

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 13, 2020

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez

TAAC Chair Present: David Fenley

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:04 p.m. on Monday, January 13, 2020 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN. A quorum was present before taking committee action.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAAC REPORT

TAAC Chair David Fenley introduced himself and his desire for the TAAC's voice to be integrated into the work of the Transportation Committee and the Council.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported the following information from the December 18, 2019 TAB meeting:

December TAB actions included the Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan approval, the Annual MAC CIP adoption, and several actions related to adoption of the final Regional Solicitation Application. TAB members had some comments to add to the Human Services Coordination Plan and decided to hold over their recommendation until they had a chance to see the final public comment report. This action is back before TAB this week. TAB had a general discussion about Anoka County airport and the runway length as well as MAC plans for increasing non-auto travel to and from MAC but no comments on the CIP and approved what you will see tonight. TAB did make changes to the draft regional solicitation application based on public comment before approving. Those changes will be covered tonight before asking for concordance.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Regional Solicitation

In December a notice went out to local partners about training opportunities for the regional solicitation. The training will occur January 28, 2020 at the Council and January 31, 2020 at Metro Cities.

MVST

MVST for 2019 - the actual receipts came in at 101% of forecast values for 2019. Council budgets at 95% of forecast, and revenue above 95% is allocated into the following year.

Transportation Conference

The 2020 Minnesota Transportation Conference registration is now open. This annual conference is set for March 3, 2020 and March 4, 2020 at Saint Paul River Centre. Registration can be for one or both days if interested.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

One-day Hiring Event

Deputy Chief Operating Officer – Bus Brian Funk reported that there was a terrific turnout for the one-day bus operator hiring event on Saturday. Nearly 300 job seekers attended, and about two-thirds of those visitors received or are expected to receive a conditional job offer. Moving forward, efforts will center around supporting these candidates as they are invited in to begin their training. Candidates who need to obtain their required Commercial Driver's License Permits will receive additional support. Human Resources and instruction staff are prepared to meet the unusually large workload, and Metro Transit is currently recruiting additional bus operator mentors to help these new hires get off to a good start. Prior to the event, Metro Transit was about 85 bus operators short. While almost 200 conditional offers have been made as a result of this event, ongoing attrition, retirements, and future expansion mean there is a need to continue recruitment efforts. It is by no means mission accomplished but this was a tremendous and encouraging step forward. Thank you to all the staff who helped organize and advertise this event, and who dedicated their entire days on Saturday to helping candidates begin exciting new chapters in their lives.

Heywood On-Site Health Clinic Opening

Last Thursday, Chair Zelle and HealthPartners CEO Andrea Walsh joined in celebrating the opening of the Heywood On-Site Health Clinic. Heywood Clinic joins the Robert Street Well-at-Work Clinic that opened in 2016. Many services are available: lab tests, treatment of most routine conditions, seasonal allergies, vaccinations, disease management, and more. Common generic drugs are available for free. This is a valuable option for employees and supports our overall commitment to our employees' health, wellness, and overall wellbeing.

Events Over the Holidays

You received updates via email and at the last Council meeting regarding Metro Transit's response on the Drake Hotel Fire that occurred on Christmas Day.

This included:

- the work of bus operations, street operations, Transit Communications Center, the police and more to respond the day of the fire.
- Ongoing efforts to transport people, their belongings, and donations.
- HAT officers have been very involved.
- Finance/TAP helped in re-issuing transit passes.

Also, over the holidays, Metro Transit suspended bus service for a few hours due to treacherous icy conditions on Saturday, December 28. It was the first time since 2011 Metro Transit had to suspend bus service. Multiple departments acted quickly to assess conditions, communicate with employees, and communicate with customers.

Cummings asked if applicants were canvassed to find out what drew them in to apply to the operator hiring day. Funk said yes, and a lot of applicants reported word of mouth having informed them of the event. Cummings asked how long before these applicants are working, Funk answered it would be two to three weeks, for a five-week training period. Zeran asked if the conditional job offers are full-time or part-time and how long before a part-time becomes full-time. Funk answered all job offers start at part-time but within three months there is usually the option to become full-time. Sterner asked about filling

the spots. Funk said the desire is not to continue making service changes, so applicant-seeking will continue.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

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

1. **2020-8:** Metro Mobility Taxi Service – Contract Spending Authorization

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator amend contract 15P130 with Taxi Services, Inc. for an additional \$704,000. The new contract total will be \$3,483,293.

2. **2020-20:** Dakota County Transit Link Contract Amendment

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source amendment to contract 14P010 with Midwest Paratransit Services to provide Transit Link service in Dakota County to add \$300,000, for a total contract value of \$5,209,396, and to extend the contract term to September 25, 2020.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2020-24:** Review of Metropolitan Airports Commission 2019-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Russ Owen presented this item.

There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Find that the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) had an adequate public participation process for the development and review of its 2020-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including preparation of an assessment of environmental effects (AOEE) for 2020 projects with potential environmental effects.
- 2) Approve the Crystal Airport runway extension project since it meets both the funding level and “significant effects” criteria specified in state statute.
- 3) Find that the 2020 CIP projects are in conformance with the region's Aviation System Plan and consistent with Council policy.

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

2. **2020-25:** Release of the 2020 Regional Solicitation for Transportation Projects

Metropolitan Transportation Services Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Manager Steve Peterson presented this item.

Cummings commented that the trainings and engagement work are an important way to serve constituents as part of the Council's commitment to equity. Barber expressed appreciation for the work of staff.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to approve the attached Regional Solicitation package, including the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation for 2024-2025 funding (2022-2023 funding for TDM projects) and to release the solicitation.

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

3. **2020-5:** 2020 Title VI Plan Update, Resolution 2020-02

Metropolitan Council ADA & Title VI Administrator Guthrie Byard and Metro Transit Route Planning Manager Cyndi Harper presented this item.

There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the Metropolitan Council 2020 Title VI Program Update
- Adopt the attached resolution No. 2020-02 adopting the Metropolitan Council 2020 Title VI Program Update and signing the Title VI Policy Statement and Assurances as required by USDOT

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

4. **2020-12:** Real-Time Prediction Engine, Contract 18P322

Metro Transit Program Manager Laura Matson and Metro Transit Transit Information Assistant Manager Ben Rajkowski presented this item.

Sterner asked if holiday schedules are integrated. Matson said the schedule is published weekly and the real-time responds to that. Sterner asked if maps other than Google Maps are being worked with as well. Matson said Google is the biggest but they are working with the others. Chamblis and Barber expressed appreciation for this service improvement.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate Contract 18P322 with Cambridge Systematics, Inc. to provide real-time departure prediction software implementation, support, hosting and maintenance services in an amount not to exceed \$972,000.

Motion carried.

5. **2020-9:** Alerts-Manager and Real-time Concentrator Software, Contract 19P218

Metro Transit Project Management Specialist Bre Grand and Metro Transit Transit Information Assistant Manager Ben Rajkowski presented this item.

Barber asked about posting service suspensions. Grand answered that gaps have been identified and are being addressed through this business item.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source Contract 19P218 with IBI Group to provide software implementation, support and maintenance

services for an Alerts Manager and Real Time Concentrator system for a three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$800,000.

Motion carried.

6. 2020-14: METRO E Line Recommended Alignment

Metro Transit Senior Planner Kyle O'Donnell Burrows presented this item.

Barber inquired about current and expected ridership levels. Burrows said ridership levels are anticipated to increase. Barber asked which TPP Update this will go into. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson answered it will go into this year's 2040 Update.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council approve staff's recommended alignment for the METRO E Line. The recommended alignment will run from the University of Minnesota area to Southdale Transit Center via 4th Street and University Avenue SE, Hennepin Avenue through downtown and uptown Minneapolis, 36th Street, Richfield Road, Sheridan Avenue, 44th Street, France Avenue, and 65th Street.

Motion carried.

7. 2020-21: Light Rail Live Video, Contract 19P306

Metro Transit Rail Operations Manager Dominick Pellegrin, Metro Transit Project Manager Leah Palmer, and Metro Transit Police Sergeant Brooke Blakey presented this item.

Sterner asked about the bidding process. Pellegrin said this was sole source because Hitachi was a solution that is already in place; we share our software with other agencies; other vendors weren't as comprehensive; Hitachi is local to Minnesota; it is non-proprietary so there will be easy integration in the future. Cummings asked if the video will be monitored at all times or it will just be pulled up. Blakey said it will be monitored in real time and officers can access it from their vehicles as well. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra said monitoring rooms will be set up as well. Cummings asked what the retention practice will be. Palmer said the videos will be retained 7-10 days based on motion, resolution, and it will be subject to data practices policies. Chamblis asked what the marketing and communication plan for these videos are. Kooistra said signage is being discussed right now. Zeran asked where the funding is coming from. Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie said this comes from the Operating Budget, shared 50% by the Council and 50% by the counties.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract with Hitachi Vantara Corporation for the purchase and installation of a new camera surveillance system for 91 Light Rail Vehicles for an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000.

Motion carried.

8. 2020-26 JT SW: 2020 Capital Amendment

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item.

There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2020 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

9. **2020-22:** Minneapolis Bus Garage Construction, Contract 19P000A
Metro Transit Engineering & Construction Project Manager Robert Rimstad and Metro Transit Principal Engineer Carrie Desmond presented this item.

There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes award and execution of contract 19P000A with Heywood Bus Garage Constructors, a Joint Venture, in the amount of \$113,115,915.00 for the construction of the Minneapolis Bus Garage (Heywood Expansion/Electric Bus Infrastructure – Project #62312).

Motion carried.

10. **2020-23:** Minneapolis Bus Garage Independent Testing Agency, Contract 18P430
Metro Transit Engineering & Construction Project Manager Robert Rimstad and Metro Transit Principal Engineer Carrie Desmond presented this item.

Chamblis asked about the type of testing that needs to be done. Rimstad said it includes concrete, soil, compaction, asphalt, steel, and vibrational monitoring.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes award and execution of Contract 18P430 with Braun Intertec Corporation in the amount of \$918,898.64 for independent testing agency services for construction of the Minneapolis Bus Garage (Heywood Expansion/Electric Bus Infrastructure – Project #62312).

Motion carried.

11. **2020-27:** Gold Line Appraisal Services Contract 19P256
Metro Transit BRT Projects Director Charles Carlson presented this item.

There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute five contracts for Appraisal Services for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (Gold Line), in a total amount not to exceed \$680,000 and allocated as follows:

- Patchin Messner Valuation Counselors not to exceed \$200,000
- Integra Realty Resources not to exceed \$200,000
- Lake State Realty Services, Inc. not to exceed \$120,000
- BRKW Appraisals, Inc. not to exceed \$80,000
- GTRE Commercial not to exceed \$80,000

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

INFORMATION

1. Better Bus Stops

Metro Transit Senior Planner Berry Farrington, Metro Transit Principal Project Coordinator Paul Lamb, and Metro Transit Transit Information Services Specialist Barrett Clausen presented this item.

Chamblis asked about the use of solar and the location of where heat was added. Lamb said solar can be used for lighting, but it does not provide enough for heating. Sterner asked if any shelters exist that are not clear, Lamb said the current standard frit pattern reduces vandalism while allowing visibility.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary