

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

July 26, 2021

LOCATION: Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held electronically.

**Committee Members Present: Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran**

**Committee Members Absent: Molly Cummings, Francisco Gonzalez**

**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 4:00p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2021.

### AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 5 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Cummings, Gonzalez, Zeran

### TAB REPORT

Dugan shared agency reports and encouraged folks to view the *Equity in Transportation* presentation by Charles Small and Maurice Henderson II (US DOT staff) which can be viewed at timepoint 32:20. Dugan stated most of the meeting was focused on discussions pertaining to the Regional Solicitation categories in order to have decisions ready in September.

### METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Assistant Director Contracted Services Gerri Sutton reported:  
USDOT Policy Staff Visit

USDOT policy staff visited and spoke about initiatives being advanced at the federal level, including new restorative grant programs for projects like the potential Rondo Lid over I94. Their staff also spoke about potential federal funding increases, that if passed would be the largest one-time infusion of funding for both transit and rail.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

#### COVID

Metro Transit continues to monitor COVID cases among employees as Minnesota is experiencing an uptick in COVID cases. Metro Transit has continued the partnership with MDH for mobile vaccine bus clinics multiple times per week. This partnership will continue into August, including a day at the Minnesota Farm Fest in Redwood County next week, followed by 12 days at the State Fair near the Northern Events Center. Since late-April, more than 200

vaccine bus clinics have been held across the state and more than 6600 shots have been given.

Stronger & Better Part 2

Last meeting it was mentioned that Metro Transit's 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the Stronger and Better Initiatives would be presented today. The presentation has been rescheduled for the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting prior to the presentation on the preliminary budget.

**BUSINESS**

**Consent Items:**

Motion was made by Fredson, seconded by Sterner and carried, to approve the following consent items:

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Cummings, Gonzalez

**1. 2021-174:** Signature Authority for Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Grant Agreements

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements funded by Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) with the following transit agencies:

- Maple Grove Transit: \$996,093
- Minnesota Valley Transit Authority: \$5,021,138
- Plymouth Metrolink: \$975,735
- SouthWest Transit: \$2,072,432
- University of Minnesota: \$890,912

**2. 2021-194 SW:** 2021-2024 TIP Amendment for MnDOT: I-35W Frontage Road Turnback

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to increase the cost and scope of MnDOT's I-35W turnback in Bloomington.

**3. 2021-195:** Signature Authority for MVTA Burnsville Bus Garage Grant Agreement

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority for \$3,500,000 funded by the Buses and Bus Facilities Program (49 U.S.C. 5339).

**Non-Consent Items:**

**1. 2021-143 JT:** 2021 Budget Amendment –2nd Quarter Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2021 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Cummings, Gonzalez

2. **2021-178:** Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIA, Contract 21P084

Metro Transit Engineer Ryan Heath presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 21P084 with Railworks Track Systems Inc., for replacement track, rail, upgrades and replacement of signal system components on the METRO Blue Line in an amount not to exceed \$15,033,893.

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

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Cummings, Gonzalez

3. **2021-190:** METRO Purple Line BRT Ramsey County Project Development Capital Grant Agreement

Metro Transit Purple Line Project Director Craig Lamothe presented this item. Chair Barber asked when we will be able to enter the New Starts Program. Lamothe responded that this grant agreement is the first step; it needs to be attached to the application to FTA indicating we have full funding for the next phase. Lamothe continued that by late August we will make the application submittal to FTA and there is usually a 60-day turnaround for a response.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Capital Grant Agreement #211040 for Project Development with Ramsey County ("County") and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority ("Regional Railroad Authority) for the METRO Purple Line (formerly Rush Line) Bus Rapid Transit Project ("Project") in an amount not to exceed \$39,900,000.

Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Cummings, Gonzalez

4. **2021-191:** METRO Purple Line Cooperation Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation

Metro Transit Purple Line Project Director Craig Lamothe presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Cooperation Agreement #211037 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the METRO Purple Line (formerly Rush Line) Bus Rapid Transit Project ("Project").

Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0  
Absent: 2 Cummings, Gonzalez

5. **2021-192:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Seventh Amendment to the Hennepin County and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority Capital Grant Agreement 181094

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. There were no questions from Council members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the seventh Amendment to the Capital Grant Agreement with Hennepin County and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) to add \$200,315,255 bringing the total grant amount to \$878,080,704.

Chamblis wanted to highlight that even though we need to increase our contingency base, it's important to think about the thrive livability opportunities/investments we are getting from this project.

Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran  
Nay: 0  
Absent: 2 Cummings, Gonzalez

6. **2021-201:** Metro Transit Uniforms, Contract 21P063

Metro Transit Acting Director, Bus Transportation Steve McLaird presented this item. Sterner asked if these uniforms were made in the USA/by union and what the fabric is. McLaird responded that the uniforms are made of wool/cotton, pull overs are rayon and the fabric is made overseas but it is cut and sewn in USA. Ferguson asked why there was no DBE goal. McLaird and Metropolitan Council OEO Supervisor Elaine Ogilvie answered that this was reviewed by OEO and no goal was set because there are no MCUB vendors, very few suppliers that provide uniforms in this magnitude and no subcontracting options. Several Council members questioned whether the contract could have been bid differently (broken out to allow subcontractors for sewing, etc.) to allow for more opportunities for smaller businesses. Fredson asked if there was urgency on this item. McLaird stated the current contract has been extended through the end of September and these are a contractual requirement for ATU and TMSA employees. Chamblis stated the urgency issue comes up a lot and asked that staff review timelines. Several Council members stated there is need for more information and research before moving this item forward.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Fredson to **TABLE** item to future meeting.

Motion carried.

Aye: 5 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner  
Nay: 1 Zeran  
Absent: 2 Cummings, Gonzalez

## INFORMATION

1. There are no information items.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:05p.m.

Becky Gorell  
Recording Secretary