

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

April 8, 2019

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner

Committee Members Absent: Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Kris Fredson, Raymond Zeran

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2019 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Barber proposed amending the agenda to move the information item above the non-consent items.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Ferguson, seconded by Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2019 special 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 Overview

At the Wednesday, April 10, 2019 Council meeting there will be an information item on Metro Mobility providing an overview of the service. A bus will be parked outside so that members can get an idea of what the customers experience. The same presentation will be given to the House earlier in the day.

Metro Mobility Spring Convening

Metro Mobility will host its Spring Convening on April 24, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in Bloomington for customers and providers to share their experiences. 75 to 100 customers usually attend and it is a good opportunity for Council Members to learn about Metro Mobility and how the service impacts customers. Typically, the spring session is in the daytime and the fall session is in the evening and located in Minneapolis or Saint Paul.

Capitol Update

The Transportation Bill is making its way through the House and will be introduced at the Senate today.

MTS Director Thompson then introduced TAB Liaison Peter Dugan who gave an overview of the Transportation Advisory Board.

Cummings asked about TAB member terms. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Thompson answered that citizen representatives serve two years but they have staggered terms, counties reappoint every year but a lot of counties retain their representatives for multiple years.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

Hennepin Avenue

Bus routes that operate on Hennepin Avenue will be detoured to Nicollet Mall beginning Monday, April 15, 2019 due to construction. Buses are not expected to return to Hennepin Avenue for several years as the city rebuilds Hennepin Avenue between Washington Avenue and 12th Street. During the detour, there will be nearly 1,300 bus trips each day on Nicollet Mall – almost twice the number of trips under normal conditions. To speed up boardings, customers will be encouraged to use Go-To Cards or the mobile app. Nicollet Mall was seen as the best alternative because it has new waiting shelters with heat and real-time signs and is close destinations and transfer points. When finished, Hennepin Avenue will have protected bikeways in each direction and eight enhanced station areas with shelters, real-time signs, heat, light and security features. Information is available on the Metro Transit website; staff have also been out speaking with customers about the change.

Rail Rodeo

Council Members who would like to learn more about Metro Transit rail operations are invited to attend the annual Rail Rodeo on Saturday, April 20, 2019. The Rail Rodeo is a competition for train operators, who complete a series of tests and are judged on their operating skills and knowledge. The event will be held at the Blue Line Operations & Maintenance Facility on Franklin Avenue and begin around 8:00 a.m. More information will be provided in the Daily Update.

Operator Hiring

While progress has been made, Metro Transit is going to be doing even more to recruit, hire, and support new bus operators over the coming months. Plans include: hosting several events in the community that allow potential applicants to learn more about the job and get help finishing their applications; offering application assistance every week at Metro Transit's Instruction Center; increased marketing; a pilot program that gives new hires without driving experience a chance to get behind the wheel earlier in their training process; continuing and expanding Metro Transit's operator mentorship program; more information about upcoming events and support for job seekers is available on the Metro Transit website.

Final Four

It is estimated that about 16,000 people used light rail post-game on Saturday for the Final Four; a typical Vikings game about 12,000 people use light rail. Platforms were cleared in about an hour and a half.

Chair Barber asked for an update on the impact to ridership with the shift to Nicollet Mall.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Cummings, seconded by Chamblis and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2019-71 SW:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: I-94 and I-394 Wrong-Way Vehicle Detection and Alerting Systems

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project installing wrong-way vehicle detection and alerting systems at I-94's eastbound exit ramp to 4th Street N and 2nd Avenue N and I-394's eastbound exit to 6th Avenue N and 2nd Avenue N.

2. **2019-72 SW:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: Establishment of an I-35W Construction Site

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project constructing a soil nail wall and establishing a construction site on I-35W in Minneapolis.

3. **2019-73 SW:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: Stone Arch Bridge Repair

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to add a project repairing the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis.

4. **2019-74 SW:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: I-394 Bridge Repair

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to change the cost and add a fifth bridge to repair for MnDOT's I-394 bridge repair project.

5. **2019-75 SW:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: US 212 Reduced Conflict Intersection

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to change the scope and cost of MnDOT's US 212 reduced conflict intersection project.

INFORMATION

1. Allianz Field Operations

Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operating Officer – Bus Brian Funk presented this item.

Chair Nora Slawik asked how the shuttles interact. Funk said the shuttles are departing from the State Fair area for fans wanting to have a tailgating experience and Northbound A Line can get folks there but staff will help people determine which transportation service they used to arrive. Chair Slawik asked about fencing. Funk said fencing is down so there is more room for people to walk. Ferguson asked about an adjusted plan for the 28th of April where there will not be parking at the State Fairground and Funk said there will be a contingency plan. Ferguson asked if the Met Council has talked to the businesses in the area so that their bathrooms do not get overrun. Funk said there was a neighborhood open house where some of this was addressed but he can report back. Cummings asked for more background on conversations with the local community. Funk said there were two open houses for the neighborhood and there are no major issues that Metro Transit needs to be aware of but Snelling is one of busiest stops on a regular day, so the goal is to continue to be a good neighbor.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2019-55 JT:** 2019 Unified Budget Amendment – 1st Quarter

Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Agesen-Huebner and Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item.

Cummings voiced her appreciation for the staff presentation. Gonzalez asked about money that is left over. Petrie said money goes back into Metro Transit buckets and a recommendation is made for the Council as to what to do with the money. Chamblis asked for an example on when a recommendation was made when a Council Member made a separate recommendation instead. Petrie said the majority of the time the recommendations are projects already in the Council-adopted CIP.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2019 Unified Budget amendment as indicated, and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

2. **2019-69: 2425 Minnehaha Avenue Sale**

Metro Transit Development Associate Michael Krantz presented this item.

Ferguson asked how many jobs are going to be at the site. Krantz said he does not have an estimate but there are deed restrictions to ensure it will have a job-oriented use moving forward but the procurement was based on the highest bid. Sterner asked about the bids received. Krantz said two were received but he cannot disclose the amounts. Sterner asked about the marketing done. Krantz said an article and ad were in *Finance & Commerce*, it was listed on the Met Council Procurement website, and the brokerage community was contacted as well. Gonzalez asked what type of business purchased the property. Krantz said it is a food manufacturing business. Ferguson asked about the strategic policy behind the Council's Transit Oriented Development. Metro Transit Transit Oriented Development Director Lucy Galbraith said in January 2014 a new TOD policy was adopted. Galbraith added that in the case of this sale, there was a known interested party, it was not a high market area of town, it was zoned light industrial, the area was restricted in its use, so an invitation for bids was issued. Galbraith said the deed restriction was to protect transit. Galbraith said she will come back with job numbers if procurement allows. Ferguson said it is important to be intentional around the sale of land. Cummings agreed that a presentation to the entire Council would be beneficial. Galbraith said there is always work with the partner jurisdictions that takes place.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council declare the real property at 2425 Minnehaha Avenue surplus and authorize the Regional Administrator to quit claim the property to At Last! Gourmet Foods Inc. for \$1,650,000.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary