

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

April 25, 2016

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Lona Schreiber, Jennifer Munt, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Katie Rodriguez, Steve Elkins, Jon Commers, Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Absent: Gail Dorfman

TAB Liaison Present: None Present

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, April 25, 2016 In the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers to approve the April 25, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.
Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Metro Transit Director Bus Operations Christy Bailly, who in turn introduced Metro Transit Assistant Manager TCC Operations Jim Chisholm to present the recognition awards to:

Transit Control Center Supervisors Mike Robeck, Crystal Weinhlold, and Pat Brown (absent) for their work in implementing a requested Northstar bus bridge on Friday April 8, due to a possible chemical leak in the Northtown rail yard.

TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Katie Rodriguez reported from the TAB. The TAB met on 4/20/16 and discussed:

- 1) FAST Lane applications submitted to FHWA by MnDOT – one application is in the Metro area (for I-35W North MnPASS).
- 2) TAB Bylaws – the first reading of changes to the bylaws to allow alternates for all members.
- 3) Scope change for St. Louis Park Beltline Station Park & Ride. There was much discussion about the city's local match. The TAB voted to deviate from the TAC recommendation and approved a CMAQ funding reduction of \$6,541,054 as requested by St. Louis Park.
- 4) Received a presentation from the Citizens League regarding recommendations to the Governor pertaining to Metro Council reforms.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER and METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported that it is likely that the May 11 Council meeting will be canceled, therefore all business items on today's Transportation Committee agenda are same week to the Council in order to accommodate the time sensitivity of the items.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported on the following:

1. Better Bus Stops

Customers are being invited to take a survey on bus stop improvements. A link to the online survey can be found on Metro Transit's website. Community groups working with Metro Transit on the Better Bus Stops project will also distribute the survey as part of their outreach activities. Customers are being asked to provide feedback on the most important things to have at a waiting area and how shelters should be located. Last year 59 shelters were replaced in Minneapolis and another 40 shelters were installed at new locations. Up to 70 shelters will be replaced and another 41 will be added at new locations this year.

2. Be the Solution

Metro Transit celebrated Earth Day last Friday by kicking off a "Be the Solution" campaign that encourages staff to act more sustainably at work and at home. The campaign builds on our commitment to "Go Greener", which has led to improvements in building efficiency and fuel economy. Since 2009, around \$10 million has been invested in building improvements, leading to \$15.7 million in energy savings. Fleet fuel economy has increased from 3.8 miles per gallon in 2008 to 4.7 miles per gallon. Recent examples of sustainability in action include replacing all lighting at the Blue Line's 28th Avenue Park & Ride with LEDs and the addition of two fully-electric Nissan Leafs to our non-revenue fleet. Lamb added that Metro Transit was not a recipient of the LoNo Grant, where they had applied for electric buses. He indicated that there was a recent announcement of another grant process and that it was their intent to apply again.

3. Commuter Choice Awards

Council members are invited to attend Metro Transit's annual Commuter Choice Awards this Thursday in Edina. The awards recognize employers, organizations and individuals who promote alternatives to driving alone. In addition to the awards, there will be a commuter programs and networking fair. Activities begin at 11 a.m. at Centennial Lakes Park. Brian Lamb will direct Metro Transit Customer Service and Marketing Director Bruce Howard to send reminder emails to council members for this event.

4. Train Days

Metro Transit will be an exhibitor at Train Days, taking place this weekend at Union Depot and the Minnesota Transportation Museum. Train Days celebrates the history and future of passenger rail travel and the current role of freight railroads. Transportation-inspired activities run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. In addition to exhibiting at the event, rail fans can travel to the event free on any Metro Transit bus or light rail line with a downloadable pass. The Minnesota Transportation Museum will provide free rides between the Union Depot and their roundhouse on a vintage bus.

5. Cedar Grove

On Thursday we'll break ground on a new skyway-connected passenger platform at the Cedar Grove Transit Station in Eagan. By moving boardings to Highway 77, travel times will be improved for the Red Line and express buses serving the station. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at 3 p.m., and customer appreciation activities will continue until 6 p.m.

6. Opening of the A Line

Metro Transit is making final preparations for the opening of the A Line scheduled for June 11. A tour for Transportation Committee members is being planned preceding the regular Transportation Committee on May 9. A bus will be ready at Robert Street at 3:30, the tour lasts approximately 45 minutes and the bus will return to Robert Street for the Transportation Committee to begin at 4:30.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no consent items on the Transportation Committee agenda for 4/25/16.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-77 SW: West End and Route 9 Transit Study Authorization for Public Hearing
Metro Transit Service Development Senior Planner Steve Mahowald presented this item. Letofsky noted the importance of implementing any change equitably and looks forward to the results of this study, as her family uses Route 9. Commers questioned whether we know where people are traveling from to get to the West End jobs shown on the job concentration map. Mahowald said that Service Development staff continues to drill down on that information and that one of the project's goals is to create better access to these jobs regionally. Munt expressed concern that there are no sidewalks or good pedestrian facilities for people for the last ½ mile to their workplace. Since funding is part of the issue, she hopes that legislators could see some of the poor pedestrian connections our riders face. Mahowald said that Metro Transit continues to push for better pedestrian facilities when talking to MnDOT, counties and cities.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a public hearing to accept comments on proposed service changes outlined in the West End and Route 9 Transit Study concept plan.

Motion carried.

2. 2016-79 SW: Authorize Execution of Contract Options with Motor Coach Industries (MCI)
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Project Administrator Alex Curtiss presented this item and answered a question from Elkins concerning where the buses are assembled. Curtiss said that a portion of the assembly occurs in Canada and then South Dakota, which fulfills the Buy America requirements.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options on Contract 14P053 with MCI to purchase six coach buses in an amount not to exceed \$3,580,650.

Motion passed.

3. 2016-80 SW: Authorize Execution of Purchase Agreement with North Central Bus Sales
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Project Administrator Alex Curtiss presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 88331) for two replacement buses and eight expansion uses in an amount not to exceed \$960,000.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Impacts of WiFi Availability on Express Buses

Metro Transit Director Customer Service and Marketing Bruce Howard and Metropolitan Council Assistant Director Information Services Pancho Henderson presented this item. The presentation included information on the status of WiFi installation, use by mode, customer survey results – including reliability and reasons for use, cost information and next steps.

2. Orange Line Triannual Update

Metro Transit Senior Planner Christina Morrison and Project Manager Jim Harwood presented this item. The presentation included the schedule, funding, station design concepts. Munt commented that having a similar layout at the stations is important to the disabled community. Commers asked for clarification of the different profiles in the station designs. Morrison stated that the design can be different depending on location, freeway traffic, frontage roads and type of neighborhood. The design is “scalable” to fit the different situations.

3. TOD Quarterly Update

Metro Transit Director Transit Oriented Development Lucy Galbraith presented this item. She recapped the TOD goals and strategies and reported on the progress made toward meeting these strategies.

4. Munt shared an Op-Ed from the Star Tribune from mayors regarding the need for a dedicated source of funding for transportation.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.