

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

July 13, 2020

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

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:04p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2020. Chair Barber proceeded with the Public Comment on the TIP.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON TIP

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau provided a presentation on the TIP before opening up for public comments. These public comments will be recorded and compiled into a report to be available after the public comment period ends.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With a quorum present, Chair Barber proceeded with the agenda.

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Cummings to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Ferguson, Fredson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Gonzalez seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Ferguson, Fredson

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Regional Solicitation Application Summary

Scoring continues by committees. TAB does not meet this month so there will be no TAB updates at the next meeting.

Planning

Using the format provided tonight, at the next Transportation Committee, we will start with an official public hearing for the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan. In a public hearing format, one difference is that it is just to receive comments not to respond.

MTS Operations Update

All MTS transit operations are back to their COVID level service types and levels. Health Care worker trips continue to be strong; ridership increased after general transit services were suspended. The Adult Day Care/Day Training and Habilitation were given permission to open last Friday. This will likely result in an increase in trips on the Metro Mobility Agency contract. This week that service is only providing 10% of normal level of trips and this opening is very important for those who are part of the program, both the individual customers and the providers. Staff are working on transitioning food shelf delivery service from Metro Mobility to Transit Link, which will be necessary as Metro Mobility trips increase, particularly as day training and habilitation and adult day care centers reopen. Contractors are performing checks of all employees and drivers as they arrive for work. COVID testing is still being offered to all transit essential workers from Contractors. Last week there were zero positive COVID tests among contractor employees tested. Contractors are reporting no issues with staffing levels needed to meet service demands.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

COVID response

Beginning late last week, Metro Transit transitioned from “essential travel only” to “Stay Safe MN” messages, which aligns with the Governor’s language as he adjusts the dial. This shift is part of recognizing that some people are starting to take more transit trips as seen in a modest uptick in ridership, particularly on bus. Ridership – for the week of June 29 to July 5, the system was down 63% percent total compared to pre-pandemic levels:

- Bus down 57%
- Blue Line down 79%
- Green Line down 69%
- Northstar down 98%

Metro Transit is preparing to transition away from rear door boarding around August 1st; but first will need to complete the installation of plexiglass barriers to separate the operator from customers for an added layer of protection. This will not change the commitment to reducing risk for the operators which includes:

- Enhanced cleaning
- Requiring facial coverings while riding transit
- Maintaining onboard capacity limits on buses
- Adding service and prioritizing the use of articulated buses on routes that are experiencing relatively high ridership to further allow for social distancing

Distributing Masks to Riders

Staff continue to distribute masks at high ridership boarding locations. 24,000 masks in total, have been distributed to members of the public (2,000 at the June 20 donation drive, 10,000 during the first mask give-away on 6/25 and 6/26, and 12,000 last week).

Atlas-Ingabretson asked if Council members can receive more updates on the number of COVID cases among employees. Chair Barber stated she would talk with the Regional Administrator but asked

Council members to share the details they want to see in a report. Zeran asked if all the barriers would be the plexiglass and if any operators had concerns with claustrophobia. Kooistra responded that the temporary barriers would be installed on those buses that don't currently have the permanent Bentech barriers and that we've heard no concerns from operators. Chair Barber wanted to know if the ridership is compared month to month, including special events. Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie responded that yes, it is a month to month comparison.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Cummings, seconded by Sterner and carried, to approve the following consent items:

Aye: 7 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Ferguson, Fredson

1. **2020- 191:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement with CenterPoint Energy – Amendment 2

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Master Utility Agreement (MUA) with CenterPoint Energy (CenterPoint) to add \$250,000 for reimbursement of costs, for a new total not to exceed amount of \$1,215,000, associated with relocation of utilities that conflict with the Southwest LRT Project (Project).

2. **2020- 197:** Amend Interagency Agreement with Anoka County

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend interagency agreement 15I078A with Anoka County to provide Transit Link service in Anoka and northwest Ramsey counties to add \$900,000, for a total contract value of \$5,710,928, and extend the contract term to April 30, 2021.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2020- 182 JT:** 2020 Budget Amendment – July Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Cummings asked if there was a rough idea of what the fiscal cliff will be in 2022. Petrie responded that there are two big factors – motor vehicle sales tax and passenger fares, and that staff are currently trying to do rough estimates but the cliff could be north of \$125M. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra added that the figures cited don't include the one-time funding being used by Metro Mobility. Chamblis expressed her appreciation for the update on the CARES act and what staff are doing in terms of forecasting and strategic management but questioned what the plans are for handling the anticipated fiscal cliff. Petrie responded that over the next several months, staff will be providing presentations to Transportation Committee and Council, including a public hearing before the final approval of the 2021 budget later in November/December so there will be a lot of opportunities to discuss with and update Council members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2020 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber
Nay: 0
Absent: 2 Ferguson, Fredson

2. 2020- 196: Agency Safety Plans

Metro Transit Rail and Bus Safety Director Mike Conlon and Metropolitan Transportation Services Contract Services Assistant Director Gerri Sutton presented this item. Atlas-Ingebretson asked if the previous conversation regarding the reporting structure of the MTPD Chief is related to this safety plan. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra responded that this safety plan doesn't engage the MTPD part of the organization. Chair Barber added that these plans are specific to comply with FTA regulations/requirements.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt Agency Safety Plans for Metropolitan Transportation Services, Metro Transit Bus and Metro Transit LRT.

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

Aye: 7 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber
Nay: 0
Absent: 2 Ferguson, Fredson

3. 2020- 193: Ticket Vending Machine Software Upgrade

Metro Transit Revenue Collections Senior Manager Nick Eull presented this item. Chamblis asked if the processor and memory are the only hardware needed for this software upgrade. Eull responded that would be the bulk of the hardware but the bill handling hardware, which will be obsolete in 2023, will be included to allow a transition over the next couple years.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council approves a sole-source contract award to Cubic Transportation Systems for a ticket vending machine software upgrade to Windows 10, for a total cost not to exceed \$4,100,000.

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

Aye: 6 Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber
Nay: 0
Absent: 3 Atlas-Ingebretson, Ferguson, Fredson

4. 2020- 194: Approval for Body-Worn Cameras, Contract Number 19P297

Metro Transit Police Department Project Manager Leah Palmer presented this item. Cummings asked why it has taken this long to get to the point of signing a contract (discussions started a year ago) and once approved and signed, how long until the equipment is received and implemented and if there is a way to expedite procurement. Palmer responded that the vendor could have trainers onsite in two to

four weeks. Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby added that this procurement was satisfied using a cooperative procurement venture issued by Sourcewell and currently in final negotiations with Axon but the contract will be ready upon Council approval next week; the vendor can place an order the next day. Cummings asked if this is a normal length of time for contract negotiations. Jacoby responded that this is not a normal contract or timeframe but the body-cam policy wasn't approved until March and then there needed to be a collaboration between Procurement and OGC. Chamblis asked if there will be a way to identify if cameras are turned on in real time. Palmer answered that once an officer turns the camera on, a green light will illuminate indicating it's on. Chamblis asked if officers enter a private home if parts of the video would be redacted and Cummings asked if we are anticipating needing additional staffing to respond to data requests for video. Palmer responded that yes, parts of the video would be redacted if officers entered a private home and MTPD would rely on the data practices act and this information will be in the body-cam policy that will be posted online. Palmer continued that MTPD is looking to hire two video technicians that will help support data requests. Atlas-Ingebretson asked if Council members could receive before the Council meeting a timeline for implementation that shows milestones and responsible parties, including the procurement timeline to this point. Palmer confirmed staff will compile.

Motion by Sterner, seconded Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 19P297, with Axon Enterprise Inc, for body-worn cameras (BWCs) for a five-year term in an amount not to exceed \$2,026,099.14.

Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Ferguson, Fredson

5. 2020-199: Purchase Go-To Card Validators for Orange and D-Line

Metro Transit Revenue Operations Manager Dennis Dworshak presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Atlas-Ingebretson, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council approves a sole-source contract award to purchase smart card validators from Cubic Transportation Systems for offboard fare payments on the Orange Line, with an additional purchase options for D Line, for a total cost not to exceed \$1,600,000.

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

Aye: 7 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Ferguson, Fredson

6. 2020- 200: Purchase Ticket Vending Machines for Orange and D Line

Metro Transit Revenue Operations Manager Dennis Dworshak presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council approves a sole-source contract award to purchase ticket vending machines from Flowbird for offboard fare payments on the Orange Line, with an additional purchase option for D Line, for a total cost not to exceed \$2,800,000.

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

Aye: 7 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Ferguson, Fredson

INFORMATION

1. COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Outbreak Transportation Survey (May 2020) – Continued from June 22
Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:12p.m.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary