

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

September 11, 2017

LOCATION: Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

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

**Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso**

**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 4:02pm on Monday, September 11, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

#### APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

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

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

##### **Metro Mobility Task Force:**

Second meeting is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> and the agenda will include continuation of the overview of Metro Mobility, Federal requirements around ADA & service and TPN's will make presentations about their services.

##### **CTIB:**

September marks the end of CTIB and last meeting will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Staff are working on final details around contracts and budgets items.

##### **Smart Growth American for MnDOT Workshop:**

Later this week staff will be attending this workshop and present on the Regional Solicitation. Last legislative session, MnDOT was required to come up with new processes on how they rate and prioritize investment categories for highways and projects. MnDOT has started reaching out to peers across the country; Virginia DOT, national leader from selection prioritization on highway projects, will be presenting at the workshop.

##### **Rush Line LPA:**

Final approval of LPA – Ramsey County – is expected at board meeting Tuesday. Then staff will begin working with the county on how we fit that into the TPP.

##### **Office of Legislative Audit:**

Last Legislative session created the Office of Legislative Audit which will review our system quarterly, with monthly reporting. The first report was due in July but has not been release; expect to see a draft soon.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

**State Fair, Green Line see record ridership (with video):**

Summer went out on a high note last week as we celebrated two new ridership records. More than 654,000 rides were provided to and from the State Fair, beating last year's record by more than 21,000 rides. We also set a new single-day ridership record on the Green Line on Thursday, Aug. 31, with more than 68,000 rides. August 31 was also our second-busiest day ever, with nearly 359,000 rides systemwide. This short video shows how the day unfolded.

**Police outreach:**

The Metro Transit Police Department recently led a successful back to school collection effort, donating more than 100 backpacks to young people at our Brooklyn Center Transit Center and the Loring Community School in North Minneapolis. Donations were collected from Metro Transit employees and at the Affinity Plus branch in Lakeville. Along with their backpack donations, police spent the day serving lunch at the transit center, where several recent outreach events have been held. The Loring School received donations as part of an ongoing relationship between the school and members of our department's Northside Community Engagement Team.

**Roadeo:**

Council Members are invited to attend our annual Bus Roadeo later this month. Operators who participate in the annual skills competition will complete a series of driving exercises set up in the Como Avenue parking lot at the State Fairgrounds, take a written customer service exam and have their uniform inspected. Competition dates are September 16, 19, 20 and 21. There are practice days on September 13 and 14. Council Members who are interested in seeing what it's like to operate a bus can also ask to try the course for themselves.

**C Line schedule testing:**

Schedule testing for our next rapid bus line, the C Line, began today with a specially-marked bus simulating service in the corridor. Staff are riding the buses to determine whether their schedule assumptions, based partly on the A Line, are accurate. Customers will not be riding the bus, but operators will make stops as if passengers were boarding. Schedule testing will continue through October 7. The C Line is scheduled to open in 2019.

**Northstar shuttle:**

A new shuttle bus service running between Northstar's Fridley Station and several nearby employers began earlier this month. Trips are scheduled to meet Northstar arrivals and departures at Fridley. The one-year pilot will help determine if connecting bus service should continue in the future. The service will be privately operated, and is being funded through a federal grant and Anoka County. Boardings at the Fridley Station are up by 13 percent over last year, in part due to construction on I-94.

**BUSINESS**

**Consent Items:**

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

**Non-Consent Items:**

1. **2017-196:** 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Dorfman asked for a reminder on what the funding allocations were for the different modes and if Council has approval of those allocations. Vennewitz responded that with the Regional Solicitation there is \$160M for a two-year period that is allocated by mode. The TAB adopts the range of allocation for each mode. The current allocation reflects historical spending. An information item is

presented to the Transportation Committee and Council, to allow Council members to provide feedback and comments to TAB before the modal funding allocations are adopted.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
2. Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
  - a. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
  - b. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
  - c. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
  - d. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
  - e. Section 1101(b) of Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub L. 114-357) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in US DOT funded projects;
  - f. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
  - g. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;
  - h. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
  - i. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
  - j. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.
3. Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements.
6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period.
7. Transmit the 2018-2021 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Motion passed.

**2. 2017-199:** 2018 UPWP, Resolution 2017-19

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

Motion by Munt, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$6,046,291.
- Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under MAP-21.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

Motion passed.

### 3. 2017-195: 2017 Unified Budget Amendment 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented their respective division's amendments to the 2017 Unified Budget. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

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).

Motion passed.

## INFORMATION

### 1. Regional Bicycle Barriers Study Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steven Elmer presented this item. Dorfman suggested that in addition to Ramsey County Active Living, Hennepin County Active Living would be a good resource. Dorfman asked a couple questions: do new projects that arise get added to scope of study (specifically retaining wall along potential Southwest LRT) and how data on safety (bike/ped accidents) are used within this study. In regard to the new projects question, Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb responded they'd bring Steve out to do a walking tour to see if that represents any scope adjustment or opportunity. Elmer clarified that the study was high level and doesn't get into granular details on bike/ped accidents but where there was a high rate of accidents, it became a desired location to improve. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson added that where we do look at safety is during the Regional Solicitation and scoring of Bike/Ped projects with safety as a factor.

### 2. Fare Implementation Update & TAP Rollout Detail

Metro Transit Director Customer Service & Marketing Bruce Howard and Metro Transit Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull presented this item. Dorfman asked if the agencies getting half priced bus tokens will be charged more and if the current tokens can get used beyond October 1; Howard responded yes to both. Munt was curious about the Metro Mobility forums – when, where, etc? Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson explained that the forums are typically twice a year (1 in Minneapolis/St. Paul & 1 in suburban area) but this is flexible if there is opportunity/demand. The next one is October 6<sup>th</sup> in Bloomington and Council members are welcome to attend. Elkins questioned whether counties besides Scott were contacted about TAP program, to which Eull clarified that staff reached out to all 7 counties and are waiting to hear back. Munt asked if we expect demand for TAP program to be greater than what we allocated for and if so is there a loop back to the Council to re-examine how we move forward. Eull stated that Metro Transit feels confident in the estimates but it is something that will be monitored closely and we will be able to see relatively quickly how popular the TAP program is. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb added that Council actions requires Metro Transit to come back and give an update on TAP Program to full Council to be able to make those necessary adjustments. Lamb also reminded Council members that Metro Transit

committed to bring back a Policy Plan recommendation (by end of year) for moving forward. Staff will likely present a general idea of what the plan will look like to the 2nd meeting in October for Transportation Committee and then come back with a detailed plan later in the year.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:36pm.

Becky Davidson  
Recording Secretary