

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: September 26, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Molly Cummings, District 5

John Pacheco, District 6

Raymond Zeran, District 9

Francisco Gonzalez, District 12

Kris Fredson, District 14

Phillip Sterner, District 15

= present

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approved

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

Minutes Approved

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit Chief of Staff Lesley Kandaras introduced Bus Maintenance Manager Bill Beck who presented awards to Mechanic Technicians Mike Prudhomme, Paul Swanson and Jacob Widgren and Bus Maintenance Manager Steve Kaari who presented an award to Mechanic Technician Rocky Richardson.

Reports

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

No report.

Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit Chief of Staff Lesley Kandaras reported on the General Manager's behalf.

Service Changes

To reduce the risk to the reliability of our service amid the ongoing operator shortage, Metro Transit will be reducing service on some routes in October and December. We are about 60 operators short of our ideal number for our current level of service and about 300 operators below 2022 budget levels. On October 15, service will be reduced on five contracted routes and service suspended on two contracted routes. The details of these changes will be communicated to affected customers beginning this week. And on December 3, as part of our quarterly service adjustments, service will be reduced on several routes operated by Metro Transit and under contract. The details of these changes will be published on Metro Transit's

website in late-October.

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)
No report.

Consent Business

There are no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Business

2022-262: 2023 Operating Grant Applications to the Funding Transitway Counties
It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Zeran, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for calendar 2023 grants from the counties of Anoka, Hennepin, Dakota and Ramsey.

Operating (Base and Non-Annual Share)

METRO Blue Line LRT Est. \$14.9M

- Hennepin County - Est. \$14.9M

METRO Green Line LRT Est. \$15.6M

- Hennepin County – Est. \$9.3M
- Ramsey County – Est. \$6.3M

Northstar Commuter Rail Est. \$6.1M

- Anoka County – Est. \$4.9M
- Hennepin County – Est. \$1.2M

METRO Orange Line BRT Est. \$2.7M

- Hennepin County – Est. \$2.3M
- Dakota County – Est. \$0.4M

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. Sterner asked why the Red Line wasn't included or if that was a different grant. Petrie responded that the Red Line is included within the Metro Transit bus operations.

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

Information

Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan

Metro Transit Asset Management Manager Hahn Tran presented this item. Chair Barber asked if any of the suburban transit providers created their own plans. Tran responded that Southwest and MVTA have their own TAM plans that have been approved. Chair Barber asked if both contracted services and Metro Mobility assets are included in the plan. Tran confirmed that both are included. Chamblis asked if we use the federal requirement for the useful life benchmark for the age of equipment of rolling stock. Tran answered that that is based on the fleet replacement plan which has been adopted by the Council.

Regional Solicitation Funding Scenarios



Metropolitan Transportation Services Transportation Planning Manager Steve Peterson presented this item. Fredson asked if we will be able to identify specific projects that were able to be funded because of the infrastructure bill. Peterson responded that that information will be provided on the tables. Chamblis asked if the unique projects category will go away without funding from the legislature. Peterson clarified that this category doesn't need legislative funding, it's up to the TAB and Council to keep funding those projects. Sterner asked if there is a specified amount of funding for projects in Hennepin/Ramsey. Peterson responded that there isn't a formula to distribute the funding but one of the last lenses applied is geographical balance – it just depends on what applications come in. Council members agreed with the TAB guidance on how to use the Carbon Reduction funds. Chair Barber asked that the projects that were funding because of these funds be highlighted. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Charles Carlson stated staff might have TAB accept these projects in a separate action.

2023 to 2028 CIP Presentation

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Capital Programs Nick Thompson, Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Budget Manager Nikolas Hendrickson presented this item. Cummings asked if the bus replacement is based on age, miles or both? Petrie responded that the Metro Transit buses depreciate over 12 years based on the FTA guidelines but that since buses haven't been running as many miles, we may choose to run those buses for 13 to 14 years. Sterner asked that since the electric buses require less technology over time if that will help save money. Thompson stated that it's still an unknown on how the electric bus will change our maintenance needs and the life of the buses and that we currently aren't recognizing savings but that doesn't mean it won't occur. Chair Barber asked if the plan is adjustable to account for the service changes from Metro Transit to MTS. Thompson stated that we can easily adjust this in the CIP.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:35p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of September 26, 2022.

Council Contact:

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