

# Minutes

Transportation Committee



**Meeting date:** February 12, 2024

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** Robert St Chambers

## Members present:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, District 12 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8   | <input type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9    | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15          |
- = 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

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

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

## Reports

### 1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Regional Solicitation: Today we have a printed copy of the list of project applications- at the table here, for the public outside, and posted online. I wanted to share this level of detail today to help provide the full picture of projects proposed for funding. You can get a sense of the projects proposed in your Council district communities, but the real intent is for awareness of the kinds of projects and the breadth of projects around the region. Some press coverage in the last two weeks has focused in on one of the 127 applications - that related to the hyperloop study, and this list hopefully gives the full context of projects that TAB will consider through a competitive process for technical scoring and its subsequent decision making. As I mentioned last time, scoring committees are underway with their work to translate this list to a ranked project list from which funding recommendations would be discussed by the TAB. We anticipate the TAB will take action to recommend a project list to you in July or August.

Metro Mobility: I have an update on the Metro Mobility service area. As you know we have two trip types for Metro Mobility- those within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of all day fixed route transit, and broader areas we serve. These are differentiated as federal ADA paratransit trips versus non-ADA trips. Our full service area is set by state statute. Within that area, on a routine basis we review the Metro Mobility ADA service area to ensure comparability with the fixed route service area. We routinely implement expansions of service that define the ADA area, though contractions of that area- in service hours or geographic changes, occur following longer processes. Last week on February 7 we implemented service changes to the ADA service area to reflect the fixed route network in December 2023. These are now live in our network

tools and online resources, including the interactive trip lookup tool. Most communities have a span of service (hours of day that MM runs) expansion of at least 15 minutes. There is also a small expansion in the geographic area served- primarily in Ramsey County around Shoreview for frequency expanded in 2023. Importantly, the system reflects now expansion as of Dec 2023. It does not reflect any recent contractions- in this case since 2019. These had been paused during the pandemic- just last year we caught up to 2019. We will begin the process of catching up to service areas in two phases. The first phase will reflect permanent changes in the south metro implemented in September 2023. We anticipate the Metro Mobility service area reflecting these changes will take effect Sept. 2024 following a 6-month notice timeline that will formally begin soon. A second phase of changes will take place as Metro Transit's Network Now process continues. If the final outcome of that process includes changes to the Metro Mobility service area, the 6-month timeline for that change would begin after its adoption. Last week MTS presented a Metro Mobility update to the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee which was positively received.

Partnership with State Services for the Blind: Finally, I'm happy to announce a partnership with State Services for the Blind. If you're not familiar, the mission of State Services for the Blind is to facilitate the achievement of vocational and personal independence by Minnesotans who are blind, visually impaired or DeafBlind. Outreach staff from this organization will be a special guest at our quarterly Metro Mobility all providers meeting this week. The outreach coordinator Lisa Larges is a Metro Mobility certified rider who is extremely familiar with our service. Lisa is a subject matter expert on the barriers that people who are blind or have low vision face when accessing transportation. She will discuss her experiences on our system and offer some "tips of the trade" that our drivers can use in their day-to-day interactions. She will then open the floor for questions and candid conversation. This visit will likely be the first of many as we launch a collaborative training partnership with SSB. SSB has have offered to help develop training material and Lisa will be listening for questions and opportunities from the Providers point of view as well as we work to develop training content.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

General Manager Kandaras noted that her items to report are included in the business items. Great Day in Transit is coming up as well as Transit Appreciation Day and Council Members are encouraged to engage.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

There was no TAAC report.

### Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. 2024-31: METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit – Amendment 1 to Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 19I034G with the City of Woodbury (Mike Ullmer 651-602-1957)

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Morales.

Motion carried.

### Non-consent business

1. 2024-34 SW: Adoption of 2024 Safety Performance Targets (Jed Hanson 651-602-1716)

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the following 2024 annual targets for the roadway safety performance measures, which advance a long-term goal of zero deaths:

- Number of all fatalities: no more than 82
- Fatal injuries per 100 million VMT: no more than 0.29



- Number of all serious injuries: no more than 532
- Serious injuries per 100 million VMT: no more than 1.89
- Pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and serious injuries: no more than 131

Vento brought up safety concerns. Chamblis mentioned the hotspot areas in the region. Pacheco noted speed camera options. Director Carlson shared the Transportation Advisory Board concerns around the safety targets being anything other than zero.

**Motion carried.**

2. 2024-47: Cubic Regional Fare Collection System Upgrade Agreement #24P004 (Ed Petrie 612-349-7624, Dennis Dworshak 612-349-7364, Sue Hauge 651-602-1136)

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyronne, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sole source contract 24P004 with Cubic Transportation Systems to upgrade technology and devices including ticket vending machines (TVMs), rail smart card validators (RSVs), Point of Sale systems, as well as handheld inspection devices, new technology smart cards, and spare parts for a regional fare collection system in amount not to exceed \$37.7 million.

Council Members had no questions or comments.

**Motion carried.**

3. 2024-40: METRO Green Line Extension Amendment No. 5 to the TCWR Services Agreement for Flagging Services During Project Construction (Jim Alexander 612-373-3880)

It was moved by Carter, Tyronne, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 5 to Contract 19M152 with Twin Cities & Western Railroad (TCWR) for freight rail flagging services to add \$4.25 million for a total amount not to exceed \$13.75 million.

Council Members had no questions or comments.

**Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated the item could go Consent to Council.**

4. 2024-44: METRO E Line – Cooperative Construction Agreement with Hennepin County for University Avenue / 4th Street SE (Adam Smith 612-349-7160)

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 23I029 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 \$2,550,000.

Cameron inquired about project timelines.

**Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated the item could go Consent to Council.**

5. 2024-46: Trapeze Software Maintenance Agreement, Contract 22P150 (Sue Hauge 651-602-1136, Gretchen White 651-602-1443)

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 22P150 with Trapeze Software Group, Inc., to provide scheduling software in an amount not to exceed \$1,702,555.

Council Members asked about details for the software.

**Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated the item could go Consent to Council.**



1. Ridership Report (John Harper 651-602-1744, Joey Reid 612-349-7535)  
Council Members commented on the data reporting changes in work schedules, and the ridership impacts post-pandemic. Cameron asked for specific information on peer comparison.
2. Quarterly Service Changes and Workforce Update (Adam Harrington 612-349-7797, Brian Funk 612-349-7514)  
Cameron brought up the relationship with the school districts. Pacheco asked about weather impact.
3. Transit Oriented Development (Michael Krantz 612-349-7392)  
Morales asked for more information on constraints for TOD, and Krantz said state bond interests impact whether a private development can take place. Pacheco asked about community engagement. Cameron touched on the importance of learning from other projects. Vento asked about national conversations around TOD.

### **Adjournment**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

### **Certification**

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of February 12, 2024.

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#### **Council contact:**

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