

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, April 9, 2012**

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair John Đoàn	Roxanne Smith Adam Duininck Jon Commers	Edward Reynoso Jennifer Munt
Members Absent	James Brimeyer		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	Robert Lilligren		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:07 p.m. on April 9, 2012 at Metropolitan Council Chambers St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Commers to adopt the agenda for the April 9, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported that she attended the Executive Committee meeting of the Metro Emergency Services Board (Radio Board) where the board discussed Metro Mobility's use of the radio. Although Metro Mobility has used the radio system for more than a decade, there are capacity issues and a desire for changes in Metro Mobility's use. The Council is hiring a consultant is being hired to help the Council and the Radio Board identify and evaluate options. The study will take approximately two months and an update will follow.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit, reported the following:

Home Opener

It is anticipated that Metro Transit will take thousands of fans to today's home opener on light rail, Northstar, regular route buses and the special "Twins Express" bus service from the park & ride ramp at County Road 73 and 394 in Minnetonka. At any given game, between about 10 and 20 percent of Twins fans choose Metro Transit to "take them out to the ballgame".

Starting with today's game, new this year for Northstar riders – we've developed an online, web-based ticketing system that will allow Target Field-bound customers to buy and print Northstar Family Passes and individual roundtrip tickets at home. We expect these advance sales to ease lines at Northstar ticket machines prior to games and speed boarding.

Outstanding Operator Awards Brunch

Our 29th annual outstanding operator award ceremony is this Thursday at the Ramada Plaza in Minneapolis. Bus and train operators are recognized at this event for outstanding career achievements in safety and customer service. This

year's brunch begins at 10 a.m. and will wrap up by noon. Chair Elkins will deliver remarks. If you are interested in attending and would like more information, please let me know.

On-time Performance strong so far this year

Buses ran 91.1 percent on time in February, exceeding the monthly goal of 89.5 percent and bringing on-time performance to 91 percent so far this year. Northstar had perfect on-time performance of 100 percent in February, beating the monthly goal of 95 percent and raising year-to-date performance to 99.3 percent. February on-time performance for the Hiawatha light-rail line suffered due to the closure of the Sabo Bridge, which resulted in the longest service disruption in the line's history. However, trains were 97 percent on-time during the period not affected by the bridge closure. Through January and February, light-rail trains have been 93 percent on time.

Commuter Challenge Promotion is Underway

The tenth annual Commuter Challenge began last week and runs through June 30th. Individuals are to participate in the "try it" promotion by pledging to replace drive-alone trips and instead take the bus or train, bicycle, carpool, walk, telework or vanpool. Those who sign up are entered into a prize drawing. The Challenge is broadly promoted with advertising throughout the transit system, online and elsewhere. Participants will be able to pledge at MyCommuterChallenge.org or at hundreds of employer fairs and other events scheduled throughout the region during the campaign. In the past, approximately 80% of challengers continued to try driving alternatives after the Commuter Challenge.

Also, Metro Transit will position itself as a solution to the daily "Gas Pains" that commuters are feeling as we kick off a six-week run of radio spots, bus sides, online advertising and digital billboards on April 16th. We are reprising the very well received creative ads from last fall that used the theme "Metro Transit – the Cure for the Common Commute" with a focus on rising gas prices.

Police Exceed February Goal in Onboard Hours

Metro Transit uniformed and plainclothes officers were on board buses for 2,729 rides in March, which is 9.1 percent over the monthly goal. Police have exceeded the goal for rides every month this year. In addition to Police ridealongs, members of the MAD DADS organization regularly ride select buses to promote civility and good riding behavior – they rode 240 hours in February.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

A motion was made by Munt, seconded by Commers to approve items 2012-116 and 2012-118 as consent items. Motion passed unanimously.

2012-116: Authorization to Purchase Small Buses

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with Eldorado (MnDOT contract 40759) for eleven small buses in an amount not to exceed \$795,000.

2012-118: Authorization to Purchase GFI Fare Collection Equipment

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase thirty-seven Cents-A-Bill Fareboxes with TRIM units from GFI Genfare, Inc. on a sole source basis in an amount not to exceed \$475,000.

Non-Consent Items

2012-111: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request to Reflect a Change of Project Scope for Edina SP#120-020-037: France Avenue/72nd Street Pedestrian Bridge

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item and TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren was present to answer questions. McCarthy stated that there was a lot of discussion at the TAB, Lilligren added that the TAB committee discussion was mainly whether the scope change constituted a new project; discussion centered more on procedures and did not center on whether the project was a good project or not. The TAB Policy Committee stated that the new project scope would have scored similar to the original project that was awarded funds. An FHWA representative was

present at the TAB meeting and stated that the TAB had the authority to make the decision to authorize the scope change.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Doan

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect a scope change and cost adjustment for Edina SO#120-020-037: France Avenue/72nd Street Pedestrian Bridge.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2012-101 SW: Authorization to Award Contract for Bloomington & Roseville Area Transit Service

Council members Reynoso and Schreiber stated that they would abstain from the discussion and the vote on this item.

Contracts and Procurement Director Micky Gutzmann presented this item.

Following Ms. Gutzmann's presentation, Mr. Aaron Dean, an attorney representing Lorenz Bus Company and perhaps a taxpayer, requested to speak on the Business Item. Mr. Dean had previously provided a written protest to each committee member and he also spoke in opposition to the proposal. On the basis of a number of legal arguments, Mr. Dean urged the committee not to approve the business item and requested that the Council either cancel the solicitation or delay the execution of any subsequent contracts. He argued that the Council has no legislative authority to solicit transit service using a request for proposal methodology. Mr. Dean asserted that the Council needs to solicit under the strictly sealed bid methodology per State Statute 473.372.

Gutzmann responded to Mr. Dean's assertions by telling the committee that the Council is authorized under state statute to solicit transit service using the proposal methodology. Gutzmann noted that the Council has been procuring transit service this way for many years and that the process has been audited many times by the FTA.

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, explained that "same week" action is being requested subsequent to one of the two incumbent vendors indicating late last week as to not being willing to extend their existing contract for 30 days. Same week action is needed to allow the new vendor adequate time to take all actions necessary, such as hiring and training bus operators, to start operating the service on June 2, 2012 and ensure continued service for transit customers.

General Counsel Donald Muetting advised the committee that it was operating under a procurement process that had been approved by the Council and that the committee was not authorized to disregard that process. He also mentioned that Lorenz Bus Company was a proposer on this procurement and it had not objected to the procedure in either this or prior procurements.

John Matthews, Regional Vice President, First Transit, Inc. stated that First Transit appreciates and is excited for the opportunity to provide these transit services for the Council. He summarized services provided today by the company and advised that First Transit will be ready to deliver the services on June 2.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a five-year contract with First Transit, Inc. to provide regular route transit service in the Bloomington and Roseville areas beginning June 2, 2012 through June 3, 2017, in an amount not to exceed \$19,785,108.

Motion passed with Reynoso and Schreiber abstaining from the vote.

2012-107: Unified Operating Budget Amendment

MT Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt:

That the Council amend the 2012 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table attached to Business Item 2012-107.

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-108: Unified Capital Program Amendment

MT Director of Finance Ed Petrie and MTS Principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented their respective division's amendments to the Unified Capital Program. Brian Lamb answered questions from Commers regarding the Downtown St. Paul Layover site and from Elkins regarding the Southdale Transit Center relocation, regarding the funding source(s).

There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Smith:

- Amend the 2012 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 37,426,064
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 2,059,570

- Amend the 2012 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 37,426,064
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 2,059,570

Motion passed unanimously.

SW 2012-121: Authorization to Award Contract for Gasoline Supplier

Contracts and Procurement Director Micky Gutzmann presented this item. Reynoso commented that the opportunity to extend the contract term for one additional year is a good opportunity. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Doan, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Mansfield Oil Company to supply gasoline in accordance with Council specifications in an amount not to exceed \$9,661,275 for a two-year term with an option to extend the contract term for one additional year at an estimated cost of \$4,830,638.

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-117: Authorization to Execute Grant Agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

MTS Fleet Manager Alex Curtiss presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute two grant agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA), contingent upon approval of Business Item 2012-108 on April 25, 2012 for:

1. the purchase of four low floor small buses in an amount not to exceed \$526,000, and
2. the purchase of six 40 foot buses not to exceed \$2,580,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2012-119: Authorization to Amend Contract 11P032A for Premium Same Day and Peak Demand Overflow Service

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Paul Colton presented this item and answered a question from Reynoso about whether the premium same day service cost is offset by the peak demand overflow. There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Doan:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend Contract 11P032A with Taxi Services Inc. for an additional \$690,000 and an amended total of \$840,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

INFORMATION

1. Bottineau Transitway Scoping Comments

Hennepin County Manager Engineering and Planning Joe Gladke presented this item. He explained the various alternatives, scoping meetings and the public input/comments from those meetings. He also outlined the next steps and schedule for the Bottineau Transitway.

2. Gateway Corridor Update

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy introduced Washington County Commissioner Lisa Weik, and Ted Schoenecker, Washington County Transportation Manager, who presented on the Gateway Corridor Alternatives Analysis, alternatives, cost estimates and next steps and schedule for the Gateway Corridor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Munt encouraged members to check out the website www.southwestlrtnow.org, an advocacy website created by Transit for Livable Communities to support Southwest LRT.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. April 9, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary