

Minutes of the

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

October 17, 2018

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent:

TAB Liaison Present:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the special meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:48 pm on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Munt, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2018 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

The change in contractors and movement of over 800 customers for the Metro Mobility Agency and Demand contracts was completed last week and everything has gone well. Thanks to MTS staff and both First Transit and Transit Team contractors for the cooperation and diligence in ensuring this went smoothly with so much change.

Regional Solicitation

This week the Regional Solicitation phase is at the key point with the release of draft scores for all projects. All applicants have the opportunity to see their scores and notify us by the end of October if they will appeal any of the scores. Appeals are heard in November at TAC Funding and Programming. Today the TAB began discussing general scenarios to consider for the allocation of funding to projects. We will share the initial project list with the committee after scores are final in early November. The process will be finished at the TAB during the January 2019 meeting. We anticipate \$175 M is available to distribute to projects for the \$419 M requested.

Fall Forum

Join us Wednesday, October 24, from 10 a.m. – noon at the Wilder Foundation on Lexington and University for the Metro Mobility Fall Forum. This is an opportunity to hear from our customers about the service, answer questions, and discuss any upcoming changes.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Missed Trips

We are making progress, but Monday/Friday are the days that see the most missed trips. We continue to stay abreast with communication to customers but

are looking into the details of those customers who notified Council members that they did not receive a notification regarding cut trips. We are still making progress with our operator hiring. We were at about 110 operators below where we need to be but now are in the mid-80s range with a class of 15 starting this next Monday.

Maple Grove Transit - System of the Year Honors

On Monday, I was pleased to help recognize Maple Grove Transit as the Minnesota Public Transit Association's System of the Year. The award recognizes Maple Grove Transit's record of innovation and its excellent service record. Metro Transit has been a contracted provider for nearly three decades, and our staff also assist with fare collections, street operations and customer relations.

I-35W Update

Buses leaving downtown Minneapolis will have an easier time getting onto I-35W next week when a transit-only entrance opens. The entrance is expected to open on Monday, saving at least several minutes of travel time. This entrance is temporarily being used to provide a transit advantage. It is not the same as the transit-only ramp that is being built as part of MnDOT's 35W construction project. Northbound buses that would normally operate on I-35W will remain on detour as we monitor traffic in the coming weeks. Some schedule and service changes reflecting the new conditions will take effect on Dec. 1.

Public Art Coming to Uptown Transit Station

Our Uptown Transit Station will become the region's most colorful boarding area next week. Artist Ashley Mary will create a colorful mural during a live-painting event on Monday afternoon. The mural, on the southbound side of Hennepin Avenue, will remain in place until next February. Customers can see the mural come together next Monday from 3 to 5:30 p.m. To help celebrate the live painting, riders are being invited to join us free hot chocolate and goodies. This is the latest in a series of temporary art installations we've commissioned in recent years. A mural depicting the transit system and customer selfies were on display at the Government Plaza Station last year. In 2016, an artist turned the inside of a bus into a playful forest with hand-knit features.

Transit Police Collecting Winter Clothing

Transit police are once again collecting new or lightly-used winter clothing that will be donated to two local service agencies. Collection boxes were placed at several of our work sites this week. Donations will be accepted through Thursday, Nov. 1. Donated items will be given to St. Stephen's and Radias Mental Health. As you know, we partner with these and other organizations to assist individuals who seek shelter on transit. KSTP recently met up with a new group of officers who proactively search for homeless individuals overnight.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

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

1. 2018-271: 2019 Capital and Operating Grant Applications with the Funding Transitway Counties

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for calendar 2019 grants from the counties of Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington.

Capital

- METRO Orange Line Est. To Be Determined
 - Dakota County Regional Rail Authority
 - Dakota County
 - Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority

- Hennepin County
- METRO Green Line Extension Est. To Be Determined
 - Hennepin County
 - Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority
- METRO Blue Line Extension Est. To Be Determined
 - Hennepin County

Operating

- METRO Blue Line LRT Est. \$13.5M
 - Hennepin County - Est. \$13.5M
- METRO Green Line LRT Est. \$13.1M
 - Hennepin County – Est. \$7.9M
 - Ramsey County – Est. \$5.2M
- Northstar Commuter Rail Est. \$7.5M
 - Anoka County – Est. \$6.1M
 - Hennepin County – Est. \$1.4M

2. 2018-278: Approval of Metropolitan Area 5310 Grant Awards

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve the following Metropolitan Area Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (FTA 5310) grant awards for 2019:

Organization	Project	Federal Award Amount
Dakota County	Mobility Management	\$236,000
Newtrax, Inc.	Mobility Management	\$150,941
Washington County	Mobility Management	\$92,000
Scott/Carver County	Mobility Management	\$300,000
Anoka County	New – Mobility Management	\$120,000
Hennepin County	New – Mobility Management	\$96,000
Rise, Inc	4 Replacement 1 Expansion	\$324,000
Newtrax, Inc	6 Replacement	\$388,800
Northeast Contemporary Services, Inc.	2 Replacement	\$129,600
Midwest Special Services, Inc.	3 Replacement	\$194,400
Mankato Rehabilitation Center – Chaska	2 Replacement	\$129,600
Mankato Rehabilitation Center – Rosemount	2 Replacement	\$129,600
Achieve Services, Inc.	1 Replacement	\$113,600
ProAct, Inc. – Eagan	2 Replacement	\$129,600
TOTAL		\$2,534,141

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2018-263:** Small Bus Procurement – Metro Mobility and Transit Link
 Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:
 That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements, contingent upon approval of Business Item 2018-237-JT, with:

1. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 121155) for up to 53 replacement buses and 7 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$4,234,200; and
2. Hoglund Bus (MnDOT Contract 121183) for up to 26 replacement buses and 14 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,839,500.

Motion carried.

2. 2018-269 JT: Law Enforcement Network Segmentation (LENS)

Metropolitan Council IS Finance and Budget Assistant Director Theresa Nistler presented this item. Munt asked if this network will allow us to share information with other police departments in the region. Nistler responded that the network will comply with the CJIS standards, so if that's allowed under the standards, then yes.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and award a contract with Insight in an amount not to exceed \$900,000 to provide CISCO parts, service and professional services necessary to segment the Metro Transit Police Department computers and network from the other areas of the Council network.

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

3. 2018-272: Electric Bus MOU and Charging Infrastructure Agreement

Metro Transit Facilities Engineering Assistant Director Pat Jones introduced Metro Transit Principal Engineer Carrie Desmond and then both presented this item. McCarthy asked how long the overhead chargers took to charge. Desmond responded that it only takes 10 minutes, but the overhead chargers will be used for topping off the bus battery, not providing a full charge. Munt asked how long the C Line buses will be out on the street, to which Brian Lamb answered that the blocks are currently 15 – 20 hours.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding Bus Electrification Strategy (18M122A), the Metro Transit Electric Buses and Charging Infrastructure Agreement (18M122B) between the Metropolitan Council and Xcel Energy (dba Northern States Power Company), and any necessary future similar Charging Infrastructure Agreements to provide power at additional locations or for additional electric buses.

Motion carried.

4. 2018-275: I-94 & Manning Park and Ride: Land Acquisition, Resolution 2018-20

Metro Transit Facilities Engineering Assistant Director Pat Jones presented this item. Letofsky asked where the people who would be using the park & ride would be coming from. Jones responded that Metro Transit recently completed the park & ride study but that we don't have all the license plate data yet. Jones continued that it's expected most commuters will be from eastern Woodbury, Lake Elmo and Wisconsin. Letofsky also wondered what kind of development would be built around the park & ride. Jones responded that to the north would be interchange type related businesses (gas stations, strip mall) and to the west is still up in the air but it's zoned as light commercial. In response to another question from Letofsky, Jones clarified that our other parking locations of Guardian Angels and Woodbury theatre would not be going away.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution No. 2018-20 authorizing the Regional Administrator to negotiate with EN Properties, LLC for the acquisition of fee title in Lake Elmo, MN and authorize Council legal staff to initiate condemnation proceedings if the parcel cannot be acquired by direct negotiation.

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

5. **2018-277:** 2019 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb and Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson presented this item. Munt asked that an update on the TAP program be included. Several Council members stated the importance of bringing some meetings into local communities, which has shown to improve dialogue and communications. Chair Rodriguez stated that perhaps twice a year the Transportation Committee meeting be held in a local community.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Transportation Committee adopt the attached as its 2019 Work Plan.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. New Minneapolis Bus Garage Update

Metro Transit Facilities Engineering Assistant Director Pat Jones and Metro Transit Principal Engineer Carrie Desmond presented this item. Elkins asked what the timing would be for adding solar panels. Jones stated the facility will be ready for the panels, having all the equipment but it is a funding issue. Elkins also asked if the facility will be equipped with battery packs. Jones answered that we are still working with our electrical engineers to determine how we best outfit the garage but could be a combination of solar, batteries and generators as we also must plan for power outages. Jones stated they will be taking the lessons learned from the new bus garage and retrofitting the other garages with these improvements. Elkins asked what the current Heywood's garage fate will be when the new bus garage is opened. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb responded that the Heywood garage is currently over subscribed and even at a modest two or three percent growth per year, we feel like we may end up being at full capacity even with this 6th facility by the end of 2020s.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary