

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: July 22, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Tyronne Carter, District 3

John Pacheco Jr., District 5

Anjuli Cameron, District 8

Diego Morales, District 9

Susan Vento, District 12

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 4:02 p.m.

Agenda approved

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

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced Rail Operations Manager Jake Rooney who presented an award to Senior Rail Supervisor Andrew Watterson.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson reported on MVST, including June actuals.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras reminded Council members of the upcoming transit tours and provided information on Metro Transit Forward.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Peter Dugan reported on the composition of TAB membership, TIP amendment requests and recent agency reports.

4. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

No report.

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. **2024-186 SW:** Streamlined 2024-2027 TIP Amendment Request – MnDOT’s MN 121 and CSAH 22 Improvements Project

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost of MnDOT’s MN 121 mill and overlay project and make a technical correction to its location and add a new project.

2. **2024-187 SW:** 2024-2027 TIP Amendment Request – I-94 Bridge Over Wright County Road 19

Proposed Action: MnDOT requests an amendment to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost and move the year of MnDOT’s I-94 bridge construction over County Road 19 in Wright County.

It was moved by Morales seconded by Carter, Tyrone.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. **2024-122 SW:** METRO Blue Line Extension (BLE) – Authorize Municipal Consent Joint Public Hearing

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council:

- Authorize a joint Municipal Consent public hearing with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and Hennepin County on August 24 26, 2024, at 6:00pm at NorthPoint Health and Wellness Conference Center, 1256 Penn Avenue N, Suite 5200, Minneapolis, MN 55411 to discuss the physical design components of the preliminary design plans for the METRO Blue Line Extension light rail transit project; and

- Direct staff to prepare Blue Line Extension Municipal Consent Plans and submit them to Hennepin County and the cities of Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Capital Programs Nick Thompson presented this item. Chair Barber asked if there is a role for Council members to play at the public hearing. Thompson stated all Council members are invited to participate and that it’s a space for them to receive comments from the public. Thompson added that the public hearing will be co-chaired by Chair Zelle and a Hennepin County Commissioner. Cameron and Chamblis stated how important this step and public engagement is for this project.

Motion carried.

***The date in the motion was incorrect when passed by Transportation Committee. The date was updated before business item was presented at the July 24, 2024 Council meeting.**

2. **2024-153:** METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit - Vehicle Use and Guideway Maintenance Agreements with Washington County

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Vehicle Use and Guideway Maintenance Agreements (“VUMAs”) #24I000 and #24I031 with Washington County (“County”) for snow removal and maintenance of the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Gold Line Project”) guideway for a total not to exceed amount of \$6,000,000.

Metro Transit Gold Line Project Director Alicia Vap introduced Agreements Specialist Mike Ullmer who presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.



3. **2024-167:** Pocket Schedule Printing, Warehousing & Distribution, Contract 24P009

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract 24P009 with SeaChange Printing & Marketing Services, LLC for pocket schedule printing, warehousing and distribution services in an amount not to exceed \$975,940.

Metro Transit Transit Information Assistant Manager Jacob Brown presented this item. Carter, Toni asked what the term of the contract was. Brown stated it is a three-year contract, with 2 one-year options to extend.

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

4. **2024-178:** METRO Green Line Extension BNSF Construction Agreement, Contract 17M155 – Purchase Order Increase

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to increase the Purchase Order value associated with contract 17M155 with BNSF Railway for the Freight Rail Coordination Agreement – Construction Phase to add \$2,360,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$8,797,000.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Capital Programs Nick Thompson 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. **2024-179:** METRO Green Line Extension Master Utility Agreement with CenterPoint Energy, Contract 16M143 – Amendment 4

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to contract 16M143 with CenterPoint Energy to add \$200,000 for a total contract value not to exceed \$1,415,000.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Capital Programs Nick Thompson 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. **2024-190:** METRO Green Line Extension Cubic Transportation Systems Fare Collection - Contract 24P214

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute sole source contract 24P214 with Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc., for the purchase of 46 ticket vending machines, 75 rail smart card validators, and handheld inspection devices and spare parts in an amount not to exceed \$6,622,370.56.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Capital Programs Nick Thompson presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

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

7. **2024-132:** Regionally Significant 2024-2027 TIP Amendment Request – US 10 Expansion Project

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a regionally significant project expanding US 10 from two lanes to three lanes in Coon Rapids.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planner Robbie King presented this item. Cameron asked if the noise issues raised in the public comments were discussed at TAAC or TAB.

King stated that this wasn't discussed at either committee and Metropolitan Transportation Service Executive Director Charles Carlson added that the scope of the project does include noise walls in some areas.

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

8. **2024-180 SW:** Microtransit Service, Contract 24P029

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Schmitt & Sons Transportation Inc. to provide Microtransit services in an amount not to exceed \$60,645,500.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager of Contracted Transportation Services John Harper presented this item. Carter, Toni asked if the agency had looked at partnering with Uber/Lyft in some way. Harper responded that many transit agencies partner with Uber/Lyft but we haven't as we aren't at that point. Cameron asked about flexibility with the two sites within the terms of the contract. Harper stated this revolves around a bigger conversation/study (Network Now) and Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras confirmed that this information about Network Now will come before the committee in August or September. Harper added that communication will potentially be complicated regarding the differences in the two sites and that the agency could possibly implement a fixed route filter around the metro zone. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Charlson added that information about the launch and communication regarding the project will be brought back to the committee closer to the launch. Carter, Toni asked about what happens the application has an outage. Harper stated we will have an option for customers to call in for their ride, but network downtime could be a significant risk and that this will be reviewed for each software vendor who submits a proposal.

Motion carried.

9. **2024-192 JT:** Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Release for Public Comment

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Pacheco, that the Metropolitan Council release the draft Imagine 2050 Transportation Policy Plan for public review and comment.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Manager MTS Planning Cole Hiniker presented this item. Chari Barber thanked staff and Council members for their work on this. There were no questions from Council members.

Motion carried.

Information

1. State Fair Service, Workforce and Quarterly Service Changes Update
Metro Transit Manager Street Operations Antionette Brasson, Market Development Specialist Jessica Cross, Service Development Assistant Director Erin Mitchell and Deputy General Manager/Chief Operating Officer Brian Funk presented this item. Council members discussed impacts on traffic transit options have made and the selection process for Express park and rides.
2. Light Rail Training Overview
Metro Transit Rail Training Development Manager Ona Pradhan presented this item. Council members discussed partnerships with colleges, CDL training and opportunities for advancement or career opportunities for operators.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of July 22, 2024.

Council contact:

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