

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 8, 2018

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: 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 4:01pm on Monday, January 8, 2018 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Munt, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Peter Dugan relayed the following information from the last TAB meeting:

Lisa Freese will be the TAC Chair for the next three years, replacing Steve Albrecht.

MAC – Carl Crimmins announced that the hotel is on schedule and will open in July. Bridget Rief from MAC presented information on the electrical systems at MSP, in light of the power outage at the Atlanta airport, which had a fire at the location of the switch between regular power and backup power. MSP has four power sources, each with a backup and switches not located at the same place. They also have emergency power sources to keep security and bathrooms working.

TAB Adopted Regional Bikeway Transportation Network Map for use in the Regional Solicitation.

Philip Schaffner from MnDOT presented information on MnDOT's Project Selection Process and requested input on how to improve transparency in the project selection process.

The United States of America was not chosen to host the 2023 World Expo in Bloomington, Minnesota, but 20 representatives from Minnesota attended the conference as the U.S. rejoined for the first time since 2002. The plan is adaptable for 2027.

The TAB Executive Committee discussed the Corridors of Commerce Solicitation and TAB submitting comments. TAB discussed the declining percent of funding share to the metro area. With the limited timeline, TAB passed a resolution of support to the letter that the Metropolitan Council submitted to MnDOT, which is the first time TAB has waded into the political arena.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz on behalf of Director Nick Thompson reported:

Transportation Economic Development awarding

Last week MnDOT announced awards for its Transportation Economic Development program. The Metro Area got 3 of 7 projects but \$16.5 million out of \$18 million awarded.

Transportation Policy Plan

Continued TPP Meetings have taken place with the counties and they have gone well, a few more meetings are to take place before they have all been completed.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Winter weather resolve

We haven't experienced the kind of weather extremes recently seen on the east coast, but several of our work groups proved yet again their resolve to work through any conditions during the recent cold snap. One of the most vivid examples came last Tuesday night when a group of Rail Signal Maintainers and a foreman were out overnight in double-digit lows repairing a switch north of our Target Field Station. Repair crews were out again last Friday evening attending to a minor rail break caused by the severe cold. Vehicle maintenance crews have endured some especially difficult conditions in Big Lake, where the prairie setting provides little cover from the biting winds. Our facilities maintenance crews, police, operators, supervisors and many others have also shown resiliency in the phase of the extreme cold.

Super Bowl service changes

With the Super Bowl a little less than a month away, we're beginning to implement some of the service changes resulting from street closures in Minneapolis. Most significantly, Nicollet Mall will close this Saturday, Jan. 13, for nearly a month to allow for Super Bowl Live setup and activities. As we did during construction, routes 10, 11, 17, 18, 25 and 59 will be re-routed to Hennepin Avenue.

To help our customers keep up with all the Super Bowl-related service changes, we've added a page to our website with current information on detours and bus stop closures. Customers are also being encouraged to sign up for our Rider Alert service, which we use to provide route-specific updates via text message and e-mail. The website also includes update information on extra service that will be added to several bus routes, light rail and Northstar and answers to several Frequently Asked Questions.

Links to pages for our customers and fans can be found at the top of our homepage.

New trains enter service

Two new light rail vehicles are set to enter service on the Blue Line this week. The new Siemens vehicles are among five that were purchased to support existing light rail operations and to help us keep as many trains as are needed in service while also performing necessary maintenance. With the new trains, we will now have 91 light rail vehicles in our fleet. We began receiving the new trains last fall, and they are now entering service after getting some finishing touches and passing inspections at our Operations & Maintenance Facility. The new trains are identical to the 59 Siemens trains that were purchased in advance of the Green Line.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Reynoso, seconded by Elkins and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2018-9:** 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-394 and MN 62 Lane Re-Striping

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project to re-stripe lanes on I-394 and MN 62 (SP # 8825-665).

2. **2018-11:** 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: Anoka County CSAH 14 Description and Cost Change Reduction

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reduce the cost and change the pavement type from concrete to bituminous on Anoka County's CSAH 14 overlay project (SP # 002-614-042).

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2018-10 SW:** 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: MnDOT US 169 Termini and Cost Changes Sites
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to change the termini and costs for two concrete overlay projects on US 169 (SP # 7007-34 and SP# 7008-111).

Motion carried.

2. **2018-12:** Proposed Safety Performance Measures and Short-Term Targets
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner David Burns presented this item.

Munt asked what the consequences are for MnDOT if we fail to meet targets. Burns answered that if MnDOT fails to meet the targets they are required to use their obligational authority for the next year and use that specific amount for safety only projects. Rodriguez said that if she recalls correctly from the Highway 12 Safety Coalition Meeting working on the Towards Zero Deaths Initiative, fatality numbers have been the lowest in years: 391 statewide for 2016 and 348 for 2017.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed safety measures and short-term targets for the Metropolitan Council's MPO Planning Area. The five federally-required measures and the proposed 2018 metro area targets are as follows:

- Number of traffic fatalities: 89
- Fatality rate (fatal crashes per 100 million vehicle miles travelled): 0.31 per 100M VM
- Serious injury crashes: 642
- Serious injury rate (number of serious injury crashes per 100 million vehicle miles travelled): 2.35 per 100 million VMT

- Non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries: 112

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

3. **2018-13:** Review of Metropolitan Airports Commission 2018-2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

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

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council find:

- 1) That the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) had an adequate public participation process for the development and review of its 2018-2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including preparation of an assessment of environmental effects (AOEE) for 2018 projects with potential environmental effects.
- 2) That there are no projects that need to be approved in the CIP since no projects meet both the funding level and “significant effects” criteria.
- 3) That the 2018 CIP projects are in conformance with the region’s Aviation System Plan and consistent with Council policy.

Motion carried.

4. **2018-6:** Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Moline Park and Ride Purchase Agreement with the City of Hopkins

Metro Transit SWLRT Assistant Director Ryan Kronzer presented this item.

Elkins commented that this is innovative and is impressed with the City of Hopkins and would like to see this model emulated. Munt echoed Elkins that this is a model for how she thinks we should do joint development. Rodriguez asked if bike storage was locked. Kronzer answered that yes, it is secured, the Go-To card unlocks the space.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Purchase Agreement with the City of Hopkins (City) to acquire a level of transit parking, an operator facility, integrated bus shelter, and public bicycle storage within the existing Moline Apartment building at a cost, including closing fees, not to exceed \$3,500,000.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

INFORMATION

1. iDash Update

Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Admin Donathan Brown, Metro Transit Acting Director Bus Maintenance Joe Reichstadt, Metro Transit Acting Manager Warranty, Contract & Analysis Abel Mumbi, and Metropolitan Council Project Manager Information Services Carolyn Harris presented this item.

Munt asked if employees view this as a benefit or a burden. Mumbi answered that he has played the role of both a user and a member of the support team, he said that it is a benefit to employees because they now have the same information across the board. Employees who work offsite can now access information right away instead of having to be in the building to access. He said that once employees sign on any type of discipline, if there is any modification, they have to sign again so they immediately know updates. Brown shared that he was a garage manager for 15 years and they had expressed to him the desire to see things easily. He said iDash allows them to complete forms more simply, they've told him it's intuitive, easy to use and easy to understand.

Reynoso asked what conversations have taken place with the ATU, he stated that as a union member himself he wants to know where on the form does it allow space for the Weingarten Rights: whether they've accepted it, denied it, who that representation is – he expressed concern for one size fits all approach for discipline. Brown said that once you get to the point of requiring discipline, yes, that discipline is the same; however, he said that it is not one size fits all because the manager has the ability to treat absenteeism differently based on the situation. Before getting to the point of disciplinary action there is the option to coach, counsel. Brown also said that there is space for the union member to sign as well to show that they were there with the employee. Brown shared that as part of the warning, before any discipline is given, a form is issued to the employee that lets them know they have the right to have union representation. The employee is also told this during the interview process. Brown said that they have met with ATU twice regarding this, made some changes based on those conversations and ATU was impressed with this iDash update. Reynoso asked if they raised concerns, or gave a blessing. Brown answered that ATU was given an overview and informed of benefits, showed how it works. ATU gave nothing negative but did express that they were happy it standardized information provided to employees and improved user use. Mumbi added that iDash mimics the current attendance policy, they are not adding anything new. It allows for employees to not sign, it allows for exceptions. Reichstadt added that Lamb ensures they are addressing any new modules with the ATU. Rodriguez asked Lamb for future update of how employees are adapting to it.

2. Text for Safety

Metro Transit TCC Manager Chad Loeffler, presented this item.

Reynoso thanked Loeffler and Brian Lamb for adding the phone number so that it is not an app-only based tool. Munt asked if we've shared this on social media so that people are aware of this number before the Super Bowl. Loeffler said yes, it has been posted on social media. Schreiber asked if there would be placards on the trains, if we can have something more permanent in each car. Loeffler answered that on the vehicles there is, the trains have more limited space so they're trying to get feedback before doing something more permanent.

Rodriguez welcomed Jenna Ernst as the Transportation Committee's new recording secretary from January to June at Robert Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5.22pm.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary