

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: June 13, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert St

Members Present:

- | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco, District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kris Fredson, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Zeran, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sterner, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Cummings, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Francisco Gonzalez, District 12 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Zeran to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Pacheco, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Planning

The study Equity Evaluation of Regional Transportation Investment kicked off in May with the consultant team of Bolton & Menk, Center of Economic Inclusion and Bellwether. One of the first consultant tasks is to recruit and select members of a Policy Work Group which will help lead this study and provide important perspective and advice. We are looking for a majority of members to be Indigenous, People of Color or represent low-income populations. The Center for Economic Inclusion is leading the group recruitment and the Council is assisting by advertising the opportunity. After this meeting we will forward a link to their website to you to also use in recruiting members if you are interested. The recruitment is open through June 23rd and you can contact Amy Vennewitz on our staff with any further questions.

Finance

An update on Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (or MVST) Receipts. April receipts were \$31.7M, 104% of forecast. Metropolitan Council May 2022 receipts were \$32.2 million, a 3 percent decrease from 2021, and 94 percent of forecast. Receipts for 2022 to date are \$146 million, slightly above forecast (102%). We budget at 95 percent of forecast to even out the variability of this source.

Contracted Services

You may recall that on April 13, Metro Mobility Senior Manager Christine Kuennen presented

upcoming changes to the Metro Mobility ADA service area and changes to communities' hours of service. These changes were communicated to customers and are available online. The changes will take effect November 28, 2022. You may hear from customers about these changes. A member of the public commented on these changes at the Council meeting last Wednesday. As a reminder, the service area and hours of service changes reflect reductions made to the regular route system in late 2019. We have kept current on expansions in hours or geography, and hope to continue serving customers in the state (or non-ADA) service area as we do now. We are continuing to proactively communicate the changes. We are welcoming comment on these changes by phone or email.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Bus Roadeo

I'll keep my update short today given our lengthy agenda, but I wanted to draw your attention to the invitation you received to attend Metro Transit's Bus Roadeo. The Bus Roadeo community event takes place on Saturday, June 25 near the Mall of America. The bus roadeo is a skills competition for bus operators. Operators are scored while completing a course that includes several "obstacles," like backing up and deploying the ramp onto a target. Operators also complete a customer service test and are scored on their uniform appearance. On Saturday June 25 the Finalist Competition will begin at 9:30 a.m. followed by a celebrity competition at 12:30 p.m and the awards ceremony starting at 2PM. You received the details in your email last week, but let us know if you have any questions.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

Fenley shared updates from the TAAC.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-166:** Unified Planning Work Program Amendment (Dave Burns 651-602-1887)
2. **2022-163:** Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas Funding - Resolution 2022-12 (John Harper 651-602-1744)
3. **2022-104:** Green Line Extension – Work Order 1 on the Master Partnership Contract with MnDOT (Robin Caufman 651-602-1457)
4. **2022-105:** METRO Gold Line BRT – Work Order 10 on the Master Partnership Contract with MnDOT (Robin Caufman 651-602-1457, Chris Beckwith 651-302-1994)
5. **2022-160:** METRO Gold Line Administrative Settlement on Parcel 340 (Helmo) (Robin Caufman 651-602-1457)

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Cummings.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-150:** Transit Advertising Revenue Services - Contract 22R006 (Bruce Howard 612-349-7694)

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract 22R006 with Intersection Media LLC, for transit advertising revenue services with a minimum annual guaranteed (MAG) revenue of \$59,650,000.

Cummings asked for clarification on the designations. Cummings asked if expectations were met for the number of RFP responses, Howard said the response was about what was anticipated.

Motion carried, consent to Council.

2. **2022-158:** Blue Line Extension Route Recommendation (Nick Landwer 612-373-3847)

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) take action to advance the proposed route modification for the METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project (“Project”) as outlined in the April 18, 2022 Route Modification Report and to direct staff to proceed with design and additional environmental evaluation.

Chamblis voiced appreciation for the community and displacement engagement.

Motion carried.

3. **2022-134:** METRO E Line – Final Corridor Plan (Kyle O’Donnell Burrows 612-349-7749)

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council approve the Final E Line Corridor Plan to establish the number and location of stations included in the project.

Chair Barber echoed the ongoing commitment to community engagement. Zeran asked for community comments emailed in to be included in the record.

Emails received:

Greetings Chair Barber, I live in Northeast Minneapolis and ride the 11 regularly. I am looking forward to the E-Line transit development happening in our area; and want to write in support specifically of the Hennepin/1st Ave & 2nd St NE stop. The 11 runs along 2nd St NE and having a close connection to the E-Line will make sure that BRT is an effective part of the northeast Minneapolis transit network. The City of Minneapolis supports the proposed corridor and stops, and we should move forward with this stop in place. Thank you, Amity Foster, Ward 3 Minneapolis resident.

Dear Council Member Barber: Thank you for delaying the vote on the proposed E Line BRT bust stop located at 1st Ave and 2nd St NE. The committee had requested clarification on the position of the City of Minneapolis and this letter is intended to do so. I am the elected City Council Member from Ward 3. I ran for office to advance the wishes of the constituents of the Third Ward. It is both the opinion of the citizens I represent and the Minneapolis Department of Public Works Director, Margaret Anderson Kelliher, that the several suggestions given to the Metro Transit staff regarding the bus stop have been ignored. The suggestion included relocating the proposed bus stop on 1st Ave NE and 2nd St NE to 1st Ave NE and 4th St NE where the higher density of transit users live or moving the bus stop on 4th St and Central Ave to 4th St and East Hennepin. This location would also better serve the current and future large apartment buildings. I am surprised at the unwillingness of Metro Transit staff to reconsider their original location. They not only discount the experience of Director Anderson Kelliher, but the suggestion of the citizens who live along 1st Ave NE and experience this physical space daily. When the Green Line LRT stops were being planned, the city of St. Paul and the citizens of the Midway neighborhood objected to the staff recommendation, and the Metropolitan Council saw the wisdom of adjusting the bus stop locations. I ask you to continue that history of wisdom and direct staff to drop the 1st Ave NE and 2nd St NE bus stop and come to agreement with the City of Minneapolis Public Works Director on a location that works for the neighbors and the E Line. Thank you, Michael Rainville, Minneapolis Ward 3 City Council Member.

Chamblis asked about the safety impacts with lane reduction. Cummings noted that the transportation system in the Twin Cities is complex and takes a long-view look. Pacheco shared discussions he had with his constituents. Fredson reiterated that absent an update to their position by the City of Minneapolis, the distance between stops is a deciding factor in his support for the staff recommended location.

Motion carried.

4. **2022-165:** Northstar Corridor Funding Agreement with State of Minnesota Department of



It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Calendar Year 2023 to provide funding for public commuter rail service in Sherburne County, Minnesota, for an amount up to \$1.7 million per year.
- Execute the attached Resolution of the Governing Body (Metropolitan Council) to enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for Calendar Year 2023.

There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

Motion carried, consent to Council.

Information

1. TIP Public Comment Release Notification (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)

Sterner asked about the TAAC, Barbeau said the TIP has never been directly presented to the TAAC but could be done in the future.

2. January-April 2022 Ridership Report (Eric Lind 612-349-7521, John Harper 651-602-1744)

Zeran applauded the ridership increase for Northstar and publicity given to the route. Sterner asked about VanPool updates, Harper responded that they supplement the core services offered so that fixed route services are not duplicated. Chamblis asked about Park and Rides and requested an update. Fredson asked about the impact of gas prices on ridership. Lind said there are many moving pieces, return-to-office, return-to-school, gas prices, so it is difficult to point to an exact change at the moment but transit is often considered by riders because of the challenges of driving alone.

3. Quarter 2 Service Changes and Operator Staffing (Brian Funk 612-349-7514, Adam Harrington 612-349-7797)

Chamblis asked about next steps for hiring. Cummings asked for the ATU objections, Cordes said it was best viewed in terms of financial differences. Zeran commented on the value of frontline workers. Fredson noted that it appeared an operator is brought in at a higher level but then has less of an increase. Fredson asked if the contract restricted the employer from paying employees more, Cordes said that the contracts have a starting pay laid out. Zeran asked about the non-operator union recruitment. Kooistra said other areas are seeing the same recruitment issues, and noted that the operator pool also has to be considered with the timing of recruitment. Cummings asked about the attrition, Harrington said there will be a focus on slowing down attrition. Harrington said the State Fair service package will be the same as last year, which is still a significantly reduced level from before. Sterner asked about former employees.

4. Metro Transit Strategic Plan – Quarter 2 Update (Rachel Dungca 612-349-7536, Lesley Kandaras 612-349-7513, Jim Harwood 612-349-7339, Robin Cauffman 651-602-1457, and Marcy Syman 651-602-1417)

Sterner asked about LED replacement. Harwood said the fixtures are being replaced in entirety and are approaching 85% complete. Fredson asked for clarification on solar panel subscriptions. Harwood said the big difference is the capital up-front costs and there is about an 11% savings, Metro Transit does both. Sterner asked about charging stations for personal vehicles. Community Service Officers have seen a budget increase from about 20 to about 70 but the labor market seems to demand a different solution. Fredson reiterated the need for ATU reasoning for their rejection of the proposals.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of June 13, 2022.

Council Contact:

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary
Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us

