

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

September 13, 2021

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

Committee Members Present: Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Christopher Ferguson

TAAC Liaison Present: David Fenley

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, September 13, 2021.

AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2021 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Ferguson

TAAC REPORT

Fenley reported TAAC is providing feedback on the updates to the Metro Transit App and members are excited to see the app rolling out in an accessible manner. TAAC members also had a department introduction and discussion with John Levin, Metro Transit Director Strategic Initiatives. Members had some thoughts on ways to dig into the data, so will be scheduling a follow up with John. The next month or two, the priority seating education promo video will be coming out. TAAC was a little dismayed (but understand the rationale behind) that the reduced fare promotion wasn't transferred over to Metro Mobility.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Acting Director Amy Vennewitz reported:

Transit On-board Survey:

The Transit on-board survey will be kicking off this fall. This is done every five years, to survey customers on trip purposes, origins, destinations, etc. and the data is then used to augment the regional travel model. The pre-test for the transit onboard survey is starting tomorrow and there will survey takers will be out on several routes. Survey takers will continue with the actual survey in the coming weeks.

MVST Update:

Ended the state fiscal year (end of June) with collections up 113% over forecast, which is a little over \$30M. Through July/August there have been continued good collections and looking to end the year up about 114%.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

COVID

To date there have been 506 cases at Metro Transit. Metro Transit had 2 cases in June, 14 in July and 36 in August. Staff remain focused on educating customers about the mask requirement, including providing masks to customers. The COVID Incident Command team continues to work towards implementation of the Council's vaccine/test requirement that goes into effect October 11th.

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS):

Metro Transit has been working with SPPS to help transport students to four high schools due to their school bus driver shortage. School started last Thursday and so far, existing service on Bus/LRT has been able to accommodate students. Bus Operations and Service Development are continuing to refine bus assignments, trying to place 60 ft buses on trips that are most likely to be used by students to prevent overloads.

Cummings asked if Saturday's LRT operator shortage was an anomaly. Kooistra replied that it was an anomaly and that unlike Bus Operations, LRT has a full staff of operators. Kooistra continued that we do have an unusual number of LRT operators out with longer term sickness/needs and on Saturday we had an additional 7 sick call ins and in turn scheduled service was adjusted in terms of frequency.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2021-241:** 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau and Acting Director MTS Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Chamblis expressed her appreciation for the insights and forward thinking in terms of putting the goals together. There were no questions from Council members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Adopt the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
2. Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
 - a. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
 - b. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
 - c. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
 - d. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
 - e. Section 1101(b) of Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (Pub L. 114-357) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in US DOT funded projects;
 - f. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
 - g. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;

- h. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
 - i. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and;
 - j. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.
3. Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
 4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
 5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements.
 6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period.
 7. Transmit the 2022-2025 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

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

Aye: 7 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran
 Nay: 0
 Absent: 1 Ferguson

2. 2021-227 JT: 2021 Budget Amendment – 3rd Quarter

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Chamblis asked if the salary adjustments were based on the results of the union contract and why Metro Transit Bus operations had the biggest difference. Petrie responded that yes, the salary adjustments reflect the recently approved ATU contract, and that Bus Operations has the bulk of employees which includes all bus operators, fuelers, cleaners, and mechanics.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Chamblis:

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

Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran
 Nay: 0
 Absent: 1 Ferguson

3. 2021-239: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) North Shore Track Services, Inc.

Amendment No. 2 for Bass Lake Spur Freight Rail Maintenance and Repair, Contract 18P387 Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. Cummings asked for confirmation that this is specialized work and not very many firms do this type of work. Alexander responded that is correct; in the original procurement only one or two bids were received and with the recent procurement only one bid was received. Alexander continued that with our existing agreement with TC&W, we have the responsibility to take care of this line.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to Contract 18P387 with North Shore Track Services, Inc., for Bass Lake Spur Freight Rail Maintenance and Repair to add \$611,678.53 for a total contract amount of \$2,295,151.01.

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

Aye: 7 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Ferguson

INFORMATION

1. METRO E Line Draft Corridor Plan

Metro Transit Senior Planner Kyle O'Donnell Burrows presented this item. Chair Barber expressed her excitement that this project is moving forward and how staff is always improving on public outreach, meeting the community where they are.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:03p.m.

Becky Gorell
Recording Secretary