

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 10, 2021

LOCATION: Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held electronically.

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Francisco Gonzalez

TAAC Liaison Present: David Fenley

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at: 4:01 p.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021.

AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Ferguson to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2021 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Gonzalez

TAAC REPORT

Fenley reported that the TAAC gave feedback on the Gold Line and the recommendations were accepted. TAAC members are working with the Council Communications department on outreach for future projects.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

TIP

Next week, TAB will be approving the Draft Transportation Improvement Plan for release for public comment. The public comment will begin before this committee meets again and close on July 6, 2021. Each year the TIP goes through this public input process before approval by TAB and the Council. The 2022-2025 TIP includes \$5.2B in highway, freight, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Legislature

Conference committees have been meeting and in transportation so far just adopting areas with similar policy language that needed to be made the same. Friday they spent considerable time on Arterial BRT, with a presentation by the Council.

COVID

The Contractor workforce had ZERO positive occurrences of COVID since we last met, and a total of 155 since the beginning. Of the 155, 154 have returned to work. For service, Metro Mobility ridership growth is accelerating, and is now

above **65% of pre-COVID levels**, and Health Care essential worker trips remain at about 50% of peak levels. Transit Link has not remains stable at 50% of pre-COVID levels. Along with Metro Transit, we continue to offer free rides to Metro Mobility customers who are signed up to receive the COVID vaccine at the new Mn State Fair FEMA vaccine that opened two weeks ago. We are also connecting customers at other locations around the Metro.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

COVID Cases at Metro Transit

Metro Transit has had a total of 425 employees who have tested positive for COVID since the start of the pandemic. Since the last Transportation Committee meeting on April 26, we've had 13 employees test positive for COVID. We continue to monitor cases by location, and we are not seeing any hotspots or patterns. We are not experiencing any operational impacts due to employees having COVID or needing to quarantine.

Adjusting to Governor's Announcement on Ending COVID Restrictions

Last Thursday, the Governor announced his plans to turn the dial regarding COVID restrictions. We will continue to work with the Minnesota Department of Health to determine next steps regarding what these changes mean for capacity limits on our vehicles as well as other COVID restrictions and changes related to return-to-office procedures, public access to facilities, special event protocols, etc. One challenge is that the federal mask mandate has been extended to September 13, meaning we will need to continue to require masks on board even after the statewide mask mandate ends by or before July 1.

Adjusting to Governor's Announcement on Ending COVID Restrictions

The mobile vaccination unit buses we developed in partnership with Minnesota Department of Health are operating 4 days/week with up to 4 buses each day. The first outstate vaccine bus caravan will start next week in the central MN communities of Long Prairie, Clarissa, Bertha, and Staples. We are thankful to have Operator James Yang and Assistant Manager Mary Johnson who were eager to raise their hand and will be representing Metro Transit in this important work.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Cummings, seconded by Fredson and carried, to approve the following consent items:

- Aye: 7 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran, Barber
- Nay: 0
- Absent: 1 Gonzalez

1. **2021-112 SW:** 2021-2024 TIP Amendment for MVTA: Burnsville Bus Garage Expansion

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to add a project expanding MVTA's Burnsville Bus Garage.

2. **2021-113 SW:** 2021-2024 TIP Amendment: Farebox Replacement for Metro Transit, Metropolitan Council, and Suburban Providers

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to add two projects replacing the fareboxes for Metro Transit, Metropolitan Council, and Suburban provider bus fleets.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2021-107:** Metro Transit Bus Diesel Fuel Supply-2021, Contract 21P062
Metro Transit Warranty, Contracts, and Analysis Manager Abel Mumbi presented this item.

Chamblis asked about the location of the company. Chamblis brought up the size and demographic profile of the lowest responsible and responsive bidders.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a 4-year contract with Mansfield Oil Company of Gainesville, Inc. to provide bus diesel fuel and delivery services in an amount not to exceed \$49,015,779.39.

Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Gonzalez

2. **2021-108:** SWLRT (Green Line Extension) Civil Construction Changer Order – Additional Contaminated Soil Disposal

Metro Transit Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item.

Chamblis asked about compensation for locating the contamination source. Alexander said it would come from a grant and it's been settled. Zeran asked what is replacing the contaminated soil. Alexander said various soil materials are being brought in. Chamblis asked about reporting when contaminated soil is found. Alexander said it is all tracked. Zeran brought up the varying types of soil that qualify for "contamination" and Alexander said while it could be chemicals it could also be organic matter like roots, or it could include nails, etc.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator through the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Council Authorized Representative to negotiate and execute a change order for Contract 15P307A with Lunda McCrossan Joint Venture (LMJV) in an amount not to exceed \$21,155,890 for additional contaminated soil disposal.

Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Gonzalez

INFORMATION

1. Electric Vehicles Planning Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer and Great Plains Institute Katelyn Bocklund presented this item.

Chamblis said this study will be important to share with constituents and legislators. Zeran asked if staff can look at electric cooperatives as part of the solution for those who live in apartments. Sterner brought up the possibility of charging at work.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary