

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: August 22, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Molly Cummings, District 5

John Pacheco, District 6

Raymond Zeran, District 9

Francisco Gonzalez, District 12

Kris Fredson, District 14

Phillip Sterner, District 15

= present

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Pacheco to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Sterner to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced Metro Transit Rail Transportation Manager Mike McNamara who presented an award to Light Rail Coordinator Rolland Green and Facilities Maintenance Manager Donn Rude who presented an award to Public Facilities Worker Julie Mickus.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

RAISE Grants

The US Department of Transportation announced RAISE grants last week. Two grants were awarded in the region. \$12M to Hennepin County for roadway and pedestrian improvements along Lake Street, intended to complement transit infrastructure coming with the B Line project. \$15M to the City of Plymouth for a multimodal trail under Highway 55, mobility hub improvements, transit stops, and road improvements at Co Rd 73.

LowNo Emissions Grant

Three providers submitted grant applications: MVTA, Metro Transit, and Southwest Transit. The Southwest Transit grant application was funded at around \$8M. The Council has budgeted the local match to this grant, which will bring new electric bus types to the region-coach buses as well as small buses.

Express Route 467

Today the Council restored transit service to the City of Lakeville, which had been suspended

since early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This service, route 467, was restored as a contracted transit service by MTS. We will operate 6 trips each peak period directly on I-35 from Lakeville to Downtown Minneapolis. This was a team effort for the Council, with 5 coach buses transferred from Metro Transit for this service and facility re-activation at the Kenrick park-and-ride. No report yet on usage but we'll track this as service is underway.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Quarterly Service Changes

Quarterly service changes went into effect on Saturday, August 20th. Currently, we are 37 operators short of our ideal for this service level. Managing our service to align with our operator levels will continue to guide decisions for December changes and will continue efforts to recruit operators, including being the focus of Metro Transit's State Fair booth presence this year.

Two-Car Train Pilot

The two-car train pilot period ended on Friday. Metro Transit is now in the process of evaluating customer feedback with other operations metrics to determine the impact of using more 2-car trains. In the meantime, 2-car trains will be used when capacity isn't a concern, but 3-car trains will be used when there is more demand.

Governor's Press Event on Public Safety

Metro Transit participated in Governor Walz's public safety press event on August 11th. The event was held at the US Bank Stadium light rail station to describe ongoing work to support public safety across the state. As part of the press event, Metro Transit Police Department's Patrol Captain, Captain Raymond, provided an update on Metro Transit's efforts to be visible and active on our system. Thanks to the staff who supported this event on one day's notice – this was a team effort by operations, police, facilities, and communications.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Dugan shared updates from the August 17th meeting.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-216:** That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 22P305 with Hoglund Bus, for up to 10 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,585,000.
2. **2022-21:** That the Metropolitan Council approve the partial release of a restrictive covenant on 6.94-acres of land within the City of Maple Grove in exchange for a proportional repayment of Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Number L0202 (RALF Loan).
3. **2022-222 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the purchase of eight electric buses for Metro Transit.

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Fredson.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-220:** Results of Title VI Service Equity Analysis for D Line and Related Local Service Changes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council approve the results of the Title VI Service Equity Analysis for the METRO D Line and Related Local Service Changes.

Metro Transit Senior Manager, Route Planning Cyndi Harper presented this item. Sterner

asked if there are changes to the East/West feeder routes (no changes planned outside what was reviewed today). Chair Barber asked what the plan for communication is. Harper answered the local changes will be wrapped into the larger outreach for the D-Line but a special effort will be put into making sure the riders on the service today, especially those that are using stops that are on the D Line, that they understand where to catch the D Line or new service on Route 5. Harper added communication will include bus stop postings, electronic rider alters, social media, etc. Chair Barber asked if this plan would meet the different Title VI threshold that will be coming before the later this year to which Harper responded that yes it would.

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

2. **2022-223:** Transportation Addendum to the Metropolitan Council Public Engagement Plan

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the Transportation Addendum to the Metropolitan Council Public Engagement Plan, and receive the public comment report.

Metropolitan Council Senior Communications Consultant Sara Maaske presented this item. Chamblis appreciated several of the updates to the plan. There were no questions from Council members.

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

Information

1. Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan

Metropolitan Transportation Services Transportation Planning Manager Steve Peterson introduced Halley Turner, MnDOT who presented this item. Sterner asked why fuel cell vehicles weren't included. Turner responded that they opted for vague language to allow space for innovation to happen. Sterner asked about the port of water ways plan, to which Turner stated the plan was in process lead by the office of Freight & Commercial Vehicles and would be updated after this plan is adopted (2024 – 2025). Sterner asked about electric charging stations. Turner answered that there is an added complexity in MN due to state law/policy but would prioritize I94 and I35 the first year. Chamblis and Pacheco wanted to see more in terms of economic impacts included.

2. Q2 Ridership

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper and Metro Transit Analytics and Research Manager Eric Lind presented this item. Sterner asked how rides are counted. Lind and Harper responded that it differs by mode: fixed route buses have the farebox/go-to card system, LRT/BRT have automatic passenger counters above every door and demand response services utilizes the scheduling software. Pacheco asked why there are fewer State Fair sites, as that service seems like a way to attract new riders. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra responded that we want to provide the same level of service we have had in the past, but it comes down to our operator shortage and our commitment to reliable service on our regular routes.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:28p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of August 22, 2022.



Council Contact:

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