

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

November 25, 2019

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Reva Chamblis, Christopher Ferguson, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Molly Cummings, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:02p.m. on Monday, November 25, 2019 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Ferguson to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2019 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced the following, who presented recognition awards:

Metro Transit Assistant Transportation Manager - Bus Mary Johnson who presented to Metro Transit Bus Operators Hadiyyah Gbadoe and Proeun Doeun.

Metro Transit Assistant Transportation Manager- Rail Shoeb Behlim who presented to Metro Transit Rail Operators Ali Jama and Curt Morales.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported the following information from the November 20, 2019 TAB meeting:

Majority of the meeting was to review public comments made on the Regional Solicitation. The Council received 12 letters which were from local governments, transit operators and one advocacy group – most had been involved in the application draft. The comments were focused on the major changes proposed: shift in modal funding range, reduction in maximum award amount from bike projects, creation of ABRT program, new market transit guarantee and new spot mobility highway investment category. Comments were both supportive and also requests for changes. The TAB will confer with TAC on follow ups and adopt the Regional Solicitation application at the December meeting. The application will then be voted on at Transportation Committee and Council in January and released in February.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Metro Mobility 101

Staff held another Metro Mobility 101 briefings; this session targeted staff of the Legislative committee on Metropolitan Governance. Staff will be presenting the

Council budget to this committee in December, so it was good opportunity to talk about Metro Mobility - which is a big driver of the general funds.

Citizen/Modal TAB Representatives

The Council is advertising for new citizen and modal representatives for TAB membership. The Citizen representatives are for Districts: for A, B C & D. Two transit representatives, one non-motorized representative, along with alternate members for all positions are also being sought. Council members will select representatives in January, who will then start their membership at the February TAB meeting for a two-year term.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

Northtown Transit Center

Northtown Mall Transit Center is partially located on mall property in Blaine and buses have serviced Northtown since mid 1970s. Northtown Mall owners issued a notice to terminate the agreement that allows for the transit facility to be on mall property, requiring Metro Transit to vacate by December 15, 2019. Discussions continue with the mall regarding a potential land exchange to relocate the transit center to a different part of the mall's property. As those discussions continue, the mall is allowing Council to operate past the 12/15. There are concerns from the City of Spring Lake Park (City Council passed a resolution opposing the move), residents of Spring Lake Park including MN State Representative Erin Koegel who lives on Sanburnol Avenue. In October, Metro Transit held two open houses to gather input on design options for the transit center. Two weeks ago, Council Member Lindstrom, Jim Harwood, and Wes Kooistra met with Representative Koegel to brief her on the outcomes of the open houses. Staff continue to do due diligence on the proposed agreement and addressing some of the issues raised during the open houses.

2020 Legislative Update

While the Legislative session doesn't start until February 2020, Metro Transit is already talking about priorities for the 2020 Legislative session. In November, Metro Transit participated in two bonding tours (November 1st for MMB staff and Governor's Office staff and November 12th for the House Capital Investment Committee). This was an opportunity to discuss Metro Transit's \$50M request for Busway Capital Improvement Program for Bus Rapid Transit. This would include D Line, B Line, and E Line and other corridors.

An Administrative Citations bill was introduced in 2019 but did not receive a hearing. The administrative citation proposal would provide the Metropolitan Council with the authority to issue an administrative citation for fare evasion. Under current state law, fare evasion is a misdemeanor. The bill would treat fare evasion as a **petty misdemeanor**, which is not a crime under Minnesota state law, and we could use fare inspection personnel dedicated to fare inspection instead of using sworn police officers.

E-bus status update

Currently there is 6 of 8 electric buses being deployed on the C Line. Progress has been made with the garage charges and chargers at BCTC. The current issues are: one bus that is not communicating with the charger at BCTC; another two buses that staff are looking at because of noise which is suspected to be problems with differential but hasn't been fully diagnosed yet.

C Line Millionth Customer

METRO C Line surpassed the 1 million ride mark last week. The milestone came five months after the Bus Rapid Transit line opened. While it is still early to analyze ridership trends, average weekday ridership in the C Line corridor is about 30% higher than typical Route 19 ridership before construction on the C Line and other Penn Avenue improvements began.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Chamblis, seconded by Ferguson and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2019-307:** Metro Freeway Project Approval: US Highway 10/169 in the City of Anoka

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the City of Anoka to extend the freeway along US 10/169 through the construction of an underpass at Fair oak Avenue and an interchange at Thurston Avenue, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

2. **2019-336:** 2020 METRO Red Line Agreements

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute intergovernmental agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for Cedar Avenue Red Line Station to Station BRT service and public facility maintenance not to exceed \$2,840,000.

3. **2019-338:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment for Hennepin County: County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 Bridge Replacement in Orono

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project replacing the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 Bridge in Orono.

4. **2019-339:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment for Carver County: Norwood Young America Roundabout

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add construction of a roundabout in Norwood Young America.

5. **2019-340:** 2019-2022 / 2020-2023 TIP Amendment for St. Paul: Johnson Parkway Trail

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2019-2022 and 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) to add mill and overlay work to St. Paul's Johnson Parkway Trail project.

6. **2019-341:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment for Dayton: Brockton Interchange

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to remove the auxiliary lane from Dayton's Brockton interchange project, as the auxiliary lane will be completed at the same time with a concurrent MnDOT project.

7. **2019-342:** 2019-2022 / 2020-2023 TIP Amendment for SouthWest Transit: Eden Prairie to Mall of America Connector Service

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2019-2022 and 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) to change the type and number of buses for SouthWest Transit's Eden Prairie to Mall of America Connector Service.

8. **2019-343:** Approval of Metropolitan Area 5310 Grant Awards

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve the following:

Metropolitan Area Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (FTA 5310) grant awards for 2020:

Organization	Project	Federal Award Amount
DARTS	1 (Class 500) Vehicle Replacement	\$120,000
Mankato Rehabilitation Center Inc. – Rosemount	2 (Class 400) Vehicle Replacement	\$139,200
Midwest Special Services, Inc.	3 (Class 400) Vehicle Replacement	\$ 208,800
Newtrax, Inc.	4 (Class 400) Vehicle Replacement	\$ 278,400
ProAct, Inc. – Eagan	1 (Class 300) Vehicle Replacement 2 (Class 400) Vehicle Replacement	\$ 204,000
Rise, Inc.	5 (Class 400) Vehicle Replacement	\$ 348,000
TOTAL		\$1,298,400

Metropolitan Area Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (FTA 5310) grant awards for 2021:

Organization	Project	Federal Award Amount
Mankato Rehabilitation Center Inc. - Chaska	3 (Class 400) Vehicle Expansion	\$ 215,064
Mankato Rehabilitation Center Inc. – Rosemount	1 (Class 400) Vehicle Expansion	\$ 71,688
Newtrax, Inc.	6 (Class 400) Vehicle Replacement 2 (Class 400) Vehicle Expansion	\$ 573,504
ProAct, Inc. – Eagan	2 (Class 500) Vehicle Replacement	\$ 240,000
Rise, Inc.	7 (Class 400) Vehicle Replacement	\$ 501,816
TOTAL		\$ 1,602,072

Metropolitan Area Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (FTA 5310) grant awards for 2020/2021:

Organization	Project	Federal Award Amount
Dakota County	Mobility Management	\$ 486,400
Newtrax, Inc.	Mobility Management	\$ 319,200
Scott/Carver County	Mobility Management	\$ 592,000
Washington County	Mobility Management	\$ 320,000
TOTAL		\$ 1,717,600

9. 2019-344: Low Floor Small Bus Purchase – assigned to MVTA

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement, with Høglund Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 121183) for up to 5 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$770,000.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2019-182: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Advanced Design Consultant Services Contract (AECOM) Amendment #8

Metro Transit Southwest Light Rail Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. Atlas-Ingebretson asked that when DBE information is shared, if it could be de-aggregated. Alexander responded that staff did acknowledge that ask and that there will be a future update from staff and OEO with the breakdowns.

Motion by Ferguson, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a sole source contract amendment for Advanced Design Consultant Services (ADC) contract to support construction of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project with AECOM (14P125) to increase the contract amount by \$20,623,565 for a total contract amount of \$140,278,110.

Motion carried, with Zeran recusing himself from vote.

2. **2019-321:** Southwest and Blue Line Light Rail Projects e-Builder (19P343) Contract Award
Metro Transit Southwest Light Rail Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a sole source contract (19P343) for Project Management Systems for the Southwest (SWLRT) and Blue Line Extension (BLRT) Light Rail Extension (LRT) Projects to e-Builder, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$644,876.

Motion carried, with Zeran recusing himself from vote. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

3. **2019-337:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services Contract Amendments (14P265A, B, C and G)
Metro Transit Transit Systems Development Administration Director Robin Cauffman presented this item. Atlas-Ingebretson asked that even though some contracts have no DBE goal, will those contracts be included in the DBE tracking information. Metro Transit Southwest Light Rail Project Director Jim Alexander responded that yes, contracts with no DBE goal would be included.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council approve sole source contract amendments for Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services as follows:

- Wilson Development Services, LLC to add \$43,000
- WSB & Associates, Inc. to add \$35,000
- HDR Engineering, Inc. to add \$50,000
- Evergreen Land Services Company to add \$15,000

Motion carried, with Zeran recusing himself from vote. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

4. **2019-291:** 2020 Operating Grant Agreements with the Funding Transitway Counties
Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute operating grant agreements for the calendar year 2020 with the Funding Transitway Counties of Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey to receive funds in 2020.

- METRO Blue Line LRT \$13,918,480
 - Hennepin County - \$13,918,480
- METRO Green Line LRT \$13,507,221
 - Hennepin County – \$8,104,332
 - Ramsey County – \$5,402,889
- Northstar Commuter Rail \$7,742,864
 - Anoka County – \$6,302,691

- Hennepin County – \$1,440,173

Motion carried.

5. **2019-329:** METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit - Master Funding Agreement with Saint Paul Regional Water Services

Metro Transit Gold Line Project Manager Chris Beckwith presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) for the METRO Gold Line BRT (GBRT) Project.

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

6. **2019-330:** Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit – Section 106 Programmatic Agreement

Metro Transit Gold Line Project Manager Chris Beckwith presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Atlas-Ingebretson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Gold Line Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA), developed jointly between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO), the Metropolitan Council, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Highway Administration, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

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

7. **2019-335:** Bus Wash Rack Replacement, Contract 18P063

Metro Transit Engineer and Construction Project Manager Robert Rimstad presented this item. Sterner asked about the sustainability of the water, if the racks use less water than previous wash racks, have some a reuse or reclamation, and what chemicals are used in the wash. Rimstad stated existing facilities don't utilize water reclamation; one facility has utilized that type of system in the past, but it was found to not be able to remove the total dissolved solids from the water and the dissolved solids would start to fade/damage the advertising and paint. Rimstad continued that for the New Minneapolis Bus Garage plans include capturing storm water from the roof to use for the first wash cycle and try to see if this works at one facility and could be implemented at other sites. Sterner asked if staff worked with Environmental Services on ideas around water usage at our facilities. Rimstad responded that staff collaborated with ES during planning phase for the New Minneapolis Bus Garage for using rainwater for the first cycle of the bus wash. Atlas-Ingebretson asked what types solvents are used and if amount of chemicals used has been evaluated. Rimstad answered that staff has looked at chemical usage and that the State of Minnesota reviews process/usage to ensure the most neutral soap is used. Rimstad added that with the new system racks will hopefully help reduce the amount of solvent used.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the award and execution of contract 18P063 with NS Corporation in the amount of \$4,351,975.05 for the purchase and installation of up to ten (10) bus wash racks at multiple facilities.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Suburban Transit Providers

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson provided a brief introduction. The following representatives from the Suburban Transit Providers provided an overview of their service, 2019 highlights, future capital and operating funding needs including technology and expansion.

Clint Hooppaw, Chair - Suburban Transit Association; MVTA Board Vice-Chair; Apple Valley City Council member

Dave Jacobson, SouthWest Transit

Laurie Hokkanen, Plymouth Metrolink

Mike Opatz, Maple Grove Transit

Luther Wynder, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

Several Council members thanked the STP representatives for attending and their presentations and thought there could be more collaboration between Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit and STPs moving forward to ensure we are looking at the Regional Transportation system as a whole. Chair Barber asked that the STPs provide a list of technology and expansion future wants.

2. Metro Transit Website Redesign Demonstration

Metro Transit Marketing and Customer Service Director Bruce Howard and Metro Transit Sr Marketing Development Specialist Adam Mehl presented this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:23p.m.

Becky Davidson

Recording Secretary