

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

December 11, 2017

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

Committee Members Absent:

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05pm on Monday, December 11, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

Chair Rodriguez invited ATU Vice President Dorothy Maki to address the Council.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Munt, seconded by McCarthy to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the November 23, 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

Task force will meet on Wednesday. Agenda topics include updates from workgroups (ideas how to improve, expand, change service), presentations from MN Council on Disabilities and Department of Human Services and two new transportation providers who are interested in being involved. Completed report is due to Legislature in February 2018.

Metro Mobility Website

Relaunched Metro Mobility website for customers, with a complete redesign. Over the past year there have been focus groups, surveys and discussion with TAAC on what the website should be redesigned as. The new website was reviewed with TAAC and was very well received. This will also be the conduit for Super Bowl planning – not just for those going to the event but services impacted due to road closures, etc. Online reservation services have not been launched yet; delayed another quarter or two.

Red Line

Meeting tomorrow with Dakota Country Regional Rail about the Red Line and service in the South Metro. DCRR continue to be a funding partner through this quarter and have asked for an update on changes that have happened and ridership. Red Line ridership was above targeted ridership until November. November saw a bigger decline since the fare increase, than the system as a whole – down 9% for the month.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann on behalf of General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Metro Transit Technician Training program

Around 50 individuals participating in the third round of our Metro Transit Technician Training program (MTT) gathered at the Overhaul Base earlier this month to hear from past participants and staff.

Like past groups, the first phase of the program involves working with the local workforce development non-profit Twin Cities Rise. Up to 20 individuals who complete that phase and meet other requirements will later enroll at Hennepin Technical College and work as full-time Bus Maintenance interns. The latest group includes nine women and is 90 percent people of color.

Heywood technician Ravie Sawh was among those who spoke to the group. Sawh was in the first MTT group and will graduate this spring. He said he hopes to retire from Metro Transit with more than 30 years of service. *“You’re going to have to start motivating yourself every day,” he said. “But if you’re looking for a job where you’re never going to be bored, this is the place for you.”*

Northstar Holiday Train

Metro Transit and BNSF provided a memorable holiday experience to around 1,500 adults and children who rode the Northstar Holiday Train to St. Paul on Saturday. This was just the second time our commuter rail trains have traveled to and from Union Depot, where holiday festivities are being held throughout the month. Northstar and BNSF staff, Transit Police, and a group of young elves were along for Saturday’s ride, which was sponsored and underwritten by BNSF. People who rode the train were encouraged to contribute to a holiday food drive for St. Paul-based Neighborhood House.

We’ll continue to celebrate the season with specially-decorated trains and buses and by offering free rides to Holidazzle in Loring Park every Saturday through the end of the month. In partnership with Miller Lite, we’ll also continue our tradition of offering free rides on New Year’s Eve. Free rides will be available on all Metro Transit and MVTA routes from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Light rail construction

Light rail service will be suspended for about 14 hours beginning late Friday night as we wrap up our maintenance and construction efforts for the year. Buses will replace trains between Target Field and Cedar Riverside on the Blue Line and between Target Field and Stadium Village on the Green Line. Replacement buses will operate from 10 p.m. on Friday through noon on Saturday to allow for systems and signal testing. This is the final push in our effort to upgrade our track, signals and systems in downtown Minneapolis.

Maintenance, including glass replacement, has also been occurring at our Lake Street Station during recent shutdowns. We also recently completed some maintenance work in St. Paul, where we installed new flooring and completed a thorough cleaning of the vertical circulation building by Central Station.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

1. There are no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2017-280 SW: State Revenue Transit Allocation Policy

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson presented this item. Luther Wynder (Executive Director, MVTA) provided some comments that there was no mitigation or compromise with this policy and that while some reports needed are detailed out at the beginning of the year, there are instances when data is needed with a short turnaround time. Wynder added that with small number of staff it is hard to compile with short deadlines. Thompson and Metropolitan Council Director Budget and Operations Paul Connery answered several questions from Council members: what reporting requirements are being asked (general requirements by State; have provided but not timely; this year saw a lot of data requests from legislative audit – which wasn’t foreseen), if express route fare increase, providers would receive increase revenues (current model – providers have to share revenues above

Council's fund balance policy with others depending on needs; new model – providers would retain all revenue received), do suburban transit providers have Metro Transit branding on buses (no – maybe Met Council; buses are owned by Council but have their own branding and could put advertising on them), regarding one of the proposals was to create a lump sum to replenish reserves - clarification on why reserves were hit (yes reserves were hit due to Council balance policy – at the end of the year, reserves are leveled off), is Metro Transit gaining or losing money as a result of new policy (since Council would be providing more money than is required by law, MTS & Metro Transit will have less revenue in the short term), have provided stayed up to date with statutory requirements (currently don't have 2016; reported to Legislature this year with 2014 data), will block grants shift in future years (no, this would be a block grant that once calculated will be the allocation moving forward), any other discussions on how to help providers with getting reporting requirements (beyond notifying and requesting data, didn't think of other ways to help providers; hope is for the financial withholding due to late data would never come to flourish; clarification that the money would be held back only until data is received).

Several Council members thanked Nick and Paul for their work and liked the simplicity of this new policy. McCarthy had expressed concerns with the policy regarding providers keeping all revenues.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council adopts Policy 3-2-7 State Transit Funding Allocation.

Motion passed, with McCarthy voting against.

2. 2017-282: MPO Memorandum of Understanding with MnDOT

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. Dorfman asked that once this MOU is signed, what is the term. White answered that the MOU is only changed when updates are needed, which usually occur during TMA Certification reviews which are every 4 years.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council adopts the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

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

3. 2017-283 SW: METRO Red Line Agreements

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager, Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item. Schreiber commented on the transition away from Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) funding and asked how much of the service has been funded by CTIB. Harper responded that CTIB covered 50% that will now be covered by Met Council funds. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson added that Met Council agreed to fully fund Red Line through 2025.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sole source agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for:

1. Cedar Avenue express service and public facility maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$404,000.
2. Cedar Avenue Red Line Station to Station BRT service and public facility maintenance not to exceed \$2,437,000.

Motion passed.

4. 2017-284 SW: Grant Agreements with MN Valley Transit Authority

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Munt asked what an CAD/VAL system was. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson responded that this is a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) and that this new system would have to integrate with the Trapeze system that is used by Metro Transit.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter the Council into an agreement with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for \$866,500 for payment of principal and interest for the Eagan Bus Garage Expansion and \$1.7M to implement a new CAD/AVL system.

Motion passed.

5. 2017-277 SW: METRO Blue Line Extension – Amendment to the 2017 Grant with Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)

Metro Transit Director Transit Systems Development MarySue Abel presented this item. There were no questions or comments Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the 2017 Capital Grant Agreement with CTIB.

Motion passed.

6. 2017-285 SW: Contract for Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) Procurement

Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Technical Support Mike Joyce presented this item. There were no comments or questions by Council members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Barber:

For the Metropolitan Council to authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a three-year diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) contract with Western Petroleum Company in accordance with the Council's specifications and Western Petroleum Company proposal dated November 14, 2017 for an amount not to exceed \$527,452.50.

Motion passed.

7. 2017-258 Revised SW: Gold Line BRT Office Lease Agreement

Metro Transit Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented this item. Chair Rodriguez stated that even at the corrected cost, the lease provides excellent value to the Council. Carlson confirmed this remains the case.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (GBRT) Project Office lease agreement between the Metropolitan Council and Ramsey County Department of Property Management for a 9,578 square foot space in the Metro Square Building in St. Paul, Minnesota for the seven-year (84-month) period from February 1, 2018 through January 31, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$1,914,532.

Motion passed.

8. 2017-289 SW: Gold Line BRT Engineering Services Contract

Metro Transit Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented this item. Dorfman asked why only two consulting firms proposed on the contract. Carlson stated that although there were two prime consultants, they represented teams of many firms. Additionally, the project management

consulting contract team has no overlap with the engineering contract, and having two contracts for professional services involves many firms in the project overall.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA) for consultant services for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (Gold Line) in an amount not to exceed \$35,161,506.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Mobile App Update

Metro Transit Director Customer Service and Marketing Bruce Howard and Metro Transit Market Development Specialist Adam Mehl presented this item. Reynoso asked what kept the mobile sales up after August/September. Mehl answered that we believe it's because people who used the App for purchasing tickets during the State Fair, kept it on their phone. Reynoso commented that there will need to be good signage for customers in regard to Text to Safety. Mehl responded that there is currently temporary signage, in order to test the message (ensuring it directs the right calls) before permanent signage is installed. Munt asked if anything was in the works for Paratransit riders. Howard responded that both Metro Transit and MTS have been looking at types of services available but not pursuing anything at this point.

2. Verizon Wireless Agreement

Metro Transit Project Manager Engineering & Construction Mark Leemon presented this item. Some Council members expressed regret that these poles take away from the great art at various stations. Council members questioned if this agreement will spur other services providers to connect on the same pole. Leemon answered that in order for two or more providers to be on the same pole, it would have to be very large. Leemon added that if another service provider wanted to add their service it'd most likely have to be on another additional pole – which would have to be approved by all parties, including Met Council.

3. SIP Update

Metro Transit Transit Planner Kyle Burrows presented this item. Letofsky asked that when the report is ready, for staff to send to Council members which Burrows agreed.

4. Transit Police HQ Construction Update

Metro Transit Assistant Director Facilities Engineering Pat Jones introduced Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator Cathy Nordin who presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

5. New Minneapolis Bus Garage

Metro Transit Assistant Director Facilities Engineering Pat Jones introduced Metro Transit Principal Engineer Robert Rimstad who presented this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:20p.m.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary