

## Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

### Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, May 14, 2012

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair John Đoàn	Roxanne Smith Adam Duininck	James Brimeyer Jennifer Munt Edward Reynoso
Members Absent	Jon Commers		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	Robert Lilligren		

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on May 14, 2012 at Metropolitan Council Chambers St. Paul.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Chair Elkins stated that Information Item #3 – MTS Quarterly Ridership Report will be deferred to a later meeting. Motion by Smith, seconded by Reynoso to adopt the amended agenda for the May 14, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Brimeyer to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

#### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services**

Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper, presented the productivity and goal attainment employee recognition to MTS Senior Project Manager Randy Rosvold for his work on the vanpool program. Rosvold worked on the transitioning to a new service contractor (Enterprise), transitioning of the vehicles and the software for reporting from the van leasees, and marketing and graphics for transitioning from the VanGo! Program to Metro Vanpool program.

#### **METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit, presented a plaque to Deputy Chief Operating Officer-Rail, Sheri Gingerich, who is retiring. He listed various positions that Gingerich has held over the years and her accomplishments at Metro Transit. Gingerich will continue on the PRO (Post-Retirement Option) program developing a training program for future rail hires.

#### Latest Update on Central Corridor

Central Corridor issued a news release today formally announcing that the Central Corridor (the Green Line) has achieved the 50% complete milestone. There is construction along the entire 10 miles of Central Corridor and there is active construction on 15 of the 18 stations. CCLRT construction has employed over 3,000 workers to date. CCLRT is on schedule for revenue service in 2014.

#### Transit Police Awards Ceremonies

In conjunction with National Police Week, Metro Transit Police will honor a number of officers, transit employees and others this Wednesday at their 15<sup>th</sup> annual Awards Ceremony. 40 awards will be given to transit police officers and

others outside the department – such as bus operators, city attorneys and others for exceptional efforts fighting crime and providing humanitarian service in the transit system. The event will be held this Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Transit Police facility at 2425 Minnehaha Avenue South in Minneapolis. You are all invited at 1:00 p.m. as Metro Transit Acting Police Chief A.J. Olson presents these awards.

#### Two More Minneapolis Employers Join Metropass Program

Metro Transit welcomed two new companies to the Metropass program this month. These employers signed contracts with the agency and began offering Metropass to their employees starting on May 1: • American Academy of Neurology, which has 126 employees eligible for the program • International Decision Systems, Inc., which has 123 employees eligible for Metropass. With these additions, Metropass is available to 178,914 employees at 266 companies in the Twin Cities. As of May 1, there were 33,164 cards in use.

#### Upcoming Transportation Committee items

There are critical items that are moving forward for Transportation Committee action. The May 28 Transportation Committee will be canceled due to the Memorial Day Holiday. At this time, it is planned to hold a special Transportation Committee meeting on June 4, in place of the Community Development committee meeting which is expected to be canceled. A reminder email will be sent to members once the final decision is made.

### **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT**

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

#### Program of Projects Workshop

Transportation Committee members received a notice for a Program of Projects (POP) workshop scheduled for Monday, June 25 in the morning. It is anticipated that this meeting will be moved to Wednesday, June 20 (confirming email will follow). Some of the POP information that will be presented at the June 20 workshop will also be presented at the June 22 Transportation Finance Advisory Committee (TFAC) that Chair Haigh is a member on. An background presentation on the POP is scheduled for the June 11 Transportation Committee meeting.

#### Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) Receipts

After five consecutive months of being over 100%, MVST receipts dropped to 96.08% for the month of April (the tenth month of the state fiscal year). Cumulatively, MVST receipts are at 99.7% for the first 10 months of the state fiscal year 2012.

#### Transit Link Dial-a-Ride

A joint powers agreement has been executed between MnDOT and Metro Council that addresses issues with serving select locations immediately outside of the 7-county metro area (i.e. Delano).

#### Federal Surface Transportation Bill

Members of the House and Senate conference committee met on May 8 to make opening statements. The committee has set a deadline of June 30 for resolution of the issues contained in the bill. Urgency has been expressed by committee members to reach consensus and send a bill to the president. The current extension of SAFETEA-LU expires on June 30.

#### Regional Transit Capital (RTC) Funds Authorization at the Legislature

Metro Council received authorization for RTC funds in the amount of \$39.6M, an \$4.2M increase to the Council's initial request of \$35.4M. The \$4.2M represents the Suburban Transit Providers (STP) contribution from their reserves to the first year of the biennial operating budget solution. Judd Schetnan worked hard at the Legislature so that the RTC authorization is increased by up to \$4.2M and may be made available to fund STP capital projects in amounts that would have otherwise been funded by from their reserves in 2012 as a result of the 2011 special session laws. The breakdown of the \$4.2M is: Maple Grove (\$2.3M), Plymouth (\$1.7M), Shakopee (\$200,000), and Prior Lake (\$25,000). MVTA and Southwest Transit are not eligible because they did not contribute reserves to the funding solution.

### **TAB LIAISON REPORT**

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren reported that the TAB has completed scoring the Regional Solicitation applications and will review the scores this week. TAB will also discuss the funding for the Regional Solicitation during the uncertain funding scenario.

Duininck reported that TAB Chair Bill Hargis and MTS Transportation Coordinator Kevin Roggenbuck have been meeting with each TAB member to share ideas that will shape the items that TAB addresses in the future.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items**

A motion was made by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber to approve items 2012-99 and 2012-100 as consent items. Motion passed unanimously.

2012-99 Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise purchase options on contract 08P114 with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to purchase eleven (11) coach buses in an amount not to exceed \$6,050,000.

2012-100 Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with North Central Bus Sales, Hogle Bus and Eldorado for up to 38 small buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,776,600.

### **Non-Consent Items**

2012-152: Central Corridor Transit Service Study Concept Plan

Metro Transit Senior Planner Scott Thompson presented this item. Schreiber asked how many people will be affected by these changes, Thompson stated that there are 86,000 rides/day now and those riders should see an increase in improved connections; 40% of the green line ridership is expected to come from bus connections. Thompson responded to Elkins' question regarding number of routes that will serve the Union Depot.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Duinick:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Central Corridor Transit Service Study Concept Plan for public review. Motion passed unanimously.

2012-153: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line) Additional Change Order Authority for the Operations and Maintenance Facility Contract

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item and answered questions from committee members concerning the needs for contingency funds from one contract versus another (Civil East, Civil West, OMF, etc.).

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize an additional 2.5% (\$1,078,485) above the standard 5% (\$2,156,969) construction contract change order authority and the previously authorized 5% increase in change order authority (Business Item 2011-329 approved on December 14, 2011) for the Central Corridor (Green Line) LRT Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) Contract.

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-154: Authorization to Purchase 30 option Forty-foot Diesel Gillig Buses

Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Administration Tom Humphrey presented this item.

Elkins asked how many options are left on this contract and Lamb explained this is a 5-year contract and an authorization to issue an RFP for a new 5-year contract will be coming to the Transportation Committee in the future.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Duinick:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an existing contract option with Gillig Corporation to purchase 30 forty-foot, diesel low-floor transit buses in an amount not-to-exceed \$12,944,070.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-155: Blue Line (Hiawatha Corridor) Vehicular Traffic Improvements

Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operations Officer – Rail, Sheri Gingerich presented this item and Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented the financial details for the item.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Duinick:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an agreement with the City of Minneapolis to pass through local Regional Transit Capital funds for project management/administration, engineering, materials and design activities associated with upgrading and improving the traffic management system in the Hiawatha corridor. This authorization will amend the funding included in Council Action Item 2011-207.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-160: Authorization to Purchase Property, to Declare a Portion of the Property as Excess, and to Sell the Excess Property

Metro Transit Project Manager Engineering and Construction Joe Edwards presented this item and there were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. Purchase a parcel of land from the Minnesota Department of Transportation;
2. Declare a portion of the parcel to be excess property; and
3. Sell the excess property to Xcel Energy.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

## **INFORMATION**

1. MnDOT/Metro Council Joint Planning Efforts

Metropolitan Transportation Director Arlene McCarthy introduced Scott McBride, MnDOT Metro District Engineer, who presented this item including Minnesota GO Study, State Multimodal Plan, Highway Investment Plan, Corridor Investment Management Strategy (CIMS), MnDOT Metro District projected revenues and performance, and MnDOT/Metro Council partnerships.

Following the presentation, Schreiber requested a future report on the Metro Area Freight Grid.

2. Corridors of Opportunity Update

Community Development Manager Transit Oriented Development Allison Bell and Grants Coordinator Nora Riemenschneider presented this item. They discussed the various partners and the projects funded within the Corridors of Opportunity (which consists of seven corridors: Northstar Commuter Rail, Cedar Ave. BRT, Southwest LRT, Bottineau Transitway, Gateway Corridor, Central Corridor, Hiawatha LRT).

3. MTS Quarterly Ridership Report – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012

This item was deferred to a later Transportation Committee meeting.

4. Interchange Update

Metro Transit Senior Project Manager MarySue Abel presented this item and discussed the schedule, funding status and agreements need from various entities – in preparation for upcoming business items.

5. Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis Update

Metro Transit Planner Michael Mechtenberg presented this item, including alignment options, possible modes, schedule and timeline.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:55 p.m. May 14, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary