

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 9, 2015

Committee Members Present: Acting Chair Lona Schreiber Jennifer Munt, Steve Elkins, Edward Reynoso, Katie Rodriguez, Marie McCarthy

Committee Members Absent: Adam Duininck, Jon Commers, James Brimeyer

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Acting Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2015 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St, St. Paul. The committee began with Director/General Manager reports while waiting for a quorum. Once a quorum was present, the committee proceeded with regular business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

There was no TAB Liaison present at this meeting.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER AND DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORTS

MTS Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz reported:

1. Same Week items to Council

The business items on today's agenda are same week to the Council in anticipation of the cancellation of the 2/25/15 Council meeting.

2. Statewide Bicycle System Plan

Beginning Monday, MnDOT is kicking off its second set of statewide meetings to get public input for a Statewide Bicycle System Plan. The St. Paul meeting will be held 2/25/15 at the Neighborhood House at Wellstone Center – 170 Robie St. E, in the Westside Room from 5:00-7:00 pm.

3. 2015 Transportation Work Plan

Brian and Arlene had planned to bring an information item today on the 2015 Work Plan. However, since neither could be at this meeting, the plan is to instead bring an action item for the committee's consideration at the Feb 23 meeting. The draft work plan can be amended at that meeting with any items the committee would like to modify before adoption.

Metro Transit Chief Operations Officer Vince Pellegrin reported:

1. Blue Line reaches 100 million rides

Ten-and-a-half years after it opened, the METRO Blue Line has surpassed 100 million total rides.

There were 99,994,957 rides at the end of 2014, meaning the 100 million mark was likely surpassed on New Year's Day. To celebrate the milestone, Metro Transit is encouraging customers to share their best photos from the Blue Line

on social media using the hashtag #BlueLine100million. Customers who share photos using the designated hashtag will be entered into a drawing for two \$100 Go-To Cards. Winners will be announced on Friday, Feb. 19. The Blue Line is off to a strong start this year, with ridership up about 12 percent in January.

2. Northstar Service Guarantee extended through February

The Northstar Service Guarantee program that began in January has been extended another month. Through the end of February, registered Northstar riders are eligible to receive a refund if they are on any weekday trip that arrives in Big Lake or Minneapolis 11 or more minutes late. Nearly 700 Northstar customers had signed up for the Northstar Service Guarantee at the end of January. About 97 percent of Northstar trips arrived within five minutes of schedule last month. There were about 51,000 Northstar rides in January, which is up slightly (about 300 more rides) from December.

3. Black History Month celebration Feb. 27

The Black History Committee invites all Metro Transit and Council staff to attend their annual Black History Month celebration. This year's event will be held on Friday, Feb. 27, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Heywood Chambers and lunchroom. The keynote speaker will be internationally-acclaimed actress, playwright and singer Timotha Lanae, who hails from Minneapolis. General Manager Brian Lamb will deliver a welcome.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2015-29 SW: 2015 Small Bus Purchase

MTS Fleet Manager Paul Colton presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with Hogle Bus (MnDOT contract 88294) for up to four expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$370,000.

Motion carried.

2. 2015-30 SW: Authorization to Amend Contract 09P177 for Transit Link Service

MTS Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 09P177 with Midwest Paratransit Services, Inc. for an additional \$460,000, for a new total contract total of \$7,173,430, and to extend the termination date to May 31, 2015.

Motion carried.

3. 2015-27 SW: Amendment to the Transitways Guidelines to update the Light Rail Vehicle Standards

Metro Transit SWLRT Asst. Director Communication & Outreach Robin Cauffman presented this item. Elkins asked how the seating changed. Cauffman explained that two of the flip up seats were removed from each light rail vehicle and replaced with two seats for companion seats and an open space. Munt

mentioned she recently met someone that is both blind and in a wheelchair, and asked if this change will benefit him. Caufman explained that there is a designated space just inside all doors so it will be easily accessible to him. Reynoso asked if there was signage that lets passengers know that the open space is designated for wheel chair users. Caufman responded that there is signage on the window that the area is priority seating for customers with disabilities and seniors.

Motion by Munt, seconded by M. McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) amend the Regional Transitways Guidelines to add the following guidelines for future light rail vehicle purchases:

- All vehicles must meet or exceed the standards established in the Americans with Disabilities Act
- All vehicles must also include:
 - two dedicated spaces for wheelchair users in each car
 - seating for a companion adjacent to each of the wheelchair-dedicated spaces

Motion carried.

4. 2015-28 SW: A Line Bus Rapid Transit Kimley-Horn Contract Amendment

Metro Transit Project Manager BRT/Small Starts Katie Roth presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to existing contract 13P216 with Kimley-Horn and Associates to extend the contract period through May 31, 2016 and increase the contract value by \$383,871 for a total contract value of \$2,332,126 for additional consulting services for the A Line Bus Rapid Transit project.

Motion carried.

5. 2015-23 SW: Metro Transit Police Department Facility Design

Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities Lead Project Manager Joe Edwards presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute an architectural & engineering contract with Snow Kreilich Architects for design and construction support services in the amount of \$1,648,577 for a new Metro Transit Police Department headquarters.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. 2014 Regional Ridership Report

MTS Manager Contracted Services John Harper presented the regional ridership data for year-end 2014.

2. Orange Line 2015 Look-Ahead

Metro Transit Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented on the Orange Line activities and timelines for 2015.

3. NexTrip for LRT

Metro Transit Director of Operations-Light Rail Brian Funk presented on the status and positive feedback received regarding NexTrip on the LRT lines and stations.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.