

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: May 23, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: 390 Robert Street

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco, District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kris Fredson, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Zeran, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sterner, District 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Molly Cummings, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Francisco Gonzalez, District 12 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis 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 Fredson, seconded by Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced Metro Transit _____ who presented awards to Rail Supervisor Bob Barksdale, Rail Supervisor Alex Bearson, and Rail Supervisor Jeremy Dee (who was not present).

Public Comment

Members of the public and a Minneapolis City Council Member voiced their concerns about item 2020-134.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Carlson reported:

Planning

In our last meeting I reported on the Regional Solicitation. We received a record 155 applications for funding. I'm pleased to report tonight that following a qualifying review, all 155 will progress to full evaluation and scoring. Usually a handful of projects are disqualified but we were able to avoid disqualifying any projects this time. The USDOT's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program closes its application period today (5/23). The Council received three letters of support requests and supported all of these applications: Highway 36 and Lake Elmo Ave interchange (Washington Co); Highway 65 and 105 and 109 interchanges

(Anoka Co); Highway 212 rural freight and mobility project (Carver Co)

Finance & Contracted Services

MTS is preparing applications for zero emission bus competitive federal funding opportunities. These will be submitted by the Council on behalf of MVTA and SW Transit. Specifics still in development but could be a handful per each provider. One of the advantages is owned support facility- not dependent on a lease. The approved Capital Improvement Plan includes match funding for these projects. While the funding for these pilot efforts begins, MTS is also taking steps to prepare a zero-emission bus fleet transition plan to guide future grant requests and funding submittals.

Nancy Daubenberger has been appointed the new MnDOT Commissioner.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Kooistra reported:

Central Station Shooting

Around 4:30 on Friday morning, officers responded to a report of shots fired at the Green Line's Central Station. When they arrived, police located an adult male with gunshot wounds on the platform. They performed life-saving efforts, but the person was pronounced dead at the scene. My thoughts go out to the person's loved ones. And I want to also recognize that impact these horrific events have on our police officers as well as other transit employees involved in the response, including our teams working in the field and in control centers as well as our facilities staff.

Interim Chief Grates

Since the last Transportation Committee meeting, Eddie Frizell left the Metro Transit Police Department to become Minnesota's U.S. Marshal. The Regional Administrator appointed Rick Grates as interim chief. Interim Chief Grates was previously a captain at the Metro Transit Police Department. Grates joined the Metro Transit Police Department in 2005 and has worked in patrol, light rail safety, and investigations. During his tenure at Metro Transit Police, Grates has been recognized on numerous occasions for his dedication to duty. He was selected the Metro Transit Police Officer of the Year in 2008 and awarded seven Medals of Commendation, one Chiefs Award of Merit, and one St. Paul Police Chiefs Award of Excellence. Grates has completed the MN Chiefs Leadership Academy, the Leaders in Police Organizations program sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the School of Police Staff and Command at Northwestern University. In his off time, Grates is a husband and father of two adult children with whom he enjoys walleye fishing, golf, and live music. I thank Interim Chief Grates for his willingness to take on this role as the Met Council undergoes a national search for the next Metro Transit Police Chief.

Sterner asked for an update from last week's stabbing, Interim Chief of Police noted that both recent stabbing incidents have resulted in suspects in custody.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Dugan reported on agency updates.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

2. **2022-114 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Rondo Area Street Study (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
3. **2022-115 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
4. **2022-116 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Burnsville Bus Garage Renovation and Expansion (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)



5. **2022-117 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-494 Bridge Rehabilitation (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
6. **2022-118 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: US 52 Concrete Surfacing (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
7. **2022-119 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Gateway State Trail Realignment (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
8. **2022-120 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: US 169 Traffic Management System (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
9. **2022-121 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: I-35W Landscaping (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
10. **2022-122 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: I-394 Ramp Intersection Project (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
11. **2022-123 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Bus Purchase for Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-97:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Emergency Declaration #85 for Bass Lake Spur West Tie Replacement (Nat Gorham 612-373-3889)

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Zeran, that the Metropolitan Council ratify Emergency Declaration #85 for Bass Lake Spur West Tie Replacement for the METRO Green Line Extension Project to North Shore Track Services, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$439,000.

Gonzalez asked why wood railroad ties are being used as opposed to another material. Gorham said it is industry standard and they are supposed to last a long time when maintained. Gonzalez asked for the lifespan of a tie, Gorham said 10 – 20 years depending on traffic, maintenance, and the grading. Zeran asked when the Council took ownership because the work was long overdue, Gorham said it was likely in 2018.

Motion carried.

2. **2022-133:** Master Contracts for Environmental Assessment and Investigation Services – Contract 21P251 (Julie Brenny 612-349-7444)

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract 21P251A with Braun Intertec Corporation, Contract 21P251B with American Engineering Testing, Inc., Contract 21P251C with Short Elliot Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) and Contract 21P251D with WSP USA, Inc., for environmental assessment and investigation services to support Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities in the amounts of \$250,000 each, for a total not to exceed a value of \$1,000,000.

Gonzalez asked for clarification on the procurement process. Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby explained the process for proposals. Kooistra noted that the DBE goals are an important example of the ongoing work. Sterner asked about remaining funding. Brenny noted that most of the value of the contract is used. Jacoby explained about the controls in place.

Motion carried.

3. **2022-134:** METRO E Line – Approval of Final Corridor Plan (Kyle O'Donnell Burrows 612-349-7749)

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Fredson, that the Transportation committee postpone consideration of the item to the next regularly scheduled Transportation Committee a date



certain June 13, 2022.

Zeran asked for a map to show more station detail. Sterner asked for a breakdown of the pros and cons of another platform. O'Donnell Burrows noted that the proposed station the community pointed out would be essentially duplicative of another location. Chamblis asked for reasoning behind stations ruled out and O'Donnell Burrows expounded. Fredson asked for more detail on the position of the City of Minneapolis. Chamblis asked for this corridor to be examined in light of equity, including community engagement. Gonzalez brought up the importance of serving the users of the system and having a regional lens.

Motion carried.

4. **2022-112 SW:** Transportation Addendum to the Metropolitan Council Public Engagement Plan (Charles Carlson 651-602-1754, Sara Maaske 651-602-1588)

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Sterner, that the Transportation Committee recommend to the Metropolitan Council that the draft Transportation Addendum to the Metropolitan Council Public Engagement Plan be released for public comment.

Gonzalez asked about the role of advisory committees.

Motion carried.

5. **2022-113 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment and Public Comment Report: I-94 Auxillary Lane (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)

It was moved by Gonzalez, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project line funding a new auxiliary lane from I-494/I-694/I-94 in Oakdale to Washington County Highway 19 (Woodbury Drive) in Woodbury and to add a guardrail and noisewall to its associated existing I-94 maintenance project located between Oakdale and the St. Croix River.

There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

Motion carried.

Information

1. **Q1 2022 Ridership Report** (Eric Lind 612-349-7521, John Harper 651-602-1744)

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

2. **Q2 Service Changes and Operator Staffing** (Brian Funk 612-349-7514, Adam Harrington 612-349-7797)

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of May 23, 2022.

Council Contact:

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