

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: July 10, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, District 11 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15 |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Vice Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:07 p.m.

Agenda Approved

Vice Chair Chamblis stated there might be potential for comment from a member of the public, but no one was present at the time of the meeting.

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Carter, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2023 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director
No report.
2. Metro Transit General Manager
No report.
3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)
No report.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2023-122:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 231036 with the City of Minneapolis for the City's construction of METRO E Line BRT station platforms in conjunction with the City's Hennepin Avenue South Project in the amount of \$1,700,000.
2. **2023-123:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 231031 with Hennepin County for the County's construction of METRO E Line BRT station platforms in conjunction with the County's Hennepin and 1st

Roadway Improvement Project in the amount of \$725,000.

3. **2023-124:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 231029 with Hennepin County for the County's construction of METRO E Line BRT station platforms in conjunction with the County's University and 4th Roadway Improvement Project in the amount of \$1,670,000.
4. **2023-126:** That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to Contract 21P304 with Hoglund Bus for a price increase of \$4,544,532 for a cumulative not to exceed amount of \$13,152,509.
5. **2023-141:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract 23P161 with Motorola Solutions for the purchase of two-way vehicle radios in an amount not to exceed \$571,000.
6. **2023-156:** That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2023-9 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas funding for the 2023 funding cycle from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to support Transit Link dial-a-ride services for the 2024 calendar year.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone.

Motion carried. (Council Member Cameron was absent at the time of the vote.)

Non-Consent Business

1. **2023-147:** Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Funding Allocation Options for FY 2025-2027.

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to award \$14,518,800 of regional Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) funding for fiscal years 2025 through 2027 along with \$2,481,200 in 2026 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funding to the Carver County Highway 5 Lake Minnewashta & Arboretum and Washington County CR 19A/100th Street projects from the 2022 Regional Solicitation cycle.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Manager Steve Peterson presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Vice Chair Chamblis stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council. (Council Member Cameron was absent at the time of the vote.)

2. Prior to the Transportation Committee's consideration of Business Item **2023-151**, the Committee rescinded Business Item **2023-127** which was previously adopted by the Committee. On June 26, 2023, Business Item **2023-127** was approved by the Committee to authorize the purchase of 6 accessible low floor buses from Model 1, formerly Creative Bus Sales. Before the business item went to the full Council, staff were informed that the company was unable to sell buses in Minnesota. The Committee had to rescind Business Item **2023-127**, before considering Business Item **2023-151**.

Vento made a motion, seconded by Carter, Toni to rescind the previously adopted Business Item 2023-127.

Carter, Toni asked if it's a recent occurrence that this company is unable to sell in Minnesota or has it been the case before. Colton provided the following background: Model 1 has a dealer license with Arboc Bus (the manufacturer); a local Minnesota vendor, North Central Bus, also has a dealer license to sell Arboc buses. When Model 1 went to place an order for the Council buses, Arboc Bus would not allow that order because Model 1's dealer license does not allow it to sell in Minnesota because North Central Bus has a local contract under which the Council can buy the buses. The Council originally worked with Model 1 because 6

months ago North Central Bus stated it was not able to get any low floor buses from Arboc Bus, so that is when staff started to look for other vendors and turned to Creative Bus Sales which did not share at the time or did not know it could not sell in Minnesota. In addition, as of last month, Chevrolet became Buy America eligible which allows vehicles to be built on Chevrolet chassis and meet the Buy America requirements because the Council is using federal funding. This increase in the number of available Chevrolet chassis out in the market allowed Arboc Bus to plan for bus production dates, which allowed Arboc Bus to commit to delivery dates with North Central Bus.

Motion carried.

2023-151: Purchase of 6 Low Floor Small Buses – MVTA

It was moved by Carter, Toni seconded by Dolkar, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with North Central Bus for up to 6 accessible low floor buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Manager Paul Colton presented this item. There were no additional questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Vice Chair Chamblis stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council. (Council Member Cameron was absent at the time of the vote.)

3. **2023-105:** METRO Green Line Extension Systems Construction Change Order and Cumulative Change Order Authority Increase, Contract 17P000

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator through the Green Line Extension (GLE) Council's Authorized Representative to negotiate and execute a change order for Contract 17P000 with Aldridge – Parsons, a Joint Venture (APJV) in an amount not to exceed \$4,524,243.46 for work related to the Traction Power Substation (TPSS) Foundation Design Modification; and that the Council authorize an additional 7.48% (\$14.5 million) to the current 10% (\$19.4 million) cumulative change authority for Contract 17P000 with APJV, resulting in 17.48% (\$34.0 million) cumulative change order authority.

Metro Transit's METRO Green Line Extension Construction Director Nic Dial presented this item. Dolkar asked why the additional change order is needed. Dial explained that originally designed and constructed man-holes for the conduit turned out to be insufficient for the amount of conduit entering into the TPSS; this then required the construction of the basement structures. Dolkar asked for clarification on the current spend down amount. Dial responded that the current authority remaining is the \$4.8M, and we are seeking an additional \$14.5M to add 7.48% to the cumulative change order authority which includes the \$4.5M for the change order for the TPSS Foundation Design Modification.

Motion carried. (Council Member Cameron was absent at the time of the vote.)

4. **2023-132 SW:** METRO F Line – Master Partnership Contract with MnDOT, Work Order #12 (22I003L)

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Work Order #12 (22I003L) issued under 22I003, the Master Partnership Contract ("MPC"), with the Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT"). Under the Work Order, the Council will receive approximately \$2,400,000 from MnDOT for preliminary design services for Trunk Highway 65 to be completed in coordination with the METRO F Line project.

Metro Transit Arterial BRT Project Manager Frank Alarcon presented this item. Carter, Toni asked why design work Highway 65 is being incorporated into the F Line design process but not design work for Highway 47. Alarcon responded that the MnDOT-led planning study narrowed the alternatives to a small universe of alternatives for Highway 65 but that a broader range of alternatives remain under consideration for Highway 47, so MnDOT preferred to lead



that work, which will still be coordinated closely with the F Line project.

Motion carried.

5. **2023-125 SW:** METRO F Line - Engineering and Construction Administration Services, Contract 22P400

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Cameron, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P400 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for engineering and construction administration services for the METRO F Line project and associated roadway improvements in the amount not to exceed \$17,382,828.

Metro Transit Arterial BRT Project Manager Frank Alarcon presented this item. Cameron asked if MnDOT was involved in the procurement process, how the \$2.4 million from MnDOT fits into the overall cost, and if Kimley-Horn has provided engineering and construction administration services for other arterial BRT projects. Alarcon answered that MnDOT was a technical advisor throughout the procurement process, that out of the approximately \$17.4 million contract value, approximately \$2.4 will be funded by MnDOT for preliminary design of Trunk Highway 65 roadway improvements and the remainder will be funded by the F Line project, and that Kimley-Horn is providing engineering and construction administration services for the B Line project.

Motion carried.

6. **2023-137:** METRO Blue Line Extension Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Contract #22P366

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Dolkar, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) Contract #22P366 with Braun Intertec for consultant services for the METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit Extension (BLRT) Project in an amount not to exceed \$616,504.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Capital Program Nick Thompson provided some background and context as an introduction to this item. Metro Transit Project Director Chris Beckwith introduced Compliance Lead Neha Damle who presented this item. Dolkar asked if the Phase I and Phase II work would be on the new route or all alternatives and how long will Phase II last. Damle responded that the work will happen on all routes still being considered and that the field work process will take two months but the report will take a bit of time (contract has a December 2024 end date). Dolkar asked in terms of timeline for when the reports are completed to when engineering phase would start and if the report is used to influence the route choice. Beckwith responded that we are studying all routes, and that this information along with other technical inputs will help determine a final route.

Motion carried.

7. **2023-143:** Northstar Corridor Funding Agreement with State of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) | Resolution 2023-6

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Morales, 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 2024 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 2024.

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. Cameron asked if this was to fund an existing agreement or if it's a new relationship. Petrie responded that this is an annual grant agreement.



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

8. **2023-149:** University of Minnesota Universal Transit Pass for Staff & Faculty

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

Execute a two-year agreement with the University of Minnesota for the Universal Metropass with the University of Minnesota for staff and faculty for the period of August 1st, 2023 to July 31st, 2025, with an option to extend up to one additional year from August 1, 2025 to July 31st, 2026.

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie introduced Revenue Operations Manager Lisa Anderson who presented this item. Vento asked if there are other higher ed or K12 institutions who have expressed interest in something similar. Anderson responded that we do have agreements with Augsburg University, Anoka Tech and some others providing similar pass programs. Anderson added that in addition to Minneapolis K12, we have an additional 38 other high schools in the region that use the student pass program. Cameron asked if we are extending the pass program for staff and faculty in the K12 institutions and if the unions at UofM were involved dint eh discussions. Anderson responded that currently don't have any expressed interest from K12 institutions for a staff/faculty pass and that there were negotiations between UofM and their unions since this is being provided as a benefit. Carter, Tyronne asked if we would do a similar pass for student to which Anderson replied that we currently have student pass program for the UofM students. Vice Chair Chamblis added that this is added automatically during registration for the students.

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

9. **2023-150:** Approve Title VI Fare Equity Analysis for the Transit Fare Elimination Pilot Program

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyronne, that the Metropolitan Council approve the Title VI Fare Equity Analysis for free fares on routes #62 and #32 to be used for the Transit Fare Elimination Pilot Program from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

Metro Transit Revenue Operations Senior Manager Dennis Dworshak introduced TAP Coordinator Andrea Kiepe who presented this item. Dolkar asked if route 32/62 are in the environmental justice zone as defined by the Federal Government to which Kiepe did not know the answer to at the time.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contract Transit Services Manager John Harper and Metro Transit Principal Data Scientist Joey Reid presented this item. Council members and staff discussed how ridership compares to pre covid levels, how we might be able to adjust our internal controls, where we invest, the anticipation of Network Next and how that will shape some of these discussion points.

2. Update on the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Senior Manager Cole Hiniker presented this item. Council members and staff discussed the Safety & Security survey ranking (which includes pedestrian and bike safety), making objectives that are measurable, importance of speaking to the Council's level of commitment with transit projects, removal of the repair & replacement objective and involvement of consulting organizations.



Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:30p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of July 10, 2023.

Approved this 24 day of July 2023.

Council Contact:

Becky Gorell, Recording Secretary
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