

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: October 9, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members present:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, District 12 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15 |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present |

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m.

Agenda approved

Chair Barber stated reports would be heard before the Public Hearing.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

Contracted Services

Small buses have started to be delivered and are being prepared for service. There are currently 28 in service and 22 getting ready to enter service.

Metro Mobility

In March the Council authorized the purchase of 18 accessible minivans for Metro Mobility, and the first of these vehicles is now entering service. Another 17 vans are in transit and will be equipped with technology systems and deployed. This is a pilot project, but if successful this type of vehicle could be one way to mitigate rising costs and a nationwide reduction of supply in the Metro Mobility fleet.

Regional Solicitation

Regional Solicitation applications are being accepted through December 15th at 4pm. Staff will hold a virtual training session on October 13th, 9-11 am. There are also online help resources for various topics to support applications. Over \$300 million is expected to be awarded through both regional solicitation and the highway safety improvement program.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit Deputy GM/Chief Operating Officer Brian Funk reported on behalf of General Manager Lesley Kandaras.

Northstar

Northstar service increased effective October 2nd. A group of Metro Transit staff and Council member Chamblis rode the morning reserve commute trip and final inbound trip last Monday. This proved General Manager Kandaras had the opportunity to ride Northstar and engage

with customers on the train as part of her initiative to ride each route in our system during her first year. Preliminary ridership counts showed an increase each day of 30-150 more than the previous week. Twins playoff extras averaged almost 600 rides last Tuesday and Wednesday. The Sunday Vikings game was just under 300 rides.

Special Events

Fans have been using Metro Transit to get to and from stadiums across the Twin Cities. Twins playoff games were held last Tuesday/Wednesday, Saturday the MN Unite played their final regular season game at Allian Field, Gopher football played on Saturday as well and the MN Vikings played at US Bank Stadium on Sunday. The operations, ambassador and transit police teams working the events did a great job providing service above and beyond our schedule to ensure fans had a great experience. The Twins will continue their playoff run, with games at Target field this Tuesday and Wednesday.

Great Day in Transit

Great Day in Transit is a monthly planned time for staff to get out into the field and the next one is set for October 18th. Staff from across the Council are encouraged to participate. The goal is to continue to engage customers and staff in the field with a survey about public safety and improving customer experience.

Public Hearing on 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment

Chair Barber opened the public hearing for public comments on the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment. The committee heard a comment from one member of the public before Chair Barber adjourned the hearing. The public comments will be recorded and compiled into a report to be available after the public comment period ends.

Approval of minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Morales to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2023, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. **2023-232:** METRO E Line – Statement of Work 20I066B under Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County Fiber Infrastructure Master Agreement 20I066

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Statement of Work 20I066B, an Income Agreement in an amount exceeding \$500,000, with Hennepin County for Hennepin County financial participation in the construction of the fiber optic communication infrastructure along the METRO E Line corridor.

2. **2023-233:** METRO E Line – Hennepin County Joint Powers and Cooperative Construction Agreement 23I083

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Agreement 23I083 (“Agreement”), a joint powers income agreement in an amount exceeding \$500,000, with Hennepin County funds for County-requested improvements along the METRO E Line corridor and for right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the E Line project.

3. **2023-234:** METRO E Line – City of Minneapolis Joint Powers and Cooperative Construction Agreement 23I082

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Agreement 23I082 (“Agreement”), a joint powers income agreement in an amount exceeding \$500,000, with the City of Minneapolis for City-requested improvements along the METRO E Line corridor and for right-of-way management authority needed for

construction of the E Line project.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone.

Motion carried.

Non-consent business

1. **2023-228:** 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$7,332,756.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) planning funds.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Dave Burns presented this item. Chamblis asked why the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) saw an increase. Burns stated that this year's federal transportation bill included additional funds to transportation and general and that MPOs did receive overall more funds than in previous transportation bills.

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

2. **2023-241:** Fuel Supply for Metro Mobility, Contract 23P125

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P125 with Sunoco, LLC, to supply and deliver gasoline to contract operators of Metro Mobility transit services in an amount not to exceed \$33,179,794.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Metro Mobility Operations Manager Clay Stenback presented this item. Vento asked if the mini vans would reduce fuel cost. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson stated that is something that will be monitored and that'd we'd expect the fuel consumption to be lower with smaller vehicles, but the vehicles might end up driving more miles overall. Cameron asked what the length of the contract was. Stenback stated this is a three-year contract and we'd put the contract out for bid again in about two and a half years.

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

3. **2023-242:** Signature Authority for Demand Response Transit Service Grants

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and SouthWest Transit (SWT) for Demand Response Transit Service projects consisting of vehicle costs, infrastructure, and other capital costs.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance and Administration Director Heather Giesel presented this item. Chamblis asked what types of infrastructure projects MVTA would be using the money on. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson replied that these are grants set by state statute and we are allocating the amount set forth by statute, not based off a work scope or something similar. Carlson stated staff can report back on the projects as the providers move forward with them.

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

4. **2023-212:** Master Contracts for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Services, Contract



23P022

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyrone, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts 23P022A-B for mechanical engineering services, and contracts 23P022C-D for electrical engineering services that will support Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000 as follows:

Organization	Contract Number	Contract Amount
TKDA	23P022A	\$750,000
LHB, Inc.	23P022B	\$750,000
TKDA	23P022C	\$750,000
Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc.	23P022D	\$750,000

Metro Transit Senior Project Administrator Julie Brenny presented this item. Carter, Tyrone asked which of the companies was the DBE. Brenny stated the companies awarded the contracts aren't DBE themselves but the subs underneath the companies are the DBEs.

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

Information

1. 2023 Second Trimester Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contract Transit Services Manager John Harper and Metro Transit Principal Data Scientist Joey Reid presented this item. Harper shared pre-covid comparisons with Council members.

2. 2024 to 2029 CIP Presentation

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, Capital Programs Nick Thompson, Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance and Administration Director Heather Giesel presented this item. Chamblis how the suburban transit providers programmed expenses and what happens if the providers have a shortage of funds based on their needs. Giesel stated the suburban transit providers don't necessarily program their requirements (fleet replacement is based on the Council's fleet plan) but that the match amounts are a set numbers that are put in the budget based on previous expenses. Giesel continued that there are a few ways the providers can get funding needed; for example, discretionary federal grants. Chamblis asked what the BRT project planning funds included. Thompson stated that this would include the early planning phase where the corridor plan is developed, and this planning phase happens before the more detailed, extensive work in the engineering and construction phases. Chair Barber asked if the security lights, cameras, etc. for the green line extension were project costs or included in the CIP. Thompsons stated that all stations with the green line extension have an existing plan that includes extensive lighting that is already included in the project costs. Thompson continued that if features are added beyond the original design, that would need to be funded within the CIP. Petrie added that after the green line extension goes into revenue service, replacement or maintenance of lighting and other features would be included in the CIP.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of October 9, 2023.

Approved this 23 day of October 2023.

Council contact:

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