

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 11, 2019

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent:

TAB Liaison Present:

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, March 11, 2019 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2019 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:

Overview

Metropolitan Transportation Services Division (MTS) is the division which leads the Long-Range Transportation Planning for the region, manages all of the contracted transit services, and provides grants management and financial analysis functions. Council Members will hear a broad overview tonight on these functions, learn about items that will come before the committee from MTS and have an opportunity to ask questions to deepen learning about function and services.

MTS is a division of 54 staff, but one that connects externally with many partners and manages a large workforce through contracted transit services. Through planning and management of federal transportation funding there is a connection with every County and City in the region. Through transit MTS manages a fleet of buses and drivers, that is larger than the Metro Transit fleet, but also complementary to the Metro Transit services.

The MTS director's report covers issues of interest to committee members around legislative bills, upcoming stakeholder engagement or policy activities, operational updates to contracted services that are important to know, and any federal or state funding updates. Tonight, it will touch on the work plan. Each year the MTS workplan contains work in the following areas:

Policy Plan Changes - this year there are two amendments, one recently completed for the Riverview corridor and one coming this spring which the full Council will receive an update on.

Updates on Regional Planning and Policy Studies - with an opportunity to provide input into the study design and findings. These regional studies can occur in any of the transportation modes.

There also are actions that occur every year on cycle, including: MPO and TAB actions, performance reporting, budget amendments and adoption, contract procurements for services/fleet/technology. In close, as a set of information that will help new Council Members get up to speed, there is the appendix from the TPP that is a Glossary of Transportation terms.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

St. Patrick's Day Free Rides

Free rides will be provided on all Metro Transit, MVTA and Anoka Transit routes from 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 16, through 3:00 a.m. Sunday, March 17, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The 23rd annual free ride promotion is sponsored by Miller Lite, which offsets the cost of free rides in cities across the country to discourage drinking and driving. The promotion also has received longstanding support from local law enforcement. Free rides are being offered on March 16 in conjunction with St. Patrick's Day parades in Minneapolis and St. Paul. No passes are required to ride free.

Transit Driver Appreciation Day

Bus and train operators will be celebrated next Monday, March 18, on Transit Driver Appreciation Day. To mark the occasion, customers will be encouraged to submit commendations, write thank you cards and share their support on social media. Complimentary breakfast and lunch will also be served at each of our garages. Council Members are invited to join operators at one of our garages for breakfast or lunch. There is excitement about having students from St. Paul's Focus Beyond, who are frequent transit riders, join for lunch at 11:30 a.m. on Monday. These students have designed special greeting cards for Transit Driver Appreciation Day. Council Members can also join during the morning rush hour when thanking operators in downtown Minneapolis or during the afternoon rush hour in downtown St. Paul.

Heywood Tour

Council Members are invited to take a tour of our Heywood Garage before the next meeting, Monday, March 25, 2019. Council Members who are interested in seeing the facility should gather in the Heywood Chambers by 2:45 p.m. so there is enough time to go through the driver's room, garage and Transit Control Center. The tour will conclude prior to the start of the regular, 4:00 p.m. meeting.

Where Does This Bus Go?

Finally, there is a brief and well-received video that was recently created with local improv comedian Tane Danger. This is the first of several videos that will provide a comedic response to the question: "Hey, where does this bus go?"

Atlas-Ingebretson commented on the deficit and the structural issues, she also said it would be helpful to show a diversity of cultures and languages and cultures for a tool like this video since communicating orally is the best way to communicate with many riders. Chair Barber encouraged council members to attend Transit Driver Appreciation Day.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2019-54 SW:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-35W Pavement Rehabilitation Project
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau and MnDOT Project Manager Chris Hoberg presented this item.

Sterner asked for clarification on the project. Hoberg explained that ADA upgrades with audible push buttons were going to be installed but APS cannot be accepted with the current signal systems so new signal systems need to be installed first. Chamblis asked if the cost of updating the ADA system is being deferred and when it will be revisited. Hoberg said yes, it will be deferred and the project to scope and deliver is scheduled for 2024 but the team is exploring if it can be done before then.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Gonzalez:

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 of MnDOT's I-35W pavement rehabilitation project.

Motion carried.

2. **2019-49:** Type 2 Light Rail Vehicle Motor Truck and Axle Sets
Metro Transit LRV Overhaul Manager Chris Royston presented this item.

Zeran asked for more information on the process. Royston explained about the day-to-day process versus the overhaul program. Cummings asked if the Type 2 is anticipated to be used for the Green Line or if there is a Type 3. Royston said there is a Type 3 that will be received. Gonzalez said Bombardier is Canadian and Sieman is German, he asked if there are any American companies that could be used. Royston said the motors that go with the trains are proprietary, so the motors cannot be changed out.

Motion by Ferguson, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the purchase of four motor trucks and four axles sets for the Type 2 Light Rail Vehicles (LRV's) in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

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

3. **2019-56:** MOA Curve Replacement, Contract No. 18P389
Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities Principal Engineer Tom McGannon and Mark Leemon presented this item.

Cummings asked if two bids are expected or if more bids would have been usual. McGannon said in this region that is typical. Sterner asked if extending the bidding time would have generated more bidders. McGannon said there are not that many bidders in the region for this type of contract. Leemon said there are select few contractors around here who are able to execute the work and the timeframe is appropriate for the scope of work. Chair Barber asked how much shorter this was than initially thought for the life of the rail. McGannon said 30 years is normally what the expectation is and this only lasted 15 years. Leemon said some get worn out faster because of the components. Chair Barber asked about the communications plan to let customers know there will be an area shutdown for repair and General Manager Kooistra said he will report back.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract for Mall of America (MOA) Curve Replacement Project with Railworks Track Systems in the amount of \$2,880,000.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Council Member Committee Orientation

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz, Multimodal Planning Manager Cole Hiniker, Assistant Director Gerri Sutton, and Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper presented this item.

Fredson asked when the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) was created and if there have been adjustments over time. Vennewitz said originally it was put in state law when the Council was formed but the membership was not listed. In the early 1990s the membership was put into state law, there have been a few changes to include modal representatives and suburban transit providers. MTS Director Thompson said citizen representative applications are being accepted currently and Council Members will have input on those applications. Atlas-Ingebretson asked for bike/ped investment examples. Hiniker said the TAB sets a range for how much is funded and we fund a high number of projects, most are local projects and the interaction is through the Regional Solicitation. Fredson asked about the current and increased revenue scenarios. Hiniker said there are two funding scenarios: fiscally constrained and more visionary. Chamblis asked about the hierarchy of mobility investments based on low cost/high return and she asked how much can be allocated outside of that, if something was medium return, etc. Vennewitz said when the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) is being developed, the Met Council works with MnDOT to find out how much money we have in mobility funding, so the estimate is taken and decisions are based on that – because the level of funding is so low, the low cost/high return has been the typical way of disbursing money. Vennewitz said this is the type of conversation the Council Members are involved in and if the Governor's bill passes there will be more funding so this could be a major activity of policy discussion with the TAB following the legislative session. Sterner commented that certain areas of the region cannot compete the same when they have more bike/ped trails and less transit. Atlas-Ingebretson asked who the type of user is for Transit Link. Sutton said demographic information is not collected on these users, but a lot of transportation is to community colleges, medical facilities, and workplaces. Cummings asked if recertification happens annually. Sutton said Transit Link has no certification and Metro Mobility has recertification every four years but there is certification for six months to a year as well if it is a temporary disability.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary