

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

November 14, 2016

LOCATION: Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso

TAB Liaison Present:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 pm on November 14, 2016 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Dorfman to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Letofsky to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2016 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

The TAB had not met since the 10/24/16 Transportation Committee meeting, so there was nothing to report.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

FHWA and FTA have been in town for a 2-day comprehensive review of our transportation planning process, looking at best practices and comparing to federal regulations. They also held a public hearing and are open for public comment on the process. No outcomes to report yet but have heard they were positive and will bring final outcomes back to a future Committee meeting.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

App

Customers immediately responded when we introduced our new app a little over a week ago. Through Sunday, it had been downloaded nearly 4,900 times (3,124 iPhone, 1,730 Android).

The app gives customers the ability to purchase fares using their mobile device and use them whenever they're ready to do so. Operators and police have been trained to identify a valid fare, indicated by a moving display on the customer's mobile device. Nearly 1,400 tickets have already been sold through the app.

The app also includes our most popular trip planning tools, like NexTrip and Trip Planner. To learn how to download and use the app, visit metrotransit.org/app.

Safety Pilot

We're trying out a couple new safety features at the Green Line's Raymond Avenue Station. Two- to three-foot poles have been installed along a 15-foot

platform edge, creating a between-car barrier that keeps customers from inadvertently stepping off the platform. Several other transit agencies throughout the U.S. have employed similar systems on their platforms. Non-slip, door locator tiles were also installed on the platform. The tiles indicate where the front door of the first train car is located.

The features are expected to be especially helpful for customers with visual disabilities or limited mobility. Depending on maintenance and customer feedback, the installations may occur at other stations in the future.

New Officers

Thirteen new full-time officers joined the Metro Transit Police Department at a swearing-in ceremony on last week. The recruits come from a variety of backgrounds, with a combined 50-plus years of law enforcement experience with the DEA, Airport Police and several other area departments. One of the new officers worked most recently as a Metro Transit bus operator.

The group also continues to build the department's diversity, including the first Tibetan and Egyptian officers to work for Metro Transit. There are nine different languages spoken among the new officers.

With the new class, the department now has more than 113 full-time officers and a pool of 71 part-time officers.

Green Line ridership

The METRO Green Line had its highest-ever monthly ridership in October. There were nearly 1.26 million rides last month, with average weekday ridership of just over 46,000. The previous monthly ridership record was set in September 2015, with nearly 1.25 million Green Line rides.

The Green Line's October total was boosted by special events. When the Vikings played at home on Monday, Oct. 3, the Green Line had a record 66,000 rides. A single-day light rail ridership record was also set with a combined 122,259 rides on the Blue and Green Lines.

There have been around 10.6 million Green Line rides this year, up 4 percent from last year. (Systemwide, there have been 69.5 million rides, 4 percent below last year.)

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There are no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2016-230:** Central Corridor (Green Line) - Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 13 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Staffing

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Committee members.

It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Central Corridor (Green Line) Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 13 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount not to exceed \$100,000 for calendar year 2017.

Motion carried.

2. **2016-231:** Southwest Light Rail (Green Line Extension) - Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 7 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Staffing

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. Chair Schreiber asked how many parcels of land there were for condemnation, to which Fuhrmann responded that there were 153 parcels, most of which are partial.

It was moved by Dorfman, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Green Line Extension Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 7 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount not to exceed \$2,120,000 for calendar year 2017.

Motion carried.

3. **2016-232:** Blue Line Extension LRT Project - Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 3 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Staffing

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. Commers asked if the land remnants are restored after the projects are constructed, to which Fuhrmann responded because many of these are partials (long and skinny strips of land) and just used for temporary construction or permanent for the rail tracks, there is no restoration. But there are parcels for SWLRT and BLRT that will be full taking and after construction might have market value. In these instances, we'd work closely with TOD office.

It was moved by Barber, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Blue Line Extension Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 3 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount not to exceed \$1,300,000 for calendar year 2017.

Motion carried.

4. **2016-233:** Authorization to execute a Purchase Order for the Blue Line Enhancement Project – Special Track Work

Metro Transit Assistant Director, Engineering & Facilities Pat Jones and Metro Transit Principal Engineer Tom McGannon presented this item. Commers asked if this work would interfere with the Super Bowl, to which McGannon responded that no work would be completed by December 2017.

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Purchase Order with VoestalPine Nortrak, in the amount of \$975,902 for the special track work components for the Park Avenue and Warehouse crossovers.

Motion carried.

5. **2016-234:** Approval of C Line Long-term Realignment Recommendation to Glenwood Avenue
Katie Roth, BRT/Small Starts Project Manager, and Scott Janowiak, BRT/Small Starts Planner, presented this business item.

Munt asked for clarification on why the community favors the recommendation to move the C Line to Glenwood Avenue in the long-term. Roth noted several consistent comments received during October's

community engagement process. Community feedback favored broadened access to transitway service instead of focusing both light rail transit and bus rapid transit on Olson Memorial Highway. Roth also noted community support for opening up a new direct transit connection between Glenwood Avenue and Olson Memorial Highway. Community support for the C Line to help spur potential economic development on Glenwood Avenue was also noted.

Barber asked for ridership impact information. Roth responded that no substantial differences in C Line or METRO Blue Line ridership resulting from a Glenwood Avenue C Line alignment are anticipated, in part because of the geographic proximity of Olson Highway and Glenwood Avenue. In addition, C Line ridership is not anticipated to decrease with a Glenwood Avenue alignment due to similar estimated travel times when compared to the C Line Olson Memorial Highway alignment.

Rodriguez asked for information about how the Facebook Live stream was promoted for the open house. Roth responded that it was a pilot effort with minimal formal advertising beyond a social media blast. Future efforts will consider more ways to promote community engagement events that will be streamed live.

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council approve staff's recommendation to move the C Line from Olson Memorial Highway to Glenwood Avenue in the long term. The recommendation includes the following points:

- The C Line will serve Olson Memorial Highway from its opening day until the METRO Blue Line Extension is in service and Glenwood stations are completed;
- The C Line will be realigned to Glenwood Avenue once the METRO Blue Line Extension is in service and Glenwood stations are completed; and
- Project development for the Glenwood Avenue alignment will begin following execution of a Full Funding Grant Agreement for the METRO Blue Line Extension.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. MTS Regional Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager, Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item. Letofsky questioned when the Nicollet Mall was to re-open to which Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb responded that it was set to open mid 2017. In response to a question from Rodriguez about if we explore other opportunities to provide service for special events, General Manager Lamb provided a brief description about how we market and work with our partners to provide service for such events.

2. Cedar Grove Station Construction Update

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Claudius Toussaint presented this item. General Manager Lamb reminded the Committee Members of the business rationale for this station update. Chair Schreiber asked if we were ultimately responsible for the maintenance, to which Metro Transit Assistant Director, Engineering & Facilities Pat Jones responded that yes the Council is responsible for maintenance however it is under contract under MVTA.

3. US Bank Stadium Transit Operations

Metro Transit Manager, Rail Operations Michael Guse presented this item. There were no questions from Committee Members.

4. MTT LRT Program

Metropolitan Council Workforce Program Administrator Gary Courtney and Metro Transit Director, Rail Systems Maintenance Daniel Suggs presented this item. Courtney answered questions from Committee members: do we allow individuals who have a criminal background (yes, in line with Council HR hiring practices, which would be a case by case basis), what are we doing with the large amount of assets left on the table with only choosing 20 out of 400 applicants (recognize there is an opportunity there and working with HR on what the response will look like; possible information session, walking the individuals towards operator hiring or Twins Cities Rise will be able to forge a relationship), who was responsible for marketing towards women (Rise but in initial conversations and tasked Rise with increasing the number of women).

Chair Schreiber and Rodriguez expressed how impressed they were by this program and how hopeful that this would continue, maybe even replicated within the Council and/or other employers.

5. iDash Update

Metro Transit Assistant Director, Bus Administration Christine Kuennen, Metro Transit Assistant Director, Bus Maintenance Administration Joe Reichstadt and Metropolitan Council Project Manager Information Services Carolyn Harris presented this item. Dorfman asked about if there has been negative feedback to which Kuennen responded that no, most of this has been warmly received. McCarthy asked if this tool addresses how work is filled and Kuennen responded that no, this is more of an employee and fleet management system; General Manager Lamb added that iDash is to help free up our paperwork emphases, allowing management and front line staff have more of non-transactional dialogue.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary