

**Minutes of the  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Monday, June 9, 2014

**Committee Members Present:**      **Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair**      **Edward Reynoso**  
   **Katie Rodriguez**                                      **Steve Elkins**  
   **McCarthy, Marie**                                      **James Brimeyer**  
   **Jon Commers**

**Committee Members Absent:**      **Adam Duinick, Chair**                                      **Jennifer Munt**

**TAB Liaison Present:**                                      **none**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Vice Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. June 9, 2014.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Vice Chair Schreiber stated that Information Item 2 will not be addressed at this meeting. It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the amended agenda for the June 9, 2014 meeting. Motion passed. It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2014 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

**TAB LIAISON REPORT**

MTS Director Arlene reported that the TAB has not met since the last Transportation Committee; the next TAB meeting is scheduled for 6/18/14.

**MTS DIRECTOR and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy had no report for this meeting.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

1. Metro Green Line Opening – Saturday 6/14

Preparations for the METRO Green Line's opening are in full swing this week. Here are examples of how some of our departments are preparing:

- Nearly all of the 1,200 available shifts for Friday and Saturday have been filled. Training for staff members who will assist customers at station areas began in late May and will wrap up this week.
- Service development is in the field informing customers about service changes that will go into effect beginning Saturday. Staff began their outreach over the weekend and will continue to speak directly with customers on board buses and at key boarding locations this week and after the changes take effect. Marketing efforts include printed brochures and a dedicated page on metrotransit.org.
- Nearly 1.1 million pocket schedules – double the normal amount – were produced for this service pick and are being distributed. We expect to replace 500 Metro Transit shelter schedules and close to 200 posters at various facilities.
- The Transit Information Center, normally open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends, will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday to help customers understand and react to the bus service changes and the start of Green Line service. Our Customer Relations department, normally closed on weekends, will be open on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- On Saturday, two-dozen members of the news media attended a well-run preview ride on the Green Line. The ride allowed project leaders to explain Green Line operations and highlight related benefits like the

reconstruction of University Avenue, new storm water management infrastructure and transit-oriented development. Several news organizations also attended the opening of the stairway-elevator tower at Central Station last Thursday. The next scheduled event is Thursday morning, when the media is invited to the St. Paul OMF to view the winning entry in the Green Line Opening Poster Contest. The event will also give media a chance to see last-minute train preparations at the facility.

- Commemorative Go-To Cards celebrating the Green Line's opening are now available at Metro Transit's online store. The Go-To Card features graphics used in the Green Line marketing campaign.

## 2. Metrotransit.org Successfully Relaunches

Customers have responded positively to Metro Transit's new website, which successfully launched at the beginning of the month. The new website puts improved online trip planning tools, including the Interactive Map, at the center of the user experience. The website is also designed to be fully compatible with mobile devices. The changes were made with feedback from frequent and occasional customers, as well as visually-impaired site users and those trying transit for the first time.

## 3. Metro Transit Police Welcome New Part-Time Officers

The Metro Transit Police Department welcomed 20 new part-time officers at the end of May. Half of the new officers speak a second language and 75 percent are women or people of color. Many of these officers work full-time at the Minneapolis and St. Paul police departments, providing a unique opportunity to bring all our departments closer together. There are now 94 full-time officers and 106 part-time officers. The department held its 17th annual Awards Ceremony last week to recognize the great work our officers are doing every day. Awards were given to 23 officers and six civilians.

## 4. Communications Efforts Earn Praise in State Awards Contest

Metro Transit recently took home five awards for communications and marketing projects entered in the Northern Lights Awards contest. The annual competition recognizes outstanding work in communications and marketing by public agencies. Leah Janz (January employee of the Month) and John Sigveland were honored for their work on the 2012 Fact Book. Janz and Anj Olson were also recognized for a video and logo created for Rail~Volution. Drew Kerr and Eric Wheeler, who presented earlier this year, took home awards for the Rider's Almanac blog.

# **BUSINESS**

## **Consent Items**

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez and passed to approve the following consent items.

2014-119 SW: 2014-2017 TIP Amendments for 2015 Safe Routes to School projects and Hwy 10 Trail in Ramsey

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add four Safe Routes to School infrastructure projects in 2015 and to modify the Hwy 10 Trail project in the City of Ramsey by splitting the project into two phases and projects in 2015 and 2016.

2014-133: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for MnDOT bridges over the Minnesota River in Bloomington and Eagan

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify the project scope and budget for MnDOT bridges over the Minnesota River in Bloomington and Eagan in 2015 (SP#1925-52).

2014-120: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds (Resolution 2014-9)

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve Resolution 2014-9 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

## **Non-Consent Items**

2014-122: Approval of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Amendment to the 2014 Unified Budget

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Reynoso that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2014 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion passed.

2014-130: Authorization to Amend Metro Mobility Operating Contracts

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger presented this item, and explained the rationale of moving from five to three contractors. He also answered questions from committee members as to what to expect for questions and comments from the public, and the contractor level of staffing adequate to provide service.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by McCarthy that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend two Metro Mobility operating contracts:

1. Contract 09P223 with Transit Team, Inc. to increase the maximum total contract amount by \$6,481,078 to a revised \$84,651,078 total and extend the term to August 29, 2015.
2. Contract 09P224 with First Transit, Inc. to increase the Maximum total contract amount by \$10,516,710 to a revised \$65,578,252 total and extend the term to August 29, 2015.

Motion passed.

2014-132: Right of Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF) 2014 Annual Program Review

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Systems Planning Connie Kozlak presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by McCarthy that the Metropolitan Council approve this annual 2014 RALF Program review, including the recommendation that no tax levy is required in 2015 to replenish the RALF fund balance.

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

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. Zip Rail Presentation

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Russ Owen introduced: OCRRA Commissioner Ken Brown, OCRRA Project Manager Chuck Michael, MnDOT-Praveena Pidiparthi .who presented this item.

### 2. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee Report

This item was postponed to a future meeting date.

### 3. 2017 Federal Funding (CMAQ, STP, TAP)

Metro Council TAB Liaison Elaine Koutsoukos presented this item.

### 4. West Broadway Transit Study

Metro Transit Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Project Office Charles Carlson presented this item.

### 5. Metro Transit Energy Conservation Sustainability Update

Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities Robert Rimstad presented this item.

### 6. 610 & Noble Park & Ride Construction Update

Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities Jim Harwood presented this item.

### 7. A Line Recommended Plan

Metro Transit Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Project Office Charles Carlson introduced Metro Transit Senior Planner Katie Roth who presented this item.

### 8. New Bus Service Beginning June 14, 2014

Metro Transit Manager Route Planning Cyndi Harper presented this item.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.