

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 11, 2018

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent:

TAB Liaison Present:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, June 11, 2018 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2018 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee and the minutes of the May 23, 2018 special joint meeting of the Transportation & Management Committees. Motion carried.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Freight

Last week Chair Tchourumoff and I, along with leaders from MAC; Cities of Plymouth, Bloomington Apple Valley; and industry representatives had the opportunity to travel to Memphis to learn about the rapidly changing freight industry and have a discussion with leadership from FedEx about how these changes will shape business, transportation, and the public. We are expecting a follow up activity based on this later this year in our region including events by MAC, TAB, and MN Freight Advisory Committee.

Regional Solicitation

Last week we completed all of the in-person application training for those who are considering applying. 24 different stakeholders attended the training. For the next month we will be answering questions from those who are submitting applications before the deadline of July 13, 2018.

Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)

Tonight you will hear the presentation requesting approval to release the Draft TPP Update. The Update was posted last Friday for the first time for the general public after 18 months of working with partners and stakeholders. I want to take this time to extend congratulations to Amy and the MTS planning staff for their huge effort to update the plan.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

35W Recap, Buses Replacing Trains

Our first rush hour with limited access between I-35W and downtown Minneapolis went smoothly this morning. Some trips arrived a few minutes later than scheduled but there were no major delays or concerns as we put our plans to the test for the first time. We'll continue to monitor operations and adjust as needed. We hope customers who are using transit to enjoy a stress-free commute will help spread the word, but our marketing efforts will also continue. As part of that effort, a billboard promoting transit is now greeting all commuter on northbound 35W at Lake Street. Looking forward, this weekend brings a complete shutdown of I-35W from I-94 to Highway 62 and scheduled maintenance on our light rail lines. Replacement buses will run between Target Field and Franklin Avenue on the Blue Line and between Target Field and Raymond Avenue on the Green Line. The replacement buses will run from 6:15 p.m. Friday, through 3:30 a.m. Monday, June 18. Service is being suspended to allow for a variety of maintenance and construction activities, including rail line repairs, lighting improvements at the Nicollet Mall Station and painting on the Washington Avenue Bridge. The City of Minneapolis will also be demolishing a parking garage near the Government Plaza Station to make way for new city offices. Metro Transit and MnDOT coordinated in advance and chose these dates because there are fewer activities occurring downtown than most other weekends.

App Sales Top \$1 Million

Customers have purchased more than \$1 million in fares through Metro Transit's app since the start of the year. The \$1 million in fare sales made through the end of May includes around \$350,000 in Super Bowl-related income. Even without that extra boost, app sales would have already surpassed last year's sales total – about \$670,000. The app has been downloaded nearly 200,000 times since it was introduced in late 2017. In July, new and improved Ride Matching and Guaranteed Ride Home tools will be added to the app. Customers will also be able to purchase State Fair Express Bus fares through the app later this summer.

Bus Operator Recruitment

Metro Transit had a unique opportunity to promote career opportunities last week during an appearance on Somali Media Live. A train operator and assistant transportation manager were given nearly an hour to speak about their positive experiences working in transit. The interview is part of our ongoing effort to develop career interest in all corners of our community. This week also marks the start of our new bus operator candidate training program. The three-day program is open to all interested applicants and is designed to put them in the best position to successfully apply, should they choose to do so. This week's classes are being held at Twin Cities Rise in St. Paul. We'll host classes at five other locations in Minneapolis and St. Paul through the end of the month. During the classes, job seekers will learn more about job responsibilities, hear from a current bus operator, and get help completing their application.

Pride Parade

Council members are invited to march with Metro Transit in the annual Twin Cities Pride Parade on Sunday, June 24. The parade begins at 11 a.m. in downtown Minneapolis. Council members who would like to march with Metro Transit can meet at the Heywood Garage at 9:30 a.m. Family and friends are welcome. The parade usually ends by 1:30 p.m.

Dorfman inquired about Green Line schedule changes, Lamb answered that no decision has been made but this item will come before the Council soon.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins and carried, to approve the following consent item:

1. **2018-149:** Transit Link – Airport Connect Contract Amendment

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 15M126 with Midwest Paratransit Services, Inc. for operation of dial-a-ride service. The amendment adds \$550,000, for a total contract amount of \$1,345,000, and extends the termination date to July 30, 2020.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2018-148:** Recommendation of Release Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan for Public Comment

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz and Metropolitan Council Public Involvement Manager Michelle Fure presented this item. Chair Rodriguez thanked staff and Committee Members for their work on this business item and asked for clarification on the process of responding to those who have commented. Fure said that the comment responses take place primarily in summary form.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Barber:

That, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the draft update to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) for public review and comment www.metrocouncil.org/tppupdate; and
- Authorize a public comment period from June 28, 2018 to August 13, 2018, including a public hearing on the draft document to be held on August 1, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

Motion carried.

2. **2018-134:** Joint Powers Agreement between the Metro Transit Police Department and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's Human Trafficking Task Force

Metro Transit Deputy Chief of Police AJ Olson presented this item. Munt, Dorfman, and Chair Rodriguez expressed their appreciation for Metro Transit's involvement. Munt asked if the Metro Transit police presence on board trains and buses will increase as a result of this. Olson answered that this will not initiate a change in police presence.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), a division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, to allow the Metropolitan Transit Police Department to become an **Affiliate Member** of the Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigators Task Force (MNHITF).

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

3. **2018-143:** Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services Contract Amendment with HDR

Metro Transit TSD Administration Director Robin Caufman presented this item. Elkins asked for an update on the Pawn America in Hopkins. Caufman responded that the parcel was received in May and the relocation specialist is working with Pawn America to find a new location. Caufman added that Metro Transit is also working with Pawn America on a lease agreement allowing Pawn America to stay until October, giving more time to find a new location. Munt asked if scaling back the Hopkins Operations & Maintenance Facility altered the number of properties required. Caufman said it did not change the need for parcels. Dorfman asked for details on the relocation assistance provided. Caufman answered that the relocation assistance is provided through the Property Owner and Tenant Assistant Services Contract and the consultants provide assistance with locating new sites, filling out paperwork, planning the move, and working on the claim process.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a sole source contract amendment for Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services with HDR (14P265B) to increase the contract amount by \$70,000 for a total contract amount of \$270,000.

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

4. **2018-145:** Contract Amendment for St. Paul Transit Service Center Lease (CAA – 13P075)

Metro Transit Revenue Collection Senior Manager Nick Eull presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Munt seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the 5th amendment to contract CAA-13P075 with US Bank Center LLC for a 3-year lease of office space at 505 E 5th Street, St. Paul MN 55144 in an amount not to exceed \$110,000, to include leasing costs and supplementary cleaning and maintenance costs.

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

5. **2018-146 SW:** Mall of America Transit Station Renovations, Contract 17P185A

Metro Transit Principal Contract Administrator Derek Berube and Metro Transit Facilities Engineering Assistant Director Pat Jones presented this item. Barber and Munt voiced their appreciation for the work to improve this station. Barber asked if the routing during construction will stay the same, Berube said that there will be some changes with routing. Barber also inquired about the impact to service during construction. Berube shared that the Super Bowl provided a chance to test how to best handle this. McCarthy asked who is responsible for monitoring the security cameras and area. Berube answered that daily monitoring will be done by the Mall of America, but Metro Transit and the Bloomington Police will have access. Berube added that viewing requests will route through Metro Transit. Elkins asked if signage during construction for access to the temporary bus lot will be improved. Berube said there have been numerous meetings to discuss signage and make a significant improvement. Dorfman asked for a timeline and Berube said that service will be maintained during construction but moved to its final new location by May 2019.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes award and execution of a construction contract with Morcon Construction in the amount of \$19,850,000.00 for the construction of a new Transit Station at the Mall of America in Bloomington, MN.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Highway Safety Improvement Program Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Highway Planning and TAB/TAC Process Manager Steve Peterson presented this item. Elkins asked for clarification on the due date. Peterson said the Regional Solicitation applications are due July 13, 2018 and the Highway Safety Improvement Program applications are due August 31, 2018. McCarthy asked if all cities and counties involved with a project must apply or if only one needs to. Peterson said only one entity would need to apply and the other agencies would submit letters of support.

2. Transit Assistance Program (TAP) Update

Metro Transit Revenue Collection Senior Manager Nick Eull and Revenue Operations Supervisor Mary Capistrant presented this item. Elkins asked if any partner agencies have asked for the TAP to be expanded to provide further discounts to Metro Mobility as well. Capistrant stated that the request has been made but the expense of running the Metro Mobility program is much greater than regular service expenses. Letofsky asked if counties are involved in addition to cities and the state. Capistrant said all of the counties had been contacted, and the general response received was that it would require more work than their current bandwidth allowed, so the TAP is partnering with the existing partners of the counties. Eull added that the counties have multiple existing programs and generally serve in the role of TAP promoters rather than TAP managers. Dorfman, Barber, and Commers voiced appreciation for TAP. Barber asked that it be made clear that Metro Mobility customers do receive a discounted fare, so there is no need to have them enrolled in both programs. Munt shared that she has heard positive feedback from TAP users, and she inquired if the projected budget will be met. Eull answered that it is currently estimated that TAP will come in under budget. Chair Rodriguez asked about multiple rides versus one-seat rides. Eull said that local routes tend to require more transfers to reach a location compared to routes of Metropass riders. Dorfman asked about TAP replacement cards. Capistrant said cards are replaced for free and the account balance is transferred to the new card. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb added that a portion of the budget has been reinvested into the hiring of the TAP project coordinator.

3. TOD Update

Metro Transit Transit Oriented Development Director Lucy Galbraith presented this item. Dorfman and Chair Rodriguez commented on the importance of sidewalk inventory. Munt expressed gratitude for the Urban Land Institute's Developers' Panel to share with cities the potential of TOD.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary