

3. The Revenue Operations department reports that more than 2,600 customers have created accounts and enabled the Auto-Refill feature on their Go-To Cards. Since it launched in November of 2011 customers who signed up for the feature have added a total of nearly \$918,000 in fare value to their Go-To Cards. Many different combinations are available; the most common setting customers currently choose is adding \$30 automatically from a credit card account whenever their Go-To balance drops below \$10.
4. The Small Starts/Bus Rapid Transit Project Office reports that the Arterial Transitway Corridors Study completed last year has won the Minnesota Chapter of the American Planning Association's Innovation in Planning award for 2013. The winning project was selected from among many throughout Minnesota, by a panel of out-of-state judges. The award will be presented at the 2013 Minnesota Public Transit Association Conference held in Rochester, MN in September.
5. Specially-scheduled Northstar trains serving the remainder of 2013 Twins games at Target Field have begun running with six cars beginning. The six-car trains will also operate to special events at Target Field and the Metrodome. Seating and standing capacity on a six-car Northstar train is upwards of 2,100. Despite softer ridership for special events on all modes this year, the recent nice weather has been drawing more event goers, particularly on Northstar.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

Mark Fuhrmann noted a revision to business item 2013-189, correcting the dollar amount shown from \$1,049,254.26 to \$1,074,229.26. A motion was made by Elkins, seconded by Munt to accept the revised business item and to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

2013-186: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2013-8 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

2013-199: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment for Minnesota River Crossing project at the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge in Bloomington

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Minnesota River Crossing project at the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge in 2014 using \$2,000,000 of federal Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in the Parks program funds, \$3,000,000 of state bonding, and \$9,000,000 in local funds.

2013-200: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment for 2014 Safe Routes to School Projects

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add three projects on the attached list using a total of \$170,000 in federal Safe Routes to School funding in 2014.

2013-189: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Authorization to Approve Contract Amendment for Environmental Testing and Monitoring during Construction, and for Subsequent Regulatory Reporting

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to the professional services contract with Braun Intertec for environmental testing and monitoring during construction, and for subsequent regulatory reporting, as part of the Central Corridor LRT (Green Line) project in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for a total amended contract value of \$1,074,229.26.

Non-Consent Items

2013-188: Reinstate the Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF) Program with Modifications

MTS Senior Planner Ann Braden presented the item. Several Committee members expressed concern about the current RALF fund balance being expended on highway parcels, leaving no reserve of funding for transit

and transit-oriented development, which they consider to be a priority. The fact that some of the highway loans have been outstanding for a long time with no anticipated repayment time frame was also noted. After discussion the consensus was not to have the action move to the Council on July 24, but instead have staff prepare a new action for a future Transportation Committee meeting that rescinds the “status quo” action and proposes new action that retains the status quo with some of the program modifications. McCarthy advised it could easily be into 2014 before staff recommendations on transit and TOD could come forward and then subsequent legislative approval would be needed.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Brimeyer:

That the Metropolitan Council reinstate its RALF program and modify it to:

- Consider and exercise approval over individual RALF loan requests, doing so on a case-by-case basis to ensure consistency with the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) and to determine policy and priority implications.
- Limit RALF loan requests to rights-of-way threatened by development or to hardship acquisitions.
- Require an annual review that assesses the program’s status, anticipates its financial needs, recommends a levy amount for the next annual budget and addresses related matters.

In addition the Council will:

- Not pursue legislative changes to expand the existing RALF program to include “A” Minor Arterials and other county roads that are not trunk highways or principal arterials.
- Investigate the feasibility of restructuring the RALF program to include early acquisition of property needed for transit projects and/or transit-oriented development (TOD).
- Work with MnDOT to establish priorities for interchange projects that will provide guidance on the use of RALF funding.
- Review, modify and update the RALF program and process guidelines to incorporate program modifications.

Motion did not pass, with Brimeyer voting yes and Commers, Doan, Elkins, Smith, Munt and Reynoso voting no. The item will not proceed to the full Council.

2013-190: Approve MnDOT as Designated Recipient of 5310 Metropolitan Area Formula Grant
MTS Assistant Director Gerri Sutton presented this item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Commers, that the Metropolitan Council authorize staff to take the necessary steps to designate the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) as the recipient of MAP-21 5310 formula grants allocated to the Minneapolis-St. Paul urbanized area.

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

INFORMATION

1. Vikings Stadium Transit Plans

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Jim Harwood and Manager of Facility Planning Maurice Roers presented an overview of the plans for integrating transit at the new stadium, including funding sources, key considerations for transit, other activity related to development of the site and next steps for moving forward. Staff plans to update the committee on a quarterly basis as the project moves forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.