

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 13, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 22, 2020

**Subject:** Agency Safety Plans

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** 49 CFR Part 673

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Nick Thompson, Director of MTS, 651-602-1754  
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**Division/Department:** Metro Transit (MT) & Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt Agency Safety Plans for Metropolitan Transportation Services, Metro Transit Bus and Metro Transit LRT.

### Background

The Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Final Rule (49 CFR Part 673) requires compliance by recipients and sub-recipients of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program funds under 49 USC § 5307. The required Agency Safety Plans (one each for MTS bus, Metro Transit bus and Metro Transit light rail) require approval by the governing board. The original due date for plan approval was July 20, 2020. However, enforcement of the plans has been delayed by the FTA until January 1, 2020 due to the significant administrative burden placed on public transit agencies due to COVID-19.

### Rationale

The FTA requirement calls for the development of an Agency Safety Plan (ASP) that formalizes the Safety Management System (SMS) principles and strategies for demonstrating safety management policy, safety risk management, safety assurance, and safety promotion. Each of the Council's plans define the process for identifying, evaluating, and resolving hazards associated with operations. Each plan must also name an accountable executive and a chief safety officer that reports directly to the accountable executive regarding all safety related issues.

As a direct operator of service, Metro Transit has had an ASP in place for many years. The new FTA requirements resulted in only minor edits to the existing plans to include plan approval by the Council. Metro Transit has an ASP to address bus safety and a separate ASP for rail service as required by the FTA.

MTS' contractors have safety plans as required in each contract. However, MTS previously did not have its own ASP. With assistance from WSP, a consultant with extensive experience in safety plan development, MTS has created an ASP that covers contracted services to include Metro Mobility,

Transit Link and fixed route in addition to MTS employees. MTS is in the process of hiring a Chief Safety Officer to ensure compliance with the plan and federal requirements.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

This action promotes multiple *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes. Equity and Livability are supported through the plan's focus on strategies to ensure a safe transit infrastructure, the safe transport of all customers and promote the well-being of transit employees. The plan's role in mitigating risk and promoting proactive planning to responsibly manage the region's finite resources fosters the outcome of Stewardship.

### **Funding**

Funding for a new MTS position (Chief Safety Officer) and consulting services are included in the 2020 adopted budget.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition.