

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: September 23, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Tyronne Carter, District 3

John Pacheco Jr., District 5

Anjuli Cameron, District 8

Diego Morales, District 9

Susan Vento, District 12

Toni Carter, District 14

Tenzin Dolkar, District 15

= present

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:04 p.m.

Agenda approved

Chair Barber stated public comment and reports would be heard before Employee Recognition.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Carter, Tyronne, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Joshua Houdek with Sierra Club addressed the Committee with comments related to business item 2024-260: Midtown Greenway Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Expansion Planning, Contract 24P136. Houdek wanted to ensure Met Council's planning identifies estimates for construction costs broken out by segments and features and legal parameters of a reasonable easement or shared use agreement for the Short Line Bridge between the railroad [CPKC] and the entity responsible for operating the trail.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson reported on staff attending the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations conference this week in Salt Lake City.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras reported on the See Tracks, Think Train safety campaign and reminded Council members of an upcoming opportunity to tour the Rail and Transit Control Centers.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Peter Dugan reported on UZAs (Urbanized Areas) and Complete Streets.

Employee recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced Metro Transit Deputy General Manager – Capital Programs Nick Thompson who presented awards to Senior Project Manager Kelcie Young, Environmental Compliance Lead Neha Damle and Public Involvement Manager Nkongo Cigolo.

Consent business

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-consent business

1. **2024-204:** Disposition of Chicago-Lake Transit Center

It was moved by Pacheco, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council declare the property at 2946 Chicago Ave S Minneapolis surplus for disposition, authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate termination of the Transit Easement Agreement and Operations and Maintenance Agreement between Council and Midtown Exchange Commons LLC, and release the Council's transit interests contingent on Region 5 Federal Transit Administration concurrence.

Metro Transit Senior Planner Sonja Burseth and Metropolitan Council Real Estate Director Kelly Jameson presented this item. Carter, Toni asked if the livability community meeting would continue to happen once Metro Transit vacates that site. Burseth stated that as long as the structures are there, the group will continue to meet but will follow up with Customer Relations as the organizer of that meeting to determine what happens once the structures are torn down. Several Council members thanked staff for the additional information, stating it was encouraging to see the NDC vision for the site. Chair Barber thanked our partners in this effort, especially NDC for allowing us to view the vision concepts

Motion carried.

2. **2024-237:** Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and Metro Transit Police Department (Contract #24I038)

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Joint Powers Agreement ("JPA") # 24I038 with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension ("BCA").

Metro Transit Police Department Captain Richard Raymond presented this item. Council members didn't have any comments.

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

3. **2024-238:** Joint Powers Agreements with Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit partner agencies and the Metro Transit Police Department (Contract #24I037/City of Woodbury, Contract #24I042/City of Oakdale, Contract #24I041/City of Maplewood and Contract #24I044/County of Washington)

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Joint Powers Agreements ("JPA") with partner agencies within and surrounding the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit ("BRT") service area (cities of Woodbury (#24I037), Oakdale (#24I042), Maplewood (#24I041) and county of Washington (#24I044).

Metro Transit Police Department Captain Joseph Dotseth presented this item. Captain Dotseth clarified that MTPD already has a JPA with the City of St. Paul and discussions are happening with County of Ramsey. Council members didn't have any comments.

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

4. **2024-181:** Management and Administration of Metro Vanpool, Contract 23P152

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 23P152 with Enterprise Leasing Company of Minnesota, LLC for the management and administration of Metro Vanpool in an amount not to exceed \$4,635,285.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Haper presented this item. Carter, Tyronne asked for clarification on who the program was available to. Harper stated this is a public transit program and staff work with business and groups of employees that can ride together for their work commute. Carter, Tyronne asked for the projected active vanpools in the next 5 years. Harper stated the vanpool program has consistently been 50-75 vanpools and that the market is relatively small. Chamblis asked if the business subsidy their employees fees. Harper stated yes, typically the vanpools that participate are not only receiving Metropolitan Council subsidy but also employer subsidy. Cameron asked if the program was exclusively for employers and if this was open for those commuting to/from a day service location. Harper stated that that it isn't the focus for the vanpool program but that MTS has been working on a pilot program to fill the niches of day service locations.

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

5. **2024-216 SW:** Microtransit Software, Contract 24P015

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyronne, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P015 with Spare Labs, Inc., to provide software that will support microtransit service operations in an amount not to exceed \$852,100.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Haper presented this item. Cameron asked with the publication of Network Now and the addition of microtransit sites, does staff feel comfortable and confident this contract can handle the increase. Harper stated service expansion was specified in the contract; to have the ability to facilitate multiple zones with a variety of different approaches.

Motion carried.

6. **2024-260:** Midtown Greenway Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Expansion Planning, Contract 24P136

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 24P136 with Kimley-Horn and Associates to provide transportation planning and engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$534,350.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Elmer presented this item. Carter, Toni asked if it makes sense to do this technical work of assessing alternatives ahead of drafting an agreement with the railroad not knowing whether there would be a real option for the railroad. Elmer replied that railroad coordination will be a big part of this contract and that it may be unlikely for a railroad to commit to an alternative, one way or the other, this early in the design process. Elmer continued that to address this possible outcome, this work has included an option for a separate trail-only crossing of the Mississippi River as a contingency option in the event there's not an agreeable alternative for using the rail bridge. Elmer noted there was strong support among the participating agencies in this planning work for adding this contingency option into the work scope. Carter, Toni asserted that there may be a level of technical work on alignment options that is required to put forth a clear alternative for consideration by the railroad and that was the intent of including this option.



Elmer affirmed the statement. Chair Barber stated appreciation for the parallel dual path approach outlined for this planning effort, given the intention of the legislation is to make the connection. In response to these questions raised by the Sierra Club, Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson said that the Council will address all of the activities specified in the state law and that the easement agreement with the railroad, because it is specialized and not engineering related, is not included in this contract, but would be addressed through a separate RFP or some other mechanism. Elmer stated that detailed construction costs will be covered under multiple tasks and sub-tasks.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Proposed 2025-2030 Transit Capital Improvement Program

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance Director Heather Giesel presented this item.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of September 23, 2024.

Council contact:

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