

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: September 9, 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 4:01 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 Carter, Toni to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson reported on the Safe Streets for All Program.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras provided a recap of State Fair service and reminded Council members about the Outstanding Operators Awards brunch next Wednesday, September 18.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

No report.

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. **2024-188 JT SW:** 2024 Budget Amendment – 3rd Quarter

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2024 Unified Budget amendment as indicated, and in accordance with, the attached tables.

2. **2024-195:** Metro Mobility on Demand Services, Contract 19P049A – Amendment 4

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment for contract 19P049A with Transportation Plus to add \$1,500,000 for a total contract value not to exceed amount of \$6,226,754.

3. **2024-230 SW:** Streamlined TIP Amendment Request: MnDOT's University Avenue Improvements Projects in Fridley and Blaine

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 47 (University Avenue) improvements project in Fridley and Blaine.

4. **2024-231 SW:** Streamlined 2024-2027 TIP Amendment Request – MnDOT MN 3 Video Analytics Pilot

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add MnDOT's new video analytics pilot project for MN 3 (Robert Street) in West St. Paul.

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Pacheco.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. **2024-219:** 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

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

1. Adopt the 2025-2028 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 2025-2028 TIP along with public comments to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

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

Motion carried.

2. **2024-236:** Signature Authority for MVTA Microtransit Vehicles and Accessories and SWT Mobility Hub

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute two grant agreements with Replacement Service Providers (Suburban Transit Providers) as follows:

- To Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for Microtransit Vehicles and Accessories, including technology, bike racks, decals, etc., in the amount of \$554,000.
- To SouthWest Transit (SWT) for the lease and operation of vans for the SouthWest Transit Prime Service in the amount of \$4,591,000.

Metropolitan Council Transportation Services Grants Manager Nicole Clapp 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.

3. **2024-193:** METRO G Line – Authorization to Release Recommended Corridor Plan for Public Comment

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Council authorize release of the METRO G Line Recommended Corridor Plan for public review and comment; and direct staff to collect public comments through Friday, October 25, 2024, summarize comments, and report the findings to the Metropolitan Council.

Metro Transit Planner Laura Greteman presented this item. Dolkar asked why the line doesn't extend out to Inver Grove Community College. Greteman stated that the population density is much lower further south into Inver Grove and BRT service is focused on higher density areas. Greteman added that local routes in that area would be looked at for potential increase in service or potential for Micro transit. Dolkar asked if bus only lanes are being proposed, to which Greteman responded that there is no proposed bus only lanes. Dolkar asked why staff even evaluated stops mid-block if that's not a standard in BRT planning. Greteman stated that staff wouldn't recommend a mid-block station but sometimes it gets challenging trying to balance all factors, and it can be worth an evaluation. Chair Barber stated that staff receive public comments from business and communities regarding stations (including mid-block), so staff evaluate all options. Greteman to provide Council members more information about demographics of the community the G Line serves.

Motion carried.

4. **2024-203:** Bus Hardware Upgrade Phase II, Contract 24P223

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 24P223 with Vontas to



Metro Transit Bus Administration Assistant Director Mike Heuchert presented this item. Dolkar asked why this is a sole source contract. Heuchert stated it must work with the current software, and that's proprietary. Chair Barber asked if feedback has been received about the new software. Heuchert responded that feedback from operations has been positive and having the turn-by-turn directions for the new operators if very helpful.

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

5. **2024-204 SW:** Disposition of Chicago-Lake Transit Center

Metro Transit Senior Planner Sonja Burseth and Metropolitan Council Real Estate Director Kelly Jameson presented this item. Several Council members expressed concern about demolishing the structures or leaving the site without creating something to enhance the community. Council members discussed a desire to explore additional options as it relates to the demolition of the building; potentially partnering with other entities to repurpose the structure or if demolished create a garden or community site. Jameson and Burseth stated that the easement Metro Transit has is very specific and nontransferable, MEC owns the land, and any future plans would be at the discretion of MEC. Pacheco stated there are more opportunities with the structures demolished, as a cleaner site make the land more attractive. Carter, Tyronne asked what the expiration date was on the easement. Jameson stated the easement is perpetual and the only way to end is to terminate the easement with MEC.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Carter, Tyronne that Committee consideration of business item 2024-204 SW be postponed to the Committee's next meeting on September 23, 2024.

Motion carried, with Chair Baber and Vento voting against.

6. **2024-215 SW:** Public Hearing on Proposed Network Now Concept Plan Service Expansion and Discontinuation of Suspended Routes

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes a public hearing to accept comments on the proposed Network Now Concept Plan service expansion and discontinuation of suspended routes.

Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington presented this item. Dolkar asked that staff consider adding virtual options, extending some meeting dates into November and expanding meeting locations to communities outside of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Dolkar asked how the areas for Micro transit were selected. Harrington stated that Network Now focuses on how we provide access from communities into the transit corridors and the service areas are just placeholders. Harrington added that conversations haven't occurred with communities about the specifics of the service area. Chamblis asked about the phased implementation looks like. Harrington stated the goal is to advance two additional Micro transit service areas per year but depends on the available workforce.

Motion carried.

7. **2024-220 SW:** Authorization to Purchase Property – Material Management Storage Building

It was moved by Dolkar, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase the property at 755 Industrial Boulevard in Minneapolis, from Alcat Broadway LLC, for the purpose of material warehousing for Metro Transit Material Management Group in an amount not to exceed \$26,500,000.

Metro Transit Facilities Engineering Assistant Director Jim Harwood presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Asset Management Update



Metro Transit Asset Management Director Kristin Thompson presented this item. Vento and Chair Barber thanked staff for this important work and update.

2. Purple Line Project Update

Metro Transit Purple Line Project Manager Craig Lamothe presented this item. Council members thanked Lamothe and staff for their continued dedication and work to this project.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of September 9, 2024.

Council contact:

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