

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

August 9, 2021

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

**Committee Members Present: Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran**

**Committee Members Absent: Kris Fredson**

**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 4:01p.m. on Monday, August 9, 2021.

### AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2021 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye:	5	Barber, Chamblis, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran
Nay:	0	
Absent:	3	Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson

### TAAC REPORT

Fenley reported TAAC heard an update on the Metropolitan Council ADA Transition plan, which includes a lot of great things that have been assessed and are going into the plan. The second update heard was on the Better Bus Stops 5-year program and regular bus stop design guide. The TAAC also got their first department introduction from the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) staff, which turned into a great discussion. The committee is looking forward to more department introductions from staff that don't typically interact with TAAC. Council members can send Fenley any recommendations on departments that could be introduced to the committee. Currently have two work groups; Bus Priority Seating Workgroup (which is in full swing and putting out new promotion materials in the next month or two) and the Marketing and Transit Information Accessibility workgroup (working with the department on the way in which Metropolitan Council communicates on buses and trains, and how to make that more accessible).

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

Metropolitan Transportation Services Acting Director Amy Vennewitz reported:

#### Metro Mobility Update

The healthcare worker transportation program will be ending on Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Staff believes there has been adequate notifications to customers so don't foresee any problems. Ridership continues to increase on Metro Mobility and while right now there isn't capacity concerns, this could potential happen in the future so terminating the healthcare worker program is coming at a good time. Metro Mobility doesn't have quite the issue with driver shortages as Metro Transit but is short drivers, which could become a bigger problem as we

head towards full capacity. Staff is coordinating with Metro Transit on their employment fairs.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

COVID

Patterns being seen with COVID-19 infections in the workforce is mirroring the increase in infections being reported in the state. Metro Transit had 2 cases in June, 14 in July and in the first 8 days of August there have been 8 cases.

**BUSINESS**

**Consent Items:**

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

**Non-Consent Items:**

1. **2021-173 SW:** METRO B Line – Award Design and Construction Administration Services Contract 20P322

Metro Transit BRT Assistant Director Katie Roth introduced Metro Transit Principal Engineer – BRT Projects Luke Sandstrom who presented this item. Chamblis asked to explain the significance of the Brooks Act Procurement process and why it doesn't have cost as a factor. Sandstrom replied that this procurement process is a requirement of using federal funds, cost can't be a factor it has to be a qualification-based evaluation. Ferguson asked that staff think about how we could add evaluation criteria around equity in procurements where cost isn't a factor. Chair Barber stated she would pass this onto the Procurement department.

Motion by Ferguson, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 20P322 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for design, engineering, and construction administration for the METRO B Line project in the amount not to exceed \$9,785,510. A same week Council action is requested to ensure timely advancement of the B Line.

Motion carried.

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Fredson

2. **2021-187 JT SW:** SWLRT Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. Ferguson asked if the project goes beyond this amount, where would the rest come from and are there concerns that more money will be spent than what has been allocation. Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander replied that we will work with our funding partners, Hennepin County and the FTA, to address additional cost overruns, should they occur. Alexander continued that there are still some items to tackle, mainly the rescheduling of both the systems in the civil contracts but staff will keep Council Members up to date. Ferguson asked how Council members will know if they are approving contacts that aren't fully funded. Alexander responded before an item is brought to Committee/Council it will have to have the funding in place.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2021 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

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

3. **2021-210: SWLRT (Green Line Extension) Civil Construction Change Order – Secant Wall in Kenilworth Corridor, Contract Number 15P307A**

Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. Cummings thanked Alexander for the detailed overview and expressed appreciation for staff's caution and care with the project, including being straight and transparent when there are issues. Cummings asked if the two actions are combined into one motion. Alexander responded that is correct.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Chamblis:

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 \$29,979,444.69; and that the Council authorize an additional 9.49% to the 20.33% cumulative cap of change order authority under Council Procedure 14-1a for Contract 15P307A.

Motion carried.

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

## **INFORMATION**

1. Moving Forward to a Stronger and Better Transit System

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra, Service Development Director Adam Harrington, Revenue Operations Sr. Manager Nick Eull, Acting Deputy General Manager/Chief Operating Officer Brian Funk, Customer Service and Marketing Director Bruce Howard and Deputy General Manager – Capital Program Nick Thompson presented this item. There were no questions from Council members.

2. 2022 Operating Budget

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Agesen-Huebner presented this item. Chair Barber asked if there were concerns with MVST as there is a low availability of cars right now. Petrie responded that because MVST is a volatile source, we watch the receipts every month and currently they are holding predictions, but we are cognizant of that fact there is a shortage of cars. Chair Barber asked what happens if we don't receive the money owed from Anoka County. Petrie responded we haven't received any payments from Anoka County since July 2020, but we feel with the monies received from other counties for 2021 we should have enough to take us through mid to late 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. Petrie stated that if monies aren't received, staff will have to come back to the Council. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra added that while Anoka County didn't approve new annual operating agreement for 2021, there is a 5-year master funding operating agreement that delineates the County shares which runs through December 2022. Chamblis expressed appreciation to staff for the level of detail and forethought on the key items Council members indicated they wanted updates on.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:09p.m.

Becky Gorell  
Recording Secretary