

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: October 10, 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 4:01p.m.

Agenda Approved

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

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Pacheco to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Craig Rutherford addressed the committee regarding their experiences as a family using the transit system.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

No report.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Blue Line Service

Blue Line Service resumed last Thursday morning. Back in July, we closed the Blue Line light rail stops between the airport and Mall of America for planned maintenance. The project took significantly longer to complete than originally planned as staff worked tirelessly to ensure the work met our standards. Thanks to staff for their hard work and to our customers for their patience.

METRO Gold Line Groundbreaking

There will be a METRO Gold Line groundbreaking event on Wednesday, October 19th. All Council Members are invited to attend and received an email from Alicia Vap, with more information. The Gold Line is Metro Transit's first Bus Rapid Transit project to operate primarily in bus-only lanes and will connect Saint Paul to Woodbury.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC)

No report.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-256:** That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #16 (12I021P) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$1,410,545.
2. **2022-257:** That the Metropolitan Council (“the Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #2 (21I147B) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$1,728,837.
3. **2022-258:** That the Metropolitan Council (“the Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #9 (17I024I) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$1,817,309.
4. **2022-259:** That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #8 (14I044H) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$1,814,079.

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Pacheco.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-235:** Title VI Program Update

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council shall approve the 2023-2025 Title VI Program.

Metropolitan Council ADA & Title VI Administrator Guthrie Byard presented this item. Chamblis asked for clarification on the history of the 25% threshold. Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington stated that historically we only looked at an analysis if there was a 25% reduction in service but now, we will look at either a 25 % reduction or a 25 % increase.

Motion carried.

2. **2022-234:** Title VI Disparate Impact and Disproportionate Burden Policy Update

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Zeran, that the Metropolitan Council shall approve the DIB Policy update, including the new threshold.

Metropolitan Council ADA & Title VI Administrator Guthrie Byard presented this item. Pacheco asked if analyses are done when there are service reductions because of lack of operators. Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington responded that in that scenario we are technically exempt from completing the equity analysis but that we still do it anyway. Chamblis stated we are often limited by statues and ridership projections but how could we use the equity analyses to service the populations that have disparate impact. Harrington presented an example where with Orange Line some of the service was within the suburban city of Bloomington – which the initial analysis didn’t showed disparate burden based on the customers who live there but that the analysis doesn’t show where people want to go. Cummings asked what’s the process for doing an alternate analysis and what’s the timing on that. Byard responded that the alternate analysis would be done as soon as we able to do it and most of the work that is done through a contracted vendor. Chamblis asked how often we would collect data that lets us know we’ve hit a threshold. Harrington responded that we use the census data to do the service equity analysis, but we collect the TBI on an alternating schedule – not fresh year to year, more like a 5 to 10 year cycle – unless there is a

particular development where we know there is a particular demographic we are serving/not serving. Pacheco asked if this has gone before the Equity Advisory Committee. Byard stated this will be before that committee next Tuesday.

Motion carried.

3. **2022-269 SW:** 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a total budget of \$6,386,890 and including \$5,109,512 in federal funds; and,
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) planning funds.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Dave Burns presented this item. Chair Barber stated how important these studies are and that they help guide the work that we do.

Motion carried.

4. **2022-255:** METRO Green Line Extension Master Contract II for Bass Lake Spur Freight Rail Maintenance and Repair, Contract 21P143B

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 21P143B, Master Contract II for Bass Lake Spur Freight Rail Maintenance and Repair, to North Shore Track Services, Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$5,172,441.71.

Metro Transit Green Line Extension Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. Chamblis asked how many freight projects the Metropolitan Council has been engaged in and what's the strategy behind having ownership. Alexander responded that we own two freight segments, Kenilworth Corridor and Bass Lake Spur and that the latter was purchased from Canadian Pacific to move the project forward as it was a requirement from Canadian Pacific that we had to purchase/own the segment. Cummings asked if the one bid received fell into the cost parameters staff sets. Alexander answered that staff conducted a cost estimate for this work and the bid was within that.

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

5. **2022-263:** Non-Operator Uniform Contract 16P282B Amendment

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Pacheco, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for Contract 16P282B with Cintas Inc, formerly G&K Services, for Non-Operator Uniform lease and laundry services for a total contract amount not to exceed \$529,307.01.

Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Director Abel Mumbi introduced Bus Maintenance Project Manager Anthony Zessman who presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

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

6. **2022-264:** Non-Operator Uniform Lease and Laundry Services, Contract 21P218

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract 21P218 with City Laundry Co., that will provide garment lease and laundry services for up to 5 years, for up to 750 employee uniforms across 5 different Metro Transit departments in an amount not to exceed \$1,461,544.91.

Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Director Abel Mumbi presented this item. Responding to a



question from Chamblis, Mumbi explained that OEEO set a DBE goal of 1% and the vendor will exceed that to about 4%. Chamblis expressed her appreciation for staff for being able to strategize to allow for more DBE participation with subcontractors. Cummings asked if staff work closely with the vendor. Mumbi responded that part of the reason for the amendment on the previous contract, is to allow time to transition to this new vendor to ensure they have all the information and logistics they need to be successful.

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

Information

1. Quarter 4 Service Changes and Operator Workforce Update

Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington and Interim Deputy Director Garage Operations Amina Wolf presented this item. Sterner asked what the minimum age and driver record is for bus operator applicants. Wolf responded that minimum age is 21 and that applicants can't have more than two tickets or accidents within a 5 year period. Cummings asked that staff provide Council members with a one pager about the bus operator position that they could circulate around. Chamblis asked if the trip planner technology could be updated to allow user to choose a greater distance to find a location where they could get on a bus. Harrington stated he would follow up with Transit Information staff to confirm we could adjust those settings. Chair Barber asked at what point would we be comfortable adding back service. Wolf stated that we would like to see an increase in recruitment numbers and that applicants are increasing steadily. Several Council members thanked staff for their work and the information.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of October 10, 2022.

Council Contact:

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