

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

October 23, 2017

LOCATION: Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

**Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Steve Elkins, Lona Schreiber, Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman**

**Committee Members Absent: Jennifer Munt, Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso**

**TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan**

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:06pm on Monday, October 23, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

#### APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Rodriguez asked to amend the agenda to have a brief presentation by members of the public after the Employee Recognition. Motion by Elkins, seconded by Schreiber to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following, who presented recognition awards to employees:

Metro Transit Manager Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Technical Support Mike Joyce presented to Metro Transit Senior Engineer David Haas.

Metro Transit Director Bus Transportation Christy Bailly introduced Metro Transit Assistant Transportation Manager Mikey Young who presented to Metro Transit Bus Operator Stepfon Killingsworth.

Three individuals from the public (Joanne Hager, Deb Fitzpatrick, Dr. Heidi Wagner) addressed the Committee in regard to increasing the goal percentage for women working in the labor force on SWLRT construction.

#### TAB LIAISON REPORT

Peter Dugan relayed the following information from the last TAB meeting:

Change in Executive Committee bi laws to include an additional citizen representative, that provides a balance between elected and non-elected representatives.

Final information primer on regional solicitation; highlights include:

- Roadway Reconstruction & Modernization: two to three lane conversions of roads with a turn lane, is considered modernization not expansion.
- Transit Modernization: travel time reliability is thought to be highest priority and will move to top of scoring.
- Maintenance facilities and garages for Metro Transit will still be eligible for funds.

- Policy matter discussion on funding suburban routes – should it be set aside or should funding go to highest ridership and potential for growth. TAB asked for recommendation from TAC.
- Autonomous vehicles were asked to be considered.
- Multiuse Trail & Bike: TAB made a requirement that all recipients of multiuse trail & bikes funds must commit to clearing trails and show a plan.
- Risk assessment – workgroup to consider several items; key item is applicant must submit plan that is approved by the sponsor and jurisdiction and applicant pledges to cover nonfederal costs.
- Equity – TAB asked for increased recognition of community engagement outreach and negative project elements.

Metro Transit Lt. Johnson presented on MTPD plans for Super Bowl coverage.

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

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

### Metro Mobility Task Force

Have had third meeting, which included the completion of informational background on service, requirements and how different providers work. Next, subgroups will be formed to work on proposal. Task Force is required to come up with at least 3 service models and a report by February about how Metro Mobility will be provided.

### Congested Management Committee

Newly formed committee that includes staff from each county, MnDOT, FHWA and some major cities. First meeting was a couple weeks ago with the next meeting next month. This is an outgrowth from the Federal Review of our planning processes.

### Allocation Policy for Regional MVST

Thursday staff will meet again with suburban transit providers where we will present the proposal for a new allocation policy for regional MVST. This will be the third and most likely last meeting. Next step would be to present to policy makers.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

### MPTA Awards

The Minnesota Public Transportation Association presented two awards to Metro Transit employees at their annual conference last week in St. Cloud. Retiree Renee Stafford, who retired in June, was named Minnesota Bus Operator of the Year. After 41 years of service, Stafford retired as our longest-serving female operator. She spent the last seven years of her career on Route 9, where she was beloved by many of her longtime customers. MPTA also presented Metro Transit a Management Innovation award for our app, which was introduced last November. App usage has grown about 30 percent a month over the past year and has generated more than \$400,000 in fare sales in 2017 alone.

### Light Rail Construction

Light rail service will be suspended on portions of the Green and Blue lines this weekend as improvements in downtown Minneapolis begin to wrap up. Buses will replace trains from 6:30 p.m. Friday through 3:30 a.m. Monday between Target Field Station and the Franklin Avenue and Raymond Avenue stations. Suspending light rail service will allow construction crews to install new overhead power lines that transfer energy to trains and underground cabling that will better manage electrical current. New signals that guide train movements are also being installed. Construction work will be

occurring around the clock until light rail service can be restored. Besides some overnight testing in November and early December, this is the last planned light rail shutdown of the year.

### **“We Are Metro Transit”**

A temporary public art installation is giving customers an opportunity to celebrate the community of riders they’re a part of. The “We are Metro Transit” project invites customers to send us photos of themselves riding transit to be featured on a station kiosk at the Government Plaza Station through November 10. The kiosk also features a mural by a local artist.

To be featured, customers simply need to post a photo on social media with the hashtag #wearemetrotransit. The photos are automatically printed in Polaroid style and added to the kiosk.

### **Ridership**

The Green Line saw its highest monthly average weekday ridership ever in September. Average weekday ridership was 48,859 – beating the previous high of around 46,000 average weekday rides set in September 2016. Overall ridership is up slightly through the first three quarters of the year. Through the end of September, we’ve provided nearly 62.1 million rides, nearly 207,000 more than the same time last year. Northstar ridership is up 11 percent, while the Blue Line and Green Line are up 6 percent and 5 percent, respectively. Bus ridership is down almost 2 percent compared to last year, with more than 43.5 million rides.

### **Police Swearing-in Ceremony**

Extended an invitation to the department's swearing-in ceremony, which will be held at 1:30 p.m. this Thursday at the Union Depot. We'll welcome and congratulate 14 new police officers at that event.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

Motion was made by Barber, seconded by Elkins and passed, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2017-232:** Third Amendment to Contract 16P018 with Apollo Video Technology  
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend Contract 16P018 with Apollo Video Technology in an amount not to exceed \$360,000.
2. **2017-233:** 2017 Small Bus Procurement – Metro Mobility Expansion and Transit Link Replacement  
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with:
  1. Hogle Bus (MnDOT Contract 88294) for up to eight replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$592,000; and
  2. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 88331) for up to twelve replacement buses and ten expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,568,000.
3. **2017-239:** Execute Contract Options with Gillig LLC  
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options on Contract 12P227 with Gillig LLC to purchase five replacement transit buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

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

1. **2017-212 SW:** CTIB Capital Grant Agreement Second Amendment Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension)

Metro Transit SWLRT Deputy Project Director Joan Hollick presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the second amendment to the 2017 CTIB Capital Grant Agreement to recognize Hennepin County's 20% funding share effective October 1, 2017.

Motion passed.

**2. 2017-223:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Contract Award for Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery

Metro Transit SWLRT Environmental Project Manager Kelcie Campbell presented this item. Commers was confused by the use of the term 'data' being used, to which Campbell explained that is the technical terminology but it is referring to artifacts in the ground. Letofsky wondered if there was any anticipation as to what will be found and what will be done with it. Campbell replied that the materials expected to be found at that site are household materials from the late 1800s, early 1900s and once these artifacts are recorded, the information will be used as a public education piece.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract for Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery in an amount not to exceed \$1,320,140.57 to Merjent, Inc.

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

**3. 2017-237:** Orange Line Authorization for Real Estate Acquisition and Condemnation, Resolution 2017-24

Metro Transit Senior Manager of BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented this item. There were no question or comments from Council members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council passes Resolution 2017-24 authorizing acquisition of permanent and temporary easements necessary for the METRO Orange Line BRT project, and authorizing Council legal staff to initiate condemnation proceedings for parcels that cannot be acquired by negotiation.

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

**4. 2017-240 SW:** 2018 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to the Funding Transitway Counties

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for calendar year 2018 grants from the counties of Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington.

**Capital**

- METRO Orange Line Est. \$14.1M
  - Dakota County Regional Rail Authority – Est. \$700K
  - Dakota County - Est. \$1.3M
  - Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority – Est \$4.2M
  - Hennepin County - Est. \$7.9M

- METRO Green Line Extension Est. \$215.9M
  - Hennepin County – Est. \$182.1M
  - Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority – Est \$33.8M
- METRO Blue Line Extension Est. \$70.8
  - Hennepin County – Est. \$70.8M

**Operating**

- METRO Blue Line LRT Est. \$12.7M
  - Hennepin County - Est. \$12.7M
- METRO Green Line LRT Est. \$12.7M
  - Hennepin County – Est. \$7.6M
  - Ramsey County – Est. \$5.1M
- Northstar Commuter Rail Est. \$7.2M
  - Anoka County – Est. \$5.9M
  - Hennepin County – Est. \$1.3M

Motion passed.

**5. 2017-214 JT:** 2017 Unified Budget Amendment 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

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. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the Attachment #1 (Table 9 – Transportation Capital Program) and Attachment #2 (Table C-1 – Transportation Operating Budget).

Motion passed.

**6. 2017-199 SW Revised:** Revised 2018 Unified Planning Work Program, Resolution No. 2017-19 Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. Chair Rodriguez asked if the changes that were made were largely documenting what we are doing with congestion management, which White confirmed that was correct.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$6,046,291.
- Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under MAP-21.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

Motion passed.

**7. 2017-238 SW:** MnDOT Legislative Transportation Funding Package Streamlined TIP Amendment Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost of a traffic management system project on I-35W (SP # 8825-614) and to amend a project to replace a median barrier on I-494 (SP # 2785-423).

Motion passed.

## INFORMATION

### 1. CMSP IV Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer introduced Michael Corbett from MnDOT who presented this item. Letofsky asked what the solutions would be where congestion points conflict with LRT. Corbett answered that a solution might be eliminating access, allowing left turns at every other interchange or having displaced left turns, both of which have worked in a few instances. Commers questioned if the project examples include ongoing evaluation and measurement to see if there were characteristics of corridors or solutions that allow benefits to be retained for longer periods of times and/or erode and disappear faster. Corbett explained that while this is part of the study and projects were explored, the results were all over the board. Corbett added that one thing that seemed to retain benefits for a long time is restriping to add a lane. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reminded the Committee about the *Corridors of Commerce* program – which makes roughly \$400m available dollars for projects.

### 2. MTPD Update

Metro Transit Chief of Police John Harrington presented this item. Dorfman asked if a different approach will be taken regarding LRT sleepers during the Super Bowl to which Harrington replied no. Harrington stated that he has not been asked to do anything different but once the area is secured around the stadium, only credentialed people can into that area. Barber questioned whether there was concerns about staffing during the Super Bowl. Harrington responded that Part-time officers whose home agencies are St. Paul or Minneapolis will not be able to work for MTPD; this could also be true for State Patrol and larger cities. Harrington stated there will be work if the Part-time officer's home agencies allow them to work but with the National Guard, Homeland Security and MTPD Full-time offices there will be adequate staffing for each day. Barber asked that with the increase of passenger victims but also having increased onboards, have we see trends that the onboard presence decreases the level of crimes related to passengers. Harrington stated that at this point, can't tell if it's successful but trying to hit those that we think are the most visible hot spots.

### 3. 2019-2024 Metro Mobility Agency Contract

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Manager Metro Mobility Christine Kuennen presented this item. Elkins asked if the new contract will allow improved routing overall to which Kuennen answered yes, because currently we serve a broader area and this will shrink it down.

## ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.

Becky Davidson  
Recording Secretary