

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 24, 2022

LOCATION: Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held electronically.

Committee Members Present: Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner

Committee Members Absent: Molly Cummings, Raymond Zeran

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24, 2022.

AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 5 Barber, Chamblis, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Cummings, Ferguson, Zeran

Employee Recognition:

This committee has historically taken time each month to recognize a Metro Transit employee who is doing exemplary work. This recognition program fell off after the pandemic began, but we are excited to bring it back this year so you can meet more of the people who really are the face of our service. Employees will come to the committee once a month and are selected from nominations submitted by management. We know there are many deserving people throughout organization – this recognition focuses primarily on managers and supervisor who have gone above-and-beyond in unique ways. One of those areas where our staff have shown a lot of innovation and teamwork is with our COVID-19 vaccination buses, which as you know have traveled the state to bring vaccines to some of our hardest-to-reach populations. Earlier this month, we received a Department of Human Service award for this partnership. Behind the scenes, there were many people who helped make this possible. One of them was Transit Supervisor Lance Wallace, who was our lead supervisor on the project. In this role, Lance helped find and schedule operators who could bring the buses to clinics and in many cases traveled with the bus to make sure everything went smoothly. Over several months, he became a trusted and important resource for our partners at MDH and Blue Cross, Blue Shield. While more of his attention went toward this effort, Lance worked hard to ensure his peers could confidently fill in for him while he was in the far reaches of our state. In December, Lance celebrated his 17-year anniversary with Metro Transit.

TAB REPORT

Dugan reported on new TAB members, shared agency reports, and business item highlights from the TAB meeting.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Charles Carlson reported:

Planning

Last meeting began with a public hearing on a Transportation Policy Plan amendment. The comment period on the amendment closes at the end of the hour. As of this morning we have received around 40 comments on the Amendment. In the weeks ahead we'll be reviewing comments and will bring the amendment as a business item for Council approval sometime in the first quarter.

Finance

This next item is underway across the Council and is not unique to MTS. The FTA has notified the Council it is conducting a Triennial Review. The review assesses management practices and program implementation to ensure FTA programs are administered in accordance with FTA requirements and are meeting program objectives. MTS, MT, and RA staff have been working to fulfill the FTA's initial request for documents. Preparing these has been a big lift and I want to express appreciation for staff across all divisions and our teams in MTS for completing this important and time-sensitive work. Virtual on-sites will be scheduled at a date yet to be determined by the FTA.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

COVID

Since the last Transportation Committee meeting on January 10th, Metro Transit has had 192 cases of COVID reported by our employees. We have recorded 276 cases in the month of January through yesterday, which is the most of any month since the start of the pandemic. This matches the steep increase at a state and national level during the Omicron variant surge. 80% of employees have reported being fully vaccinated. A total of 192 cases have been identified through that testing program since October. Like many businesses and schools, we are experiencing some level of staff shortages due to isolation and quarantine absences. This includes bus and train operators, facilities maintenance workers and police officers. Overall, the teams responsible for employee scheduling, including dispatch and supervisory staff, have done a truly exceptional job to minimize service disruptions and carry out critical work during this time. I want to thank all the Metro Transit staff who have tirelessly worked to keep service available to our customers despite the challenges.

Operator Hiring Update

In addition to managing the impacts of COVID, we continue to address Metro Transit's operator shortage. Bus operator staffing levels continue to be about 20 full-time and part-time weekday operators below our ideal levels. This is without taking into account the impacts of COVID-related absences. On the bright side, Bus Operator hiring events were again held on January 15 and January 19. From these events, 28 applicants passed the initial screening and interview phase. Candidates who have a CDL or CDL permit will be fast tracked to a background review before joining one of our new hire classes. We will offer other candidates assistance to complete their CDL permit work so they can join our team soon. We have multiple hiring events planned for each month through the spring.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Ferguson, seconded by Fredson and carried, to approve the following consent items:

Aye:	6	Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner
Nay:	0	
Absent:	2	Cummings, Zeran

1. **2022-29:** Gold Line Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreements with the city of St. Paul
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreement (“JPCCA”) (#211057) with the City of St. Paul (“the City”) for the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“the Project”).

2. **2022-30:** Gold Line Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreements with the city of Maplewood
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreement (“JPCCA”) (#211056) with the City of Maplewood (“the City”) for the Gold Line Bius Rapid Transit Project (“the Project”).

3. **2022-31:** Gold Line Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreements with the city of Landfall
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreement (“JPCCA”) (#211059) with the City of Landfall (“the City”) for the Gold Line Bius Rapid Transit Project (“the Project”).

4. **2022-32:** Gold Line Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreements with the city of Oakdale
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreement (“JPCCA”) (#211055) with the City of Oakdale (“the City”) for the Gold Line Bius Rapid Transit Project (“the Project”).

5. **2022-33:** Gold Line Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreements with the city of Woodbury
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreement (“JPCCA”) (#211058) with the City of Woodbury (“the City”) for the Gold Line Bius Rapid Transit Project (“the Project”).

6. **2022-19:** Consent to License for Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Highway 10 Anoka County Property
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council consent to a temporary license agreement between Anoka County and Capstone Homes, Inc. for the purpose of constructing a temporary access road.

7. **2022-20:** Consent to Sale of a Portion of Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Highway 10 Anoka County Property and Partial Release of the Portion of the Property from Loan Agreement and Restrictive Covenant

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council consent to the sale of a portion of Anoka County Right-of-Way Loan (RALF) funded property located at Highway 10 and Llama Street and partially release this property from the Loan Agreement and Restrictive Covenant.

8. **2022-23 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: US 61 Bridge Wearing Course Replacement in Hastings
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) to add a new MnDOT-sponsored project replacing the wearing course on US 61 Bridge # 19004 over Mississippi River in Hastings.

9. **2022-24 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Hennepin County Pedestrian Crossing Safety Project
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP to reduce the cost, remove BRT station underground and flatwork, and remove one intersection for Hennepin County’s CSAH 42 / CSAH 3 signal revisions and pedestrian improvements project.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2022-5:** Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan Adoption

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Carrie Desmond presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan for submittal to the MN State Legislature by February 15, 2022 as required by Minnesota Statute 473.3927.

Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner
Nay: 0
Absent: 2 Cummings, Zeran

2. **2022-4:** Mobile Column Lifts for Minneapolis Bus Garage, Contract 21P382
Metro Transit Engineering and Construction Manager Robert Rimstad presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 21P382 for mobile column lifts with Stertil-Koni, Inc, utilizing the State of Minnesota Contract L-348 (5), for the Minneapolis Bus Garage system in the amount not to exceed \$542,000.

Motion carried, consent to Council.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner
Nay: 0
Absent: 2 Cummings, Zeran

3. **2022-15:** METRO Blue Line Extension – Master Funding Agreement with Hennepin County
Metro Transit Transit Systems Development Senior Project Manager Nick Landwer presented this item. Chamblis commented on her appreciation for the cooperation on the process.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Master Funding Agreement #211032 with Hennepin County (County) for the METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project (“Project”).

Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner
Nay: 0
Absent: 2 Cummings, Zeran

4. **2022-21:** 2022 Safety Performance Measure Targets, Resolution No. 2022-02
Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Heidi Schallberg and Planner Jed Hanson presented this item. Chamblis asked about MnDOT inclusion. Schallberg said MnDOT is a routine partner in safety conversations.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt Resolution 2022-02 setting 2022 targets for safety performance measures for the metropolitan planning area.

Motion carried, consent to Council.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner
Nay: 0
Absent: 2 Cummings, Zeran

5. **2022-22 SW:** Administrative Modification #1 to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) to Incorporate Three Modal Network Updates and the Associated Public Comment Report
Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Elmer presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Sterner:
That the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Approve Administrative Modification #1 to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (Attachment 1) to incorporate the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN), Regional Bicycle Barriers, and Regional Truck Freight Corridors networks, as revised through the 2021 update process; and
- 2) Accept the associated Public Comment Report (Attachment 2)

Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner
Nay: 0
Absent: 2 Cummings, Zeran

INFORMATION

1. Semiannual FTA DBE report to FTA for FFY 2021

Office of Equal Opportunity Assistant Director Ashanti Payne and Equal Opportunity Consultant Trina Bolton presented this item.

Chamblis asked for a timeline of improvements listed. Payne said OEO is happy to come back to the committee anytime and present on progress.

2. Electrical Vehicle Planning Study Result

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer and Great Plains Institute Vice President Brendan Jordan presented this item.

Sterner asked about partnerships.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary