Convening was held on 4/17/17 at the Amherst Wilder Center. The main topic was the proposed fare increase. Most comments centered around service, rather than the fare increase. Metro Council staff will be summarizing a report of the convening and will share with committee members.

2. 2017 Construction Projects

Thompson shared a MnDOT map of major 2017 construction projects and described the type of work that will be performed on some of the larger projects. Most of the work is focused on preservation.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. First quarter ridership

Metro Transit ridership was up each of the first three months compared to 2016. This is our longest period of sustained year-over-year growth since late-2015. Nearly 20.3 million rides have been taken through the end of March, about 1 percent over the same time last year. Green Line ridership is up 6.5 percent and Blue Line ridership is up 6 percent. Northstar ridership is up 3 percent. Bus ridership is down a little over 1 percent. Another positive sign is the continued growth in our Metropass riders, up 8 percent through the first quarter.

2. Summer Student Pass

For the third consecutive year, we're excited to provide a low-cost transit pass to area high school students so they can continue riding during the summer months. Our Summer Student Pass can be used for unlimited rides between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. from June 1 to Sept. 5. The passes can be purchased by any current ninth- through twelfth grade student at a participating school within the seven-county metro area. Individually sold passes are \$25. Last year, 88 area schools participated and 5,500 passes were sold. Students took almost 392,000 rides. Schools can contact Metro Transit to learn more about partnering to provide students the opportunity to buy a Summer Student Pass.

3. A Line recognition

The planning, design and construction of our first rapid bus line was largely led by women – something that will be celebrated at an upcoming awards ceremony. WTS Minnesota, a professional development group for women in transportation, will recognize the A Line with an Innovative Transportation Solutions Award at its annual Scholarship and Recognitions Luncheon this Thursday. The luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Walker Art Center. Council Members who are interested in attending can register through WTS Minnesota's website. Nearly three-dozen women from Metro Transit and Kimley-Horn, the consultant design team, took leadership roles in the project.

4. Sustainability

Metro Transit celebrated its continued commitment to sustainability on Earth Day last week. As part of a continued partnership with Xcel Energy, all of the power used by our light-rail trains and systems was offset by wind-generated power. Also last week a 40-kilowatt array atop our Maplewood Transit Center Park & Ride that will offset a portion of the energy used at that facility came online. Another recent move toward sustainability came through the expansion of our recycling program at the Heywood Campus and Transfer Road, where we are now collecting organics.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

There were no consent items on the agenda.

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

1. 2017-91: Authorization for 7th Amendment to Contract for Leased Space for the Minneapolis Service Center (CAA 86-065-165)

Metro Transit Supervisor Revenue Operations Mary Capistrant presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the 7<sup>th</sup> amendment to contract MPO6984 with St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Equity Transwestern, LLC

for a one-year lease, with the option for four more years, for office space at 719 Marquette Ave, Minneapolis, MN, in an amount not to exceed \$280,000.

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

2. 2017-93 SW: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: Scott County TH 169/TH 41/CSAH 78/CSAH 14 Intersection Improvement Project

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

Motion by Barber, 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 adjust project cost and the description of the Scott County TH 169/TH 41/CSAH 78/CSAH 14 Intersection Improvement Project.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Rush Line Transitway Draft Locally Preferred Alternative Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Cole Hiniker, Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, and Ramsey County Senior Transportation Planner Andy Gitzlaff presented this item.

2. Rail Safety Peer Review Report

Metro Transit Director Light Rail Operations Mark Benedict presented this item.

3. Customer Service 360

Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Administration Cristine Kuennen, Manager Customer Relations Pam Steffen, and Manager Street Operations David Hanson presented this item.

4. Regional Solicitation Overprogramming/Selection of Additional Projects

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Steve Peterson presented this item.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.