

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

April 9, 2018

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

**Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Deb Barber, Steve Elkins, Lona Schreiber**

**Committee Members Absent: Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman, Cara Letofsky, Marie McCarthy, Jennifer Munt, Edward Reynoso**

**TAB Liaison Present:**

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. on Monday, April 9, 2018 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN. Business items will be heard and sent to Council with no recommendations.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Due to the absence of a quorum, no motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2018 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee.

#### METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

##### Legislative Update

The legislature is now back in session after a holiday break last week. The bill related to the Metro Mobility Task Force recommendations is still moving forward through the legislature.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

##### National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

This week marks National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. At Metro Transit, we have a staff of more than 30 telecommunicators who have dedicated themselves to being the link between callers who may need emergency assistance and our emergency responders. In 2017 alone, they handled more than 65,000 calls to help our operators, riders and the communities we serve. Those included "routine" calls generated by bus operators, our Rail Control Center, riders, community members or self-generated calls by our Metro Transit Police Officers. There also might be an emergency where our telecommunicators are the calming voice needed in that moment. Our telecommunicators will be recognized by their managers and supervisors on Thursday, but this week is a good reminder for all of us of the vital link they represent to our entire organization and our riders throughout the year.

##### Rail Rodeo

We all have seen the great job our METRO light rail operators do for millions of riders each year, sometimes under challenging conditions. Well, on an annual basis we also get to see those operators compete to see who is the best of the best during the Rail Rodeo competition. This year the competition will be held Saturday, April 21 starting at 8 a.m. Judges observe operators in out-of-service trains and completing tasks in the rail yard. Operators also are judged during a uniform inspection, written exam and vehicle inspection.

The winners of the Metro Transit Rail Rodeo are then eligible to compete at the International Rail Rodeo hosted by the American Public Transit Association.

If any Council Members would like to see parts of the competition, let us know and we can make those arrangements.

### Metro Transit Officer of the Year

Some of you were able to come to the MTPD awards ceremony and hear about some of the great work our Metro Transit officers do. One thing we are always working to do is share with our colleagues, our riders and the communities we serve the human side of Metro Transit. We are more than buses, trains, uniforms and badges. We know we are built on the hearts and souls that lie beneath all our uniforms. This year's Metro Transit Officer of the Year is a perfect example of that. He works not for recognition but to make sure that others are safe. In his off-duty hours, he's a football coach in the community. If you haven't seen it, this video that our staff put together allows Officer Tim Lawrence to tell his story himself.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

1. **2018-69:** Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds, Resolution 2018-2

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2018-69 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to support Transit Link service.

### **Non-Consent Items:**

1. **2018-86:** Agency Contract 2018-2023

Metropolitan Transportation Services Metro Mobility Senior Manager Christine Kuennen presented this item. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson stated that when contracts are issued they are competitively bid and follow state and federal laws, as well as Metropolitan Council procurement policies. Thompson said the business item being presented is the result of this process, and that the process includes expert panels including both Met Council staff and partner agencies. Teamsters Local 120 Director of Politics and Organizing Paul Slattery spoke and stated they estimate nearly 100 teamster jobs will be lost by the agency contract being awarded to Transit Team. Slattery said driver retention/driver continuity is an issue when interacting with vulnerable adults. Slattery wants to know if Transit Team will retain current drivers, and if driver pay and benefits will be impacted. Slattery's closing statement was that, "We view any move forward with this agenda item as a layoff of our drivers because there is no guarantee what's going to happen to these drivers who currently have a relationship with the vulnerable adults." Teamster 120 Secretary-Treasurer Bill Wedebrand said Teamster Local 120 has around 850 First Transit employees. Wedebrand asked if Transit Team will acknowledge the contract that has been negotiated with the First Transit members. First Transit General Manager for Agency Contract Tim Ogren said First Transit on-time performance rate is 99.6% and that First Transit has a record of a highly effective management and care for Metropolitan Council vehicles, and a positive vehicle safety record. Ogren stated that First Transit is questioning how another provider can do the work for 4 million dollars less than the bid First Transit submitted. Ogren wondered if the driver deadhead costs were not accurately attributed in the analysis. Ogren also stated that he thinks the ridership information the Metropolitan Council provided was not specific as it only had zip codes to use to determine deadhead costs.

Transit Team President & CFO Michael Richter responded to comments expressed, noting that Transit Team operated the agency contract prior to First Transit's current contract. Richter said he found that there was ample information provided by the Council and that Transit Team had done a significant amount of cost analysis to understand the true cost of the service. Richter also stated that this is a new contract, not the existing agency contract, but modified and adjusted to the scope of the ADA service area. Richter said Transit Team's performance rate is also excellent, at 99% on-time for pick up and 93% on-time for appointment times. Richter said it was and is their intention to retain as many of the current qualified drivers as possible – interviewing the drivers, discussing hours, shifts, and roles as part of the new contract. Richter said drivers would be transitioned in at their current rate and with their year of seniority, and will then receive pay increases which he says are well above the Teamster rates. Richter said Transit Team's compensation increase is \$1 per hour for every year of service. Richter said the highest compensated driver is currently receiving over \$31 an hour and they feel confident in their ability to retain qualified drivers.

Barber asked if the demand providers would remain both First Transit and Transit Team. Kuennen answered that yes, that would remain the same since this changes the agency contract, not the demand contract. Barber asked what concerns were expressed from different agencies. Kuennen responded that the main concern was the transition that would happen, and Kuennen stated that Council staff will be meeting with agencies one by one to go over the transition. Rodriguez asked if the minimum wage was \$16, Kuennen affirmed this is correct. Rodriguez asked if there is a formal protest process. Metropolitan Council Contracts and Procurement Manager Jody Jacoby stated that the formal protest process is outlined in the Request for Bids, bidders have 5 days after Council action to submit their protest. Jacoby added that after bids are awarded, the Council works with bidders to review their bids and strengthen their future bids. Rodriguez commented that she appreciates the desire for driver continuity and at the same time, the competitive process procurement is the best practice to follow. Kuennen added that three agencies are being added to this agency contract that are currently being served by Transit Team on the demand contract, so had First Transit been awarded the agency contract, some customers would still have had a transition of drivers.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Transit Team to provide the Metro Mobility Agency Service from October 1, 2018 to June 30, 2023 with an option for one additional year in an amount not to exceed \$31,819,812.8.

Due to no quorum at the meeting, Chair Rodriguez stated this item will proceed to full Council without a recommendation from the Transportation Committee.

## 2. **2018-81:** I35W @ I94 MnDOT Funds for Transit

Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington, Metro Transit Field Operations Assistant Director Dave Hanson, and Metro Transit Service Development Assistant Director Kristin Thompson presented this item.

Barber asked how the number split is determined. Harrington said that this was an estimated number that they esteemed to be equitable between the two agencies. Barber asked if it is renewable with new funding or as an extension. Harrington answered that the agreement is renewable from MnDOT from their existing funding source. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson said that MVTA can be invited to present their added services at a future Transportation Committee meeting. Chair Rodriguez voiced her appreciation for MnDOT support.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Execute an agreement 18I023 with MNDOT to receive \$3 million for support of increased transit service during 35W@94 Downtown to Crosstown project construction.
- Develop and execute an agreement with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority for \$1.1M. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority will use funds for support of increased transit service during 35W@94 Downtown to Crosstown project construction.

Due to no quorum at the meeting, Chair Rodriguez stated this item will proceed to full Council without a recommendation from the Transportation Committee.

### 3. **2018-80 JT:** 2018 Budget Amendment – 1st Quarter

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Agesen-Huebner presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2018 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Due to no quorum at the meeting, Chair Rodriguez stated this item will proceed to full Council without a recommendation from the Transportation Committee.

### 4. **2018-87:** METRO Blue Line Extension – Capital Grant Amendments with Hennepin County

Metro Transit Transit Systems Development Director MarySue Abel presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute two amendments: Amendment 2 to the 2017 Capital Grant Agreement with Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) and Amendment 1 to the Cooperative Funding Agreement (CFA) for Engineering Phase with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA).

Due to no quorum at the meeting, Chair Rodriguez stated this item will proceed to full Council without a recommendation from the Transportation Committee.

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. East 7<sup>th</sup> Street Limited Stop – Route 54 Extension

Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington presented this item.

Elkins asked if this extension is close to the future Rushline corridor. Harrington answered that White Bear is further east than the Rushline corridor.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Jenna Ernst  
Recording Secretary