

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

April 10, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

**Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Steve Elkins, Jennifer Munt, Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman, Edward Reynoso, Marie McCarthy**

**Committee Members Absent: Lona Schreiber**

**TAB Liaison Present: none present**

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by McCarthy to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Reynoso to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### TAB LIAISON REPORT

Chair Rodriguez reported from the TAB. She shared an item regarding Regional Solicitation Overprogramming with the councilmembers. This item is scheduled to go to TAB for action on 4/19. Members had no questions about the item.

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

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. March MVST Report

The March MVST report showed MVST coming in a little bit above the forecast. MVST was at 101.69%.

2. Legislature

The Legislature is in a recess this week; staff are watching closely to see if they have formed their committee to get the House and Senate bills together.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Metro Transit Award

Lamb shared an award that Metro Transit received from the National Transit Institute for "Model Program of the Year" for the Metro Transit Technician Program (Information Item 1 on the agenda today).

2. Metro Transit Police

Metro Transit Police Department is working with the City of Minneapolis on quality of life issues, particularly on Hennepin Avenue. MTPD is also participating in the Safe Zone Program with the city and county. The Warehouse District platform near an area with a lot of bars and establishments and patrons do not always practice safety around the LRT platform at the close of business. Metro Transit has installed barriers for safety

(as a pilot, leading to a long-term safety enhancement plan) to direct people to the ends of the platforms.

### 3. Light Rail Shutdowns

LRT was shut down last weekend in downtown Minneapolis in order to repair two sections of broken rail and reconfigure a section of the old power supply near the US Bank Stadium. Buses replaced LRT during the shutdown. This is a precursor to a 10-day shutdown that will occur later this summer.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

There were no consent items on the agenda.

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

#### 1. 2017-85: Contract Award for Bloomington, Edina, and Roseville Transit Service

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Services John Harper presented this item. Harper stated that the contract also includes Maplewood. Harper answered questions from committee members regarding who is the current vendor for the contract (First Transit), process for transitioning to the new vendor, and discussion about how the contract might be adjusted if the Council reduces or increases contract hours beyond the limits of contract terms.

Motion by Commers, seconded by McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Schmitt & Sons, Inc. to provide regular route local transit service within the Bloomington, Edina, and Roseville regular route transit service contract from July 30, 2017 through July 30, 2022 in an amount not to exceed \$24,600,000.

Motion passed with three votes against.

#### 2. 2017-75: Approve West End and Route 9 Recommended Plan, including the Title VI Service Equity Analysis

Metro Transit Senior Planner Steve Mahowald presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the West End and Route 9 Recommended Plan, including the Title VI Service Equity Analysis.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

#### 3. 2017-74 JT: Authorization to Amend the 2017 Unified Budget

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented their respective division's amendments to the 2017 Unified Budget.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (Multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the Capital Program – Attachment #1 (Program Level).

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 Unified Budget – Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with the spreadsheet in Operating Budget – Attachment #2.

Motion passed.

(attachments are part of Business Item 2017-74)

#### 4. 2017-84 SW: Authorization for public hearings on regional transit fares; approval of public hearing content for potential fare adjustments

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull and Metropolitan Council Manager of Public Involvement Michelle Fure presented this item. Eull reminded members that this item is to approve proposed options for public hearing purposes, it is not yet approving a fare increase. Letofsky asked whether fares would have to be increased again once the legislature acts – if there is a higher deficit. Eull said there is some flexibility built in to these proposals and there is hope for an indication from the Legislature about funding during the public comment period. Eull said that information about ridership decrease projections will be part of the information shared at the public meetings. Letofsky suggested pulling Councilmembers in to attend the pop-up meetings that are planned. Eull said that is the intent. Fure said that Communications will work with Suburban Transit Providers and Metro Transit operations and Police to plan where and when to share information at the busiest stations. Munt asked how the message will be framed to the public, that a part of the need for increasing fares is due to a lack on the legislature’s part to provide a stable funding source for transit. Fure said that they are working with the facts as they are now, and information will be conveyed about the impacts to riders – how it will affect them personally. CM’s will be briefed on the messages prior to the meetings. Dorfman asked if there was any sense of the amount of ridership decrease there may be to Metro Mobility due to an increased fare. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson said that ridership may flatten out because riders may choose to take less discretionary trips, but ridership would most likely grow again after awhile.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize a series of public meetings on potential fare adjustments for regular route transit, dial-a-ride transit and paratransit services operated and/or funded by the Metropolitan Council (including Metro Transit, Metro Mobility, and suburban transit providers, and
2. Approve information scheduled to be presented at public hearings and public meetings for the purpose of public comment and input prior to adoption of any fare adjustments.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

### **1. MTT Program Update**

Metro Council EO Consultant III Gary Courtney presented an update on the Metro Transit Technician Program.

### **2. Police HQ/Heywood Campus Update**

Metro Transit Assistant Director Facilities Engineering Pat Jones and Metro Transit Police Assistant Director Security/Police Services AJ Olson presented an update on the Metro Transit Police Headquarters/Heywood Campus.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.