

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: August 28, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Tyronne Carter, District 3

Anjuli Cameron, District 5

John Pacheco Jr., District 6

Diego Morales, District 9

Susan Vento, District 11

Toni Carter, District 14

Tenzin Dolkar, District 15

= present

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approved

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

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced Public Facilities Maintenance Supervisor who presented an award to Lead Public Facilities Worker Leaster Holloway.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Highway 610 Groundbreaking

There was recently a groundbreaking event for the next phase of Highway 610 which is primarily the local connections. This is a piece of the transportation system that is coming to completion in part through a \$7M regional solicitation.

Metro Mobility Premium on Demand Service

One provision of the 2023 state transportation bill is to conduct a pilot program for enhanced service availability for the Metro Mobility premium on demand taxi service option. That is a service option different from the base Metro Mobility service. This is a service that about 40k customers used last year but one constraint is the hours of service have matched the Metro Mobility hours in each community. Through the pilot program the hours of service will be expanding to be consistent throughout the region. Also starting September 1st, the subsidy the Metropolitan Council will pay will increase to \$20, instead of \$15. The typical fare that the Metropolitan Council provides is less than \$12. This expansion is happening on a short

timeline, therefore staff negotiated a contract amendment with the current service provider (Transportation Plus) to expand service hours and extend the original contract through the pilot program end date of December 31, 2025.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

State Fair

Staff are busy providing park and ride service to the State fair, along with regular route service and have a presence at the Grandstand and Eco Lab Experience.

Student Passes

Metro Transit will again partner with Minneapolis and St. Paul Public high schools to provide student passes and service to their schools. St. Paul did announce last week they are shifting some of their high schools back to Yellow Bus service. In 2021, a school bus workforce shortage led them to partner with Metro Transit to provide additional service for their students.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Beyond the TAB Summary report, TAB discussed the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) and the work group TAAC is forming on scope change policy and the program year policy.

Consent Business

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2023-197:** Transit Service Intervention Project, Contract 23P116

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Pacheco, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contracts 23P116 A-E that will provide support to people who are turning to transit while experiencing homelessness, suffering from mental illness or facing other challenges in an amount not to exceed \$766,844 as follows:

Organization	Contract Number	Contract Amount
The Link	23P116A	\$229,339
Minnesota Community Care	23P116B	\$156,805
Minnesota CarePartner	23P116C	\$150,000
Mental Health Minnesota	23P116D	\$128,700
We Push for Peace	23P116E	\$100,000

Metro Transit Equity and Inclusion Senior Manager Celina Martina and Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby presented this item. Vento asked that in phase two, staff checkout organizations that assist with seniors experiencing homelessness. Chamblis asked for clarification on what phase two will entail. Martina stated that the legislation on TSIP is very specific to Blue and Green Line light rail and that phase two will be providing similar services. Martina continued that the five contracts for today are all providing direct services onsite and that through the next phase staff will review the other proposers to seek if they meet the criteria to offer outreach/engagement. Jacoby added that staff knew the importance of getting these contracts in place quickly, so the two phase approach is for expediency. Chamblis asked if we planned to spend through the \$2M in phase two and how long this stretches the program. Martina responded that the \$2M is for the entirety of the project, to include the partnerships MTPD is trying to form with other law enforcement agencies; a challenge with that work is that many law enforcement agencies have the same officer



constraints as MTPD. Martina added that the legislation doesn't specify how much of the \$2M must be on law enforcement versus social services and the pilot project has an end date of June 2024.

Motion carried.

2. **2023-190:** Release of the 2024 Regional Solicitation and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for Transportation Project

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to approve the attached Regional Solicitation package, including the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation for 2028-2029 funding (2026-2027 funding for Travel Demand Management and Unique Projects) and to release the solicitation.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Senior Manager Steve Peterson presented this item. Council members and staff discussed the safety related criteria.

Motion carried.

3. **2023-191:** Regional Solicitation Evaluation Consulting Services, Contract 23P026

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P026 with SRF Consulting Group, Inc. for consulting services for the Regional Solicitation Evaluation in an amount not to exceed \$836,207.63.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Senior Manager Steve Peterson 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.

4. **2023-192:** 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program

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

1. Adopt the 2024-2027 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 2024-2027 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Senior Manager Steve Peterson 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.

5. **2023-193:** Smoothed Urban Area Boundary

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyronne, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed smoothed urban area boundary as shown on the attached maps.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Dave Burns presented this item. Carter, Tyronne asked what the tie in for funding is. Burns stated there isn't really a tie in as by law our MPO is the 7 counties, with a special memorandum with Wright and Sherburne County; this is more of an administrative change.

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

6. **2023-194:** 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Highway Projects Amendment

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyronne, that the Metropolitan Council release the attached 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment #2 for public review and comment.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Dave Burns presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Transit Asset Management Update

Metro Transit Transit Asset Management Director Kristin Thompson presented this item. Vento asked if FTA has provided any guidance to climate extremes that are occurring. Thompson stated there is a growing awareness in the assessment management community and industry but there isn't any specific FTA guidance.

2. Transportation System Performance Evaluation

Metropolitan Transportation Services Data Scientist Liz Roten presented this item. Chamblis asked if the vehicles miles traveled (VMT) was just residential. Roten stated that the chart includes all VMT and that this data is from MnDOT. Chamblis stated that if the data was desegregated between residential and commercial, there might be a difference as it relates to gas/pollution. Pacheco asked if this information is used with Metro Transit's assessment management. Metropolitan Transportation Services Research Senior Manager Jonathan Ehrlich stated that Metro Transit would have it's own VMT data that they would use. Chair Barber stated how it'd be interesting to see some of the comp plan data broken up by land



use. Ehrlich stated that staff are working on a very deep dive on VMT right now that should be published in the next month or so.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:58p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of August 28, 2023.

Approved this 11 day of September 2023.

Council Contact:

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