

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: June 27, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Robert Street

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco, District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kris Fredson, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Zeran, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sterner, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Cummings, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Francisco Gonzalez, District 12 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Vice Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Cummings to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Public Hearing

A member of the public commented on the draft Transportation Addendum to the Public Engagement Plan.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced Metro Transit Facilities Manager Mike Maddio and Assistant Transportation Manager Mary Johnson who presented awards to: Greg Kaslow, Building Maintenance Supervisor; Bob Pekarek, Building Maintenance Supervisor; Rich Brown, Master Electrician; Jim Davis, Journeyman Electrician; John Miller, Journeyman Electrician; Jim Sawyer, Journeyman Electrician; Mark Maki, Journeyman Electrician; Gordy Courneya, Journeyman Electrician; Neb Fufa, Building Maintenance; Bob Little, Building Maintenance; Karl Lundeen, Building Maintenance; Sue Mitchell, Operator, South Garage.

Reports

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Planning

Good news from the Transit On-Board Survey. We have wrapped up weekend sampling for the 2022 survey. The first time we've ever sampled weekends on the regional transit system. This included all routes, providers and lines. We continue to sample weekdays across the

entire system, and this effort will ramp up somewhat after the August 2022 service change takes effect. Weekend sampling is crucial from an equity standpoint, from a standpoint of transit serving all trip days and trip purposes.

Transportation Committee Moving to Heywood July – December

For years Transportation Committee met half the year at Robert Street and half the year at Heywood. However, in 2019, we were reconstructing the Heywood chambers, so you met at Robert Street for the entire year. Then COVID hit and these were virtual meetings. Becky Gorell will send out directions and parking information before the first meeting, but please let us know if you have questions.

Metro Transit General Manager

Bus Rodeo

Last week was the Metro Transit Bus Rodeo. Thank you to Council Member Cummings and Council Member Sterner for attending on Saturday and participating in the celebrity competition. We celebrated several winners: First Place: Ken Schmoll (East Metro); Second Place: Anton Pierson (East Metro); Third Place: Michael Goin (Nicollet); Rookie of the Year: Jesus Llamas-Gutierrez (Heywood). Planning and executing the rodeo was a huge undertaking. I want to recognize and thank several Metro Transit staff for their work. This includes: Amina Wolf and Steve McLaird – Bus Transportation Admin; Annette Hammerlund – Bus Safety Manager and the Bus Safety Specialists; Anna Penland and Al Sesler – Assistant Transportation Managers; John Zapata and Murray Olson – Facilities Maintenance; Emily Bollensen and South Garage Maintenance – Supplied buses for the competition and support activities.

New Live Chat feature in the Transit Information Center

Last week, Metro Transit’s Transit Information Center began to roll out a new “live chat” feature. Customers can initiate a live chat by clicking on the words “need help” which are now at the bottom of every metrotransit.org page. Clicking the “need help” button will bring up a live chat window connecting the customer to a transit information representative. The live chat hours are the same as Transit Information Center hours, and all reps are trained to assist customers through this new feature. People who prefer to call or text the Transit Information Center still have that option as well – live chat is one more way to receive transit information. I want to thank our Transit Information Center team for all their work implementing this new feature. Transit Information Center is open: 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is closed on Sundays and holidays. Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Cummings commented on the great experience at the Bus Rodeo.

Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Dugan shared agency reports and presentations recently given to the TAB.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

2022-161: METRO Green Line Extension LRT, Blue Line Extension LRT, and Gold Line BRT Bus Rapid Transit e-Builder Contract Amendment #1 (Robin Caufman 651-602-1457)

2022-179: Metro Mobility/Transit Link Software Enhancements, Contract 22P194 (Gerri Sutton 651-602-1672)

2022-186: 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: I-494 Interchange, Bridge, and Reconstruction (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Cummings.

Motion carried.



Non-Consent Business

2022-169: METRO Gold Line Amendment #1 to Joint Powers Board Capital Grant Agreement (#211042) (Nick Thompson 612-3499-7507, Robin Cauffman 651-602-1457)

It was moved by Gonzalez, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council (“the Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. Negotiate and execute Amendment #1 to METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (Gold Line) Capital Grant Agreement #211042 with the Gold Line Joint Powers Board (JPB) increasing the total grant amount to be received by the Council for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Project”) to an amount not to exceed \$195,915,033 to equal the Counties’ total project share of \$240,167,103; and
2. Refund the excess funds received from the Gold Line JPB for the Gold Line Capital Grant Agreement #191063 of \$30,897,015 back to the Gold Line JPB to be available for the METRO Gold Line Capital Grant Agreement #211042.

Cummings asked if there will be multiple letters of no prejudice, Thompson said the request has been made for one large one to get through the calendar year. Cummings asked about the financial change of the timing of the award money. Thompson said IIJA contributed to the change from the federal side. Cummings asked about maintenance financing, Thompson said it is anticipated that it will be like the other projects where it will be 50/50 and the capital side has not been finalized yet. Cummings asked about the bids received, Thompson responded that there were three. Gonzalez voiced appreciation for staff work on the project.

Motion carried.

2022-171: METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Contract Award for Civil Construction (21P320) (Steve Barret 651-602-1993)

It was moved by Gonzalez, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council (“the Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract 21P320 with Ames Construction, for civil construction of the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$247,954,229.63, contingent upon receipt of Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) from the Federal Transit Administration and approval of the LONP work from the Gold Line Joint Powers Board.

Gonzalez asked about the company awarded.

Motion carried.

2022-173: METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Environmental and Peer Review Contract (22P031) (Robin Cauffman 651-602-1457)

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 22P031 with HNTB, to provide environmental and peer review services for the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$3,646,800.43.

There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

Motion carried.

Information

Shared Mobility Program Update (Meredith Klekotka 612-34-7675)

Gonzalez asked about prospective users. Klekotka noted that transit users are a build-in audience but the other modes tend to be more neighborhood-based. Pacheco asked about rideshare similarities. Fredson asked about the service contracting. Chamblis asked about the cost to the riders. Klekotka said the average Twin Cities Uber/Lyft trip is \$7 and this will be priced at bus fare so about \$5 less.

First Half FTA Semi-Annual DBE Participation Report (Ashanti Payne 612-349-7760)

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

Transportation Needs Assessment (Jonathan Ehrlich 651-602-1408)

Gonzalez asked for the consultant information. Gonzalez asked about the safety and security questions.

2050 Transportation Policy Plan Development Overview (Cole Hiniker 651-602-1748, Jed Hanson 651-602-1716)

Sterner asked about the role with the TAAC.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of June 27, 2022.

Council Contact:

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary
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