

GENERAL MANAGER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

1. Beginning today, September 23, every Metro Transit Northstar train will provide an area offering complimentary Wi-Fi service for customers. New graphics have been applied to the cab cars designating them as the location for free customer Wi-Fi. Each train will have one cab car with the service. Customer usage and feedback will be monitored, but Metro Transit plans to offer this service ongoing in an effort to attract even more new riders. Testing of Wi-Fi service will also continue on other transit modes, and staff will report back to the committee periodically on progress.
2. Metro Transit welcomed three more employers to the Metropass program this month. The largest of the three is Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), which has nearly 6,000 teachers and staff eligible for the unlimited-ride pass. The two other Minneapolis companies are Black Hills IP, which provides intellectual property paralegal services, and Greenspring Media, a magazine publishing firm. With the addition of these three companies, Metropass is available to 185,534 commuters at 274 employers in the Twin Cities. As of September 1, there were 33,027 cards in use.
3. The multi-modal transportation hub known as The Interchange project has officially been named Target Field Station. The naming was announced last week as Hennepin County, Metro Transit, the Minnesota Twins, United Properties and Target Corporation concluded months of negotiations over the site that will serve as a hub for the METRO Green Line, METRO Blue Line and Northstar. Systems testing is scheduled to continue into early next year. The facility is expected to open in Spring 2014.
4. Testing continues on the METRO Green Line, with trains scheduled to run between Prior Avenue and Chatsworth Street. Clearance testing occurs during daytime hours, and energized train testing occurs in evening and overnight hours. No street, sidewalk or crosswalk closures are planned.
5. Metro Transit's annual Bus Roadeo continues through Thursday, September 26. This is a friendly safety skills competition in which 120 bus operators volunteered to take a timed run through a course which requires demanding maneuvers. Council members are, as always, welcome to come and be part of the event – either watching or driving – at the Como Transit Station near the state fairgrounds.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported the following:

1. Installation of Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) has been completed on the Metro Mobility fleet. The two primary providers, Transit Team and First Transit, are now fully operational with the new system. Among the many benefits of the new technology is the improvement in emergency radio frequency usage. Compared to levels recorded in July, emergency radio usage by the Metro Mobility vehicles has been reduced by over 50 percent. The new system also enables customers to be notified shortly before their transportation arrives.
2. On September 30 the Federal Transit Administration will be in St. Paul to conduct a Civil Rights Compliance audit of the Metro Mobility program. This is the first civil rights audit that the service has undergone, and Metro Mobility staff has provided FTA with advance information as well as notifying providers that auditors will be observing the reservation process and customer interaction as part of their review. The results of the audit will be reported to this committee at a future meeting.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

Staff noted that the reference to CY 2013 in the Rationale section of the business item should be corrected to read CY 2014. A motion was then made by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

2013-271: CTIB 2014 Project Grant Applications Consistency with the 2030 TPP

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council finds the seven project grant applications (summarized in the Attachment) submitted to the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for CY 2014 funding to be consistent with the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan adopted November 2010.

Non-Consent Items

2013-270 SW: Authorization to release 2013 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) CMAQ Solicitation MTS Planner Katie White presented the item. CM Elkins inquired about the kinds of projects that might be proposed. Staff responded that they are not aware of specific projects yet, since most potential applicants are keeping their plans to themselves; however, it is anticipated that at least one application will be for a new technology or smart phone app. CM Munt commented that she hoped we “dared to fail” by selecting truly innovative projects.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt that the Metropolitan Council authorize the release of a 2013 Transportation Demand Management CMAQ solicitation.

Motion passed.

2013-249: Approval of the 4th Quarter Capital Budget Amendment to the 2013 Unified Capital Budget Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and MTS Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2013 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the table attached to the business item.

Motion passed.

2013-267: Maplewood Mall Parking Structure Design Contract Amendment, Contract #09P202

Mark Leemon, Lead Project Manager for Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, presented the item. CM Brimeyer asked whether these types of failures/repairs are common. Staff responded that they are; the only reason Council approval is required is that the amendment exceeds 10% of the original contract amount

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to a professional services contract for design and construction support services relative to the Maplewood Mall Transit Center Parking Structure in Maplewood, at a cost of \$12,297.90.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2013-272: Nicollet Garage Transportation Area Renovation Contract Amendment, Contract #12P203

Joe Edwards, Lead Project Manager for Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to the professional services contract 12P203 with Kodet Architectural Group, LTD. in the amount of \$49,360.72.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

INFORMATION

1. GreenRide/Carpool to Work Month

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Director of Marketing and Customer Services, and TDM Program Administrator Tony Drollinger provided an overview of the history and goals of Metro Transit’s carpooling program as well as a demonstration of its rideshare-matching software features.

2. Disposition of Snelling Avenue Site

Marilyn Porter, Metro Transit Director of Engineering and Facilities, introduced Facilities Planning Manager Maurice Roers, who presented the item. Roers provided background and location information for the site and outlined planning priorities, potential options for disposition and next steps in the process.

3. Proposed 2014-2019 Transit Capital Improvement Plan

Brian Lamb and Arlene McCarthy presented the 2014-2019 capital improvement plan for both regular transit and contracted services. They reviewed plan priorities, funding sources, long-term funding issues and next steps in the CIP process.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.