

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

October 8, 2018

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

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

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, October 8, 2018 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the September 24, 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 had nothing to report.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Employee Recognition Event

Event was held this morning and thanks to the Council members who attended and conversed with staff.

Metropass Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Our largest and most successful fare program reached a significant milestone this month. The first Metropass rides were taken 20 years ago this month, providing area workers more affordable access to regional transit services. From a small initial group, the program has grown to include more than 37,000 employees from 360 employers across the region. In 2017, there were about 12.8 million Metropass rides, or about 1 million rides a month. In October 1998, the first month the program was offered, Metropass customers took just over 90,000 rides.

Gold Line Input sought

We're seeking additional feedback on plans for the METRO Gold Line this week. Two open houses will be held tomorrow in St. Paul – the first will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the skyway of the Alliance Bank Building and the second will run from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Union Depot. The open houses are being held to get input on where the Gold Line should travel in downtown St. Paul. An online survey will also be open through the end of the week.

Two alternative downtown routes are being explored. In one scenario, the Gold Line will begin and end at the Union Depot; in another, it would begin and end at the Smith Avenue Transit Center near the Xcel Energy Center, operating through downtown with stations at Union Depot and along Fifth and Sixth streets.

Operator Hiring Update

Efforts to recruit more bus operators are beginning to pay off. We hired 43 new bus operators in September, up from 27 hires in each of the past three months

and nine in May. Notably, our latest hires are the first to participate in our apprentice program and be partnered with a mentor. While we remain about 90 operators below our goal, we are moving closer to our ideal staffing number and are confident we'll continue to move in the right direction. In fact, another dozen new part-time operators began their training earlier today.

Our recruitment efforts continued last week at the Transgender Career Fair in Minneapolis. On Wednesday, operators and staff will be at the People of Color Career Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Ongoing efforts include:

- Applicant preparation classes
- Application assistance sessions every Tuesday and Thursday
- Weekly commercial driver's license study sessions

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

1. There are no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2018-260:** St. Paul and Minneapolis Transit Service Contract
Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper presented this item. Paul Slattery with Teamsters Union 120 spoke in opposition to the business item because other companies have not been able to bid on the work. Elkins asked why it isn't a competitive bid. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson replied that a typical solicitation process takes about 10 months; in this instance, we don't feel we have that time frame as the changes are needed in December 2019. Thompson also added that next year, these services will be packaged with others and there will be a competitive bid process.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 18P309 with Metropolitan Transportation Network, Inc. to provide regular route local and limited stop transit service from December 1, 2018, through July 31, 2020, in an amount not to exceed \$4,071,725.

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

2. **2018-267:** Accept Public Comment Report and Adopt Final 2040 Transportation Policy Plan
Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning/Financing Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Chair Rodriguez thanked the working group and staff and stated she was overall impressed with the process. There were no questions from Council members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council accept the attached Public Comment Report on the draft update to the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* and adopt the revised final update of the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*.

Motion carried.

3. **2018-236:** 2018 Title VI Service and Facilities Standards Monitoring Study
Metro Transit Route Planning Manager Cyndi Harper presented this item. McCarthy asked for clarification on the A-Line designation, to which Harper answered the A-Line is predominately low income but not predominantly minority. Commers stated that there might be an interesting connection made between this work and Community Development's work on the topology of change in specific suburban areas.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the results of the 2018 Title VI Service and Facilities Standards Monitoring Study.

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

4. 2018-237 JT: 2018 Unified Budget Amendment 3rd Quarter

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Elkins asked how being almost fully funded for the Minneapolis Bus Garage affects our need for bonding from the Legislature. Petrie stated that we've tried for years to get money for the garage but concluded that opportunity for funds wouldn't come and decided to look internally. Chair Rodriguez asked if new bus garage is now fully funded to which Petrie answered the project is about \$120M and with the money in today's amendment it would be just under \$100M but that the first quarter of 2019 we will bring in the rest of the money and be fully funded.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2018 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. 2019 Capital Budget

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Responding to a question from Elkins regarding depreciation, Petrie explained that we do depreciate our LRVs 1/30 a year but that we are counting on regional/federal capital funding for replacement. Elkins asked if we anticipate we'll be dealing with coins in our fareboxes 10 years from now to which Petrie answered that the use of coins is going down and more people are turning to prepaid fare, phone media, etc. Dorfman asked when we anticipate the Metro Mobility growth to level out. Aagesen-Huebner stated a recent study showed it leveling off in 2023 – 2024, which those assumptions are reflected in the Operating/CIP budgets. Responding to a question from Elkins, Aagesen-Huebner confirmed that the vehicle life of a Metro Mobility bus is 5 years. Elkins stated in other regions the opportunity to purchase go-to card equivalents in vending machines at stations and asked if this was something we were looking at. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb answered that we are more moving towards use of smart phones in terms of payment and further away from sole use cards. Following up on a statement from Elkins that the lengthening out the depreciation of the fleet is delaying electrification at the same time, Lamb stated that the lengthening out also allows us to free up the capital dollars to accelerate purchasing associated with electrification. Lamb added that electrification is still in the early stage – cold weather and more expensive opportunity chargers are a critical element – and that over the next few years we hope to maturation of battery technology.

2. Rapid Bus Program Update

Metro Transit Arterial BRT Manager Katie Roth and Metro Transit Senior Planner Kyle Burrows presented this item. Chair Rodriguez asked how much an opportunity charging station is to which Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb stated he would get the specific price back to Council members but that it's more expensive – especially depending on the location and the proximity to electrical power lines. Lamb also stated the importance to developing a program of projects with Rapid Bus, being able to coordinate in advance the civil construction related to the projects in order to work with local area municipalities. Lamb continued that planning this in advance, a few years out could help minimize the

impact to the neighborhood and not only create enhanced transit service but also a neighbor asset. Much echoed Lamb comments and Elkins added that this coordination is seen in the MCES division as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:41pm.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary