

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: October 23, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members present:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, District 12 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15 |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present |

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m.

Agenda approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyronne to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2023, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced Customer Relations & Experience Manager Pam Steffan who presented an award to Senior Customer Relations Specialist John Stephens.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

Online TIP Mapping

MTS staff have produced an interactive map of the 2024-2027 draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to more easily find and learn about transportation projects across the region. This map has similar project-level information as the tables that are displayed in the official TIP document, but it is easier to navigate and find projects planned. The intention is to update the map each year.

[TIP Draft Mapping 2023 \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)

TPP Workshops

The Council is hosting a set of 2050 Transportation Policy Plan workshops for technical staff from TAB's TAC and its subcommittees as well as other groups that are helping review draft materials for the TPP. The workshops are meant to review initial drafts of the 2050 TPP's policies and actions that will guide how the region invests to achieve regional goals and objectives. The policy and action topics are structured around the goals and objectives that

the Council has reviewed small collaborative teams from different agencies have been working with Council staff to prepare the initial drafts for the workshops. Three workshops will be held on November 1st, 3rd, and 6th all covering the same content so participating staff only need to attend one of the three dates.

Metro Mobility Community Conversations

Last Tuesday night (Tues Oct 17) Metro Mobility staff hosted its first in-person community conversation since 2020. Staff and riders gathered to share experiences with Metro Mobility, including areas of concern, fresh new ideas, and strategies for improving service. As a large group, they discussed recent developments, trends, and service updates. Attendees then broke into smaller groups to identify what's working and what needs to improve. Around 35 customers joined us in person. Another meeting will be held online October 25th 11:30-1:00pm.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit Forward

Metro Transit is kicking off a project where stakeholders will be invited to help co-create a vision and strategic plan, to help guide operational priorities and decisions moving forward. As one step in the project, staff will be hosting three community conversations in the month of November. Details can be found at metrotransit.org. The idea for these is to start a broader conversation to gather insights and ideas and to also share with the community the work Metro Transit has been up and what has been in the existing strategic plan.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Dugan reported on the October 18th TAB meeting.

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. **2023-198:** METRO Green Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project Subordinate Funding Agreement No.17 (12I021Q) with MnDOT for 2024 Staffing

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #17 (contract reference number 12I021Q) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") in an amount not to exceed \$1,218,846.

2. **2023-199:** METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project Subordinate Funding Agreement No.9 (Contract #14I044I) with MnDOT for 2024 Staffing

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #9 (Contract #14I044I) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") in an amount not to exceed \$1,522,589.

3. **2023-200:** METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Subordinate Funding Agreement No.10 (17I024J) with MnDOT for 2024 Staffing Support

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #10 (contract reference number 17I024J) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") in an amount not to exceed \$1,734,189.

4. **2023-201:** METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Subordinate Funding Agreement No.3 (21I147C) with MnDOT for 2024 Staffing Support

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #3 (contract reference number 21I147C) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") in an amount not to exceed \$1,059,502 contingent upon the execution of the First Amendment



to the Capital Grant Agreement for the Project Development Phase of the Metro Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“First Amendment”) by the Council, Ramsey County (“County”), and the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (“RCRRA”).

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Carter, Tyrone.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. **2023-240:** Contract for Trench and Sump Cleaning, Contract 23P078

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Pacheco, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P078 with ROM, Inc. to provide cleaning services for sumps, sand traps, trench and plumbing drains that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$563,256.

Metro Transit Manager of Facility Systems Mike Maddio and Metropolitan Council Chief Procurement Officer Jody Jacoby presented this item. Chamblis asked if staff could elaborate on the wide range of the bids. Jacoby stated that there were three competitive bids received, with two of the bids close in value and that one bid was extraordinarily high. Maddio added that the current low bid is similar to other bids for work of this nature.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated that this item could proceed as consent to Council.

2. **2023-249:** Systemwide JACE Replacement for Building Automation Upgrades

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P049 with Harris Mechanical to provide building automation system upgrades, software updates, system reconfiguration and replacement of JACE units at Metro Transit facilities in an amount not to exceed \$1,072,050.

Metro Transit Sustainability Manager Jeff Freeman presented this item. Cameron asked if the 160 controls were per facility. Freeman stated Metro Transit has 160 total units across all facilities and that around 130 of the units are an older generation that aren’t supported any longer. Cameron asked how proprietary the controllers are, in that does the same vendor get to do all the maintenance, etc. Freeman stated it was required that the proposals were open source, so that staff could do maintenance work ourselves or contract out with other vendors after the warranty period ends.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated that this item could proceed as consent to Council.

3. **2023-250:** Joint Powers Agreement with the City of St. Paul, (St. Paul Police Department) Contract 23I002

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA”) # 23I002 with the City of St. Paul.

Metro Transit Police Department Captain Rick Grates presented this item. Several Council members asked to view either the actual agreement or a summary of the agreement prior to the Council meeting. Staff stated this can be linked with the business item on the Council agenda. Cameron asked if the agreement has the necessary authority for the departments to follow it, to ensure officers know their roles and responsibilities. Captain Grates stated that in the past there has been a sort of fog but as the agency has grown and acquired their own technology and investigations, the department has been taking care of Transit issues more. Grates continued that this agreement helps clarify a little bit of that to ensure a continuity of police operations out on the street.



Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated that this item could proceed as consent to Council. (Pacheco was absent for the vote.)

4. **2023-262:** Transit Service Intervention Project, Contract 23P116

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contracts 23P116 F-J that will provide support to people who are turning to transit while experiencing homelessness, suffering from mental illness, or facing other challenges in an amount not to exceed \$633,000 as follows:

Organization	Contract Number	Contract Amount
Brothers EMpowered	23P116F	\$200,000
The Family Partnership	23P116G	\$133,000
TOUCH Outreach	23P116H	\$100,000
All our Boys, Inc.	23P116I	\$100,000
8218 Truce Center	23P116J	\$100,000

Metro Transit Equity and Inclusion Senior Manager Celina Martina presented this item. Chamblis asked how big the human and sex trafficking issues are in relation to the other issues. Martina stated that although the TSIP project doesn't specify human/sex trafficking as part of the services, there are a couple contractors onboard that have that expertise, but we don't ask the vendor to give data around those crimes. Chamblis asked if services are being provided in an area around the stations. Martina answered that the legislative language says the jurisdiction of the TSIP is on station platforms and vehicles, but the hope is that our partners can really get more information about what they see and experience outside of the platform/trains to help inform us on how to better intervene. Carter, Toni asked for more information on the coordination between Metro Transit and the vendors. Martina stated that each company must complete an in-person onboarding to inform us how they prepare their invoices, provide reports, who their contacts are, who they can contact at Metro Transit, etc. Martina added that there are bi-weekly TSIP meetings with all partners and that the vendors are required to have a representative on the calls. Cameron stated that constituents and partners have said they are really supportive of these efforts.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated that this item could proceed as consent to Council. (Pacheco was absent for the vote.)

Information

1. There were no information items on the agenda.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 4:57p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of October 23, 2023.

Approved this 13 day of November 2023.

Council contact:

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary
Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us

Becky Gorell, Recording Secretary



