

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

#### Committee Members Present:

Barber, Cunningham, Kramer, Reynoso, Duininck, Commers, Wulff, Rummel, Letofsky, Schreiber, Rodriguez, Dorfman, Munt, Elkins

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Duininck called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:00 on Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Rummel, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2016 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

#### INFORMATION

Research on Economic Impact of Streetcars

Sean Libberton, a consultant from Parsons Brinckerhoff, gave a presentation on his research on the economic impact of streetcars. This presentation was a follow up to the Streetcar Policy Peer Region and Survey Research he presented to the Council in January 2015. The three follow-up topics he covered were economic development and regional competitiveness impacts of streetcars, experience of coordination/interoperability of streetcars and LRT in other cities, and operating streetcars in inclement weather. He identified 12 regions of comparable size with regional rail systems and subjected them to a high-level review, then narrowed his focus for a more in-depth review to six regions (Los Angeles, San Diego, Portland, Toronto, Denver, and Salt Lake City). Libberton stated that the economic development impacts of streetcars is difficult to measure, partly because there is no standard definition of economic development. Three potential measures of impacts include new and increased development, land value premiums, and tourism and convention business. Libberton concluded that the perceived permanence of streetcars was the most compelling case for economic investment in affected corridors, and the advancement of a streetcar versus bus rapid transit and other bus options is dependent on local goals and objectives. Regarding inclement weather, Libberton reported that streetcars can be outfitted with plows, but few are; preventing snow and ice accumulation is often preferred to clearing.

City of Minneapolis Council member Lisa Bender and Policy Director Peter Wagenius shared some brief comments about the City's streetcar research and planning.

#### Equity Initiatives Review

Equity Initiatives Grants recipients presented on their grant projects. Their reports included the project scope, funding, project outcomes, and lessons learned. The projects and their presenters were: Regional Parks Equity Policy Implementation (Raintry Salk, Community Development), MCES Changing Workforce Specialist (Jennifer Zuchowski and Osiris Bardales, Environmental Services), Help Wanted Traveling Billboard (Cedrick Baker, OEO, filled in for Ross Callahan, Metro Transit), Metro Transit

Technician Program (Gary Courtney, OEO), Making Transit Information Accessible to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Riders (Laura Matson, Metro Transit), Micro Jobseekers (Kelly Morrell, Metro Transit), Child Care and Transit Study (Allison Bell, Metro Transit), Juvenile Diversion Program (Metro Transit Police Dept.), Understanding Equity in Transportation (Heidi Schallberg, Metropolitan Transportation Services), I-94 Public Engagement (Michelle Fure, Communications), Manufactured Home Preservation Project (Freya Thamman, Community Development), Equity Training Set-Aside (Lesley Kandaras, Regional Administration). Cedrick Baker gave concluding remarks. Council members asked a few questions and praised the staff for their hard work on developing the various initiatives.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:20PM.

Emily Getty  
Recording Secretary