

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

August 14, 2017

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

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

**Committee Members Absent: Jon Commers**

**TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan**

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03pm on Monday, August 14, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

#### APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Letofsky to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

##### St. Croix River Crossing

Opened on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. This was a \$646M bridge, roadway & interchange that replaces the Stillwater lift bridge. While it is open to traffic, some work remains and the Stillwater lift bridge will be restored to become a regional bike/pedestrian trail.

##### Metro Mobility Task Force

This was part of the recent legislation. Invitations have been sent and task force members are set (includes representatives from each of the counties, two taxi companies and TNC). First meeting will be August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Robert Street.

##### TPP

Just completed meetings with Scott and Washington counties; last meeting will occur this week with Anoka county. All counties indicated they'd like to follow up with their boards at work sessions this fall and Council members will be invited to those in which you represent.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

##### Marketing campaign

Metro Transit's annual marketing campaign rolled out last week, with advertisements appearing on local radio stations, billboards, online and on many of our buses, trains and stations.

The ads feature the "Journey On" theme introduced last fall and used in several other recent marketing efforts. The current campaign highlights our mobile app, the High Frequency Network and free parking spaces available at area Park & Rides.

In a subtle nod to the campaign's focus on a younger audience, all the individuals shown in the ads are Council interns. These advertisements will run through the end of the year and a new campaign will be introduced in 2018.

A campaign that reinforces Metro Transit's commitment to creating an inclusive environment was also introduced this month. Posters featuring the phrase "All Aboard: Metro Transit Welcomes Everyone," appear on several of our buses, trains and stations.

### **Emergency response**

Metro Transit assisted in two recent high-profile emergency situations. In one instance, buses were sent to a Mendota Heights senior living facility when residents were evacuated amid fears about an armed man who'd entered the building. In the second instance, Metro Transit police officers and buses were sent to assist in the response to an explosion at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis. Sadly, one of the individuals whose life was lost in the blast was a former Metro Transit operator who retired in 2005 with 32 years of service.

Metro Transit regularly provides buses and police support when partner agencies are responding to large emergencies. The buses can be used to provide temporary shelter and private space for responders, family members or investigators. Year to date, we've responded to nearly two-dozen emergencies.

### **Construction**

Beginning this week, bridges carrying Franklin and Portland avenues over I-35W will be closed for the first of what will ultimately be four years of construction along a three-mile stretch of the interstate south of downtown Minneapolis. The service impacts from these bridge closures will be relatively minor. But they foreshadow more significant construction that will begin next spring, creating one of the most impactful disruptions our organization has ever seen. More information about how we'll respond to construction on I-35W will be shared at an upcoming meeting.

We're also prepared to adapt to construction that will affect some of our State Fair service. Notably, the closure of the ramp from eastbound I-394 to I-94 will result in more congestion in downtown Minneapolis. To adapt, buses coming from the County Road 73 Park & Ride in Minnetonka will be re-routed to north metro roadways where we can use bus-only shoulders. We'll also be putting a few extra buses into service at sites where delays might occur during peak periods.

We've also circled Thursday, Aug. 31, on our calendars as the Twins, Vikings, Gophers and Saints each play at their respective stadiums on that date. When we faced similar circumstances last year, we saw our highest single-day ridership ever – nearly 370,000 rides.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

Motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins and passed, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2017-170:** Authorize Execution of Contract Options with Gillig LLC  
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options on Contract 12P227 with Gillig LLC to:
  1. purchase eight replacement transit buses in an amount not to exceed \$4,035,000; and
  2. purchase four expansion transit buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,900,000.
  
2. **2017-175:** 2017 Small Bus Procurements  
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with:

1. Hoglund Bus (MnDOT Contract 121183) for up to 36 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$3,168,288; and
2. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 121155) for up to 3 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$195,000.

**Non-Consent Items:**

**1. 2017-152: BLRT - Bassett Creek Storm Sewer Construction**

Metro Transit Director Transit Systems Development MarySue Abel presented this item. Dorfman asked why the bids were higher than we expected. Abel responded that there was a detailed review of bids and the biggest difference was in the MCES work. MCES did review that portion and was okay with the difference.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with Minger Construction Co, Inc. in the amount of \$2,421,561.45 for the Bassett Creek Construction Contract (17P124).

Motion passed.

**2. 2017-150 SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Construction Agreement with Twin Cities and Western Railroad**

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented the item. Councilmember Dorfman commented that while she was on the St. Louis Park City Council, she received calls from this neighborhood complaining about the idling trains. Alexander responded that with the removal of siding and the introduction of the southerly connector the noise will be reduced.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Construction Agreement with Twin Cities and Western Railroad (TCWR) for the Southwest LRT Project (Project) in an amount not-to-exceed of \$16 million.

Motion passed.

**3. 2017-162 SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Memorandum of Understanding with BNSF Railway**

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented the item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF), the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Hennepin County (County), and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (collectively, the "Government Parties") on matters pertaining to the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project and BNSF.

Motion passed.

**4. 2017-163 SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Shared Use Agreement with BNSF Railway**

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented the item. Dorfman asked while relocating the trail if the width would remain the same. Alexander replied that yes, each path would

remain the same but due to the location of a transmission pole, the two paths would have to be located around the pole. Dorfman also brought attention to two letters – from Kevin Reich, Chair of Minneapolis Transportation & Public Works Committee and one from Robin Hutcheson, Director of Public Works in Minneapolis. These letters outline their concerns and questions regarding the tail track and barrier wall. Dorfman added that she believes Council staff will work with the City on these items. Alexander confirmed that staff will work closely with the City on the elements affected by the tail track and corridor protection as the project moves forward. Dorfman and Alexander noted that the freight rail negotiations are challenging and that the conversations needed to be confidential in order to progress.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Shared Use Agreement with BNSF Railway (BNSF) related to operations and maintenance on the Wayzata Subdivision as a result of the Southwest LRT Project (Project).

Motion passed.

**5. 2017-164 SW:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Construction Agreement with BNSF Railway

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented the item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Construction Agreement with BNSF Railway (BNSF) for the Southwest LRT Project in an amount not to exceed \$1 million.

Motion passed.

**6. 2017-165 SW:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Purchase and Sales Agreement with BNSF Railway

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented the item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Purchase and Sales Agreement with BNSF Railway (BNSF) for the Southwest LRT Project (Project) including the following for a cost not to exceed \$10 million:

- Acquiring fee title of two parcels from BNSF
- Acquiring temporary property licenses from BNSF for construction of the Project
- Acquiring permanent easements from BNSF
- Deeding properties rights acquired for the Project to BNSF of portions of two privately owned parcels needed for construction of retaining walls

Motion passed.

**8. 2017-167:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Award contract for Construction Management Support Services

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented the item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for Construction Management Support Services in an amount not to exceed \$8.5 million to Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc.  
Motion passed.

**8. 2017-161:** Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Minneapolis between the Metro Transit Police Department and the Minneapolis Police Department  
Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington presented this item. Munt asked if MTPD working with MPD, makes MTPD immigrations agents. Harrington replied that no, the sphere would be normal process of checking fares, screening for safety and ensuring things are safe and secure. Dorfman asked if the cost of security for Super Bowl and reimbursement can come from NFL. Harrington explained that unlike RNC, this does not have federal appropriation. There are funds being raised by the Host Committee but there is no state/federal money and NFL does not provide reimbursement. Letofsky inquired about difference in Metro Transit services during the Super Bowl, to which Brian Lamb answered that Transportation Committee will get a debrief about operations in the coming months.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Letofsky:  
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Minneapolis to clarify the roles and responsibilities for police service between the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) and the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) during Super Bowl LII and the events during the 12-day operational period surrounding the Super Bowl.

Motion passed.

**9. 2017-171:** Orange Line - Approve Station Names  
Metro Transit Associate Planner BRT/Small Starts Natalie Westberg presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:  
That the Metropolitan Council approve the proposed station names for the METRO Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit project.

Motion passed.

**10. 2017-172:** Gold Line – Local Funding Agreements Authorization  
Metro Transit Senior Manager of BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented the item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Schreiber:  
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following agreements for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (Gold Line) Project:

- 1) Cooperative Funding Agreement (CFA) for Project Development (PD) with Washington County, Ramsey County, and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) in an amount not to exceed \$17,000,000; and
- 2) Assignment and Assumption of the 2015 and 2016 Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) Capital Grant Awards from Washington County to Metropolitan Council in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000.

Motion passed.

**11. 2017-173:** Gold Line - Cooperative and Master Funding Agreements with MnDOT

Metro Transit Senior Manager of BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented the item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following agreements for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (Gold Line) Project:

- 1) Cooperation Agreement (CA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT);  
and
- 2) Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with MnDOT

Motion passed.

#### 12. **2017-174:** Interagency Agreement with City of Bloomington to fund Mall of America Transit Station Renovations

Metro Transit Assistant Director Facilities Engineering Pat Jones introduced Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities Principal Contract Administration Derek Berube who presented this item.

Barber mentioned there were several businesses in the district that utilize the transit system (charters), which can cause backups, etc. and asked if this was being addressed. Berube responded that the new vision of the Transit Center would be for all services (Metro Mobility, LRT, buses, etc.) but that taxis and charter buses would stay on the North side of the Mall.

Dorfman asked if there was any public art being incorporated into the renovated transit center and Berube confirmed there are specific locations within the project that art can be displayed.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington for \$5,000,000.00 in funding of the construction of the Mall of America Transit Station Renovations Project.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. Council member Elkins provided some background on the opposition with the DNR's Minnesota Valley State Trail in Bloomington.

### 2. 2017 State Fair Planning

Metro Transit Assistant Manager Street Operations Greg Tuveson and Metro Transit Market Development Specialist Adam Mehl presented this item. McCarthy wanted to know if the traffic issues the A Line buses have during peak hours were being addressed. Tuveson answered that the buses won't go down the NB Como ramp and operations will move to Midway Parkway. Tuveson added that they will be testing out an artic bus during the evenings on A Line route. Reynoso expressed concern for the regular commuters who use the 95<sup>th</sup> Park and Ride during the week. Tuveson replied that regular commuters won't lose their parking but space availability will depend on day of the week/time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.

Becky Davidson  
Recording Secretary