

Minutes of the

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

December 10, 2018

LOCATION: Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Deb Barber, Jon Commers, Cara Letofsky, Jennifer Munt, Lona Schreiber, Marie McCarthy, Gail Dorfman, Steve Elkins, Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Absent:

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the special meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:01pm on Monday, December 10, 2018 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Rodriguez stated that Public Comment will be heard after the presentation of the Bus Fleet Plan Strategy Information Item.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2018 special meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following, who presented recognition awards to employees:

Metro Transit Customer Service and Marketing Director Bruce Howard who presented to Metro Transit Customer Services and Marketing Administrator Julie Obedoza.

Metro Transit TSD Administration Director Robin Cauffman who presented to Metro Transit Special Projects Manager Judith Phillips.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

StreetLight Training

Tomorrow, December 11, 2018 the Metropolitan Council will host a StreetLight training for state, county, and city partners to attend. The Council has developed a contract so that Council partners can participate in using the transportation data.

2018 Subrecipient and Contractor Training

As the direct recipient of federal funds, the Metropolitan Council is required to ensure that subrecipients meet federal requirements. One way the Council does this is to conduct annual training to subrecipients and contractors. The Council requested feedback from past training participants and the main feedback was a request to move the training to an online format. A cross-divisional group (MTS, MT and RA) has been working to develop online training and it was launched last week. The online format was responsive to stakeholder requests and makes the Council

more nimble as training can be provided at any time throughout the calendar year as needed.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

App Sales Surge in 2018

We're on pace to sell around \$2.8 million in mobile tickets this year – more than four times the amount sold last year through our app. Year to date, more than 1.1 million mobile tickets have been sold. The app has been downloaded 150,000 times this year and has surpassed 256,000 total downloads since it was introduced just over two years ago. Major events like the Super Bowl and Minnesota State Fair helped drive mobile ticket sales this year. Mobile tickets will also be marketed to visitors attending next year's Final Four.

Plastic Seats:

We're trying something new on our light rail vehicles – plastic seats. Cloth seats in the upper seating areas of several Bombardier trains are being replaced with plastic seats that could be easier to clean and maintain. We are testing the plastic seats on a few trains to get customer feedback and determine next steps.

Holiday Events

Our specially-decorated holiday buses and trains are just one of several ways we're celebrating the season. Earlier this month, several Metro Transit police officers joined with St. Paul police to help more than 200 children select and wrap holiday gifts at the annual Shop with a Cop event. On Saturday, our Northstar Commuter Rail Line will become something of a Polar Express, making a special trip from Big Lake to St. Paul's Union Depot where travelers can enjoy a winter market. The southbound train will depart Big Lake at 4:40 p.m., and the return trip will depart Union Depot at 8 p.m. On New Year's Eve, we'll once again be partnering with Miller Lite to provide safe and free rides on all our buses and trains between 6 p.m. and 3 a.m.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Dorfman, seconded by Barber and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2018-336:** Controlled Access Approval: US 169 at 101st Ave North, Hennepin County

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the City of Brooklyn Park and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to construct a new interchange along US 169 at 101st Avenue North, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

2. **2018-340:** Transit Link – Dakota County Contract Amendment

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 14P010 with Midwest Paratransit Services, for Transit Link service in Dakota County, for an additional \$650,000. The new contract total will be \$4,909,396.

3. **2018-343:** Resolutions of Support for Adopted Federal Performance Targets: Resolutions 2018-28, 2018-29, 2018-30

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Resolutions of Support for the adopted PM2 (pavement and bridge), PM3 (travel time and system reliability), and Transit Asset Management performance targets.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2018-324 SW:** D Line Design and Construction Administration Services Contract

Metro Transit Arterial BRT Manager Katie Roth introduced Metro Transit Principal Engineer Rebecca Fabunmi who presented this item. Letofsky expressed her excitement that the project is getting to this point.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a professional services contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$9,493,918 for design, engineering and construction administration for the D Line BRT project.

Motion carried.

2. **2018-326 SW:** Operator Barriers

Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Director Matt Dake and Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Administration Assistant Director Joe Reichstadt presented this item. Reynoso asked how the buses with barriers will be prioritized and if there can be focus on specific routes where there are known issues. Reichstadt stated that we'll be able to install barriers in about 600 40ft buses, which will be able to cover most routes and that there is no definite plan about deployment, but it is a priority to be able to use the buses with barriers on specific routes. Reynoso asked how long the process will take to get the barriers installed. Reichstadt answered that we are keeping the work inhouse and technicians can install about 8 barriers a week, making about a year and a half to complete. Munt thanked ATU leadership for raising the concerns and for their partnership. ATU President Ryan Timlin expressed his thanks for getting this done.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award a sole source procurement contract with Bentech Inc., in the amount not to exceed \$1,125,000 to purchase up to four-hundred and fifty (450) Operator Barriers.

Motion carried.

3. **2018-335 SW:** Bus Go-to Card Reader Procurement

Metro Transit Revenue Collections Senior Manager Nick Eull presented this item. Elkins asked why we don't have a Metro Mobility system like Uber/Lyft, where you book your ride in advance and payment is charged to your card. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson replied that we are starting to explore that option as it would decrease infrastructure costs while ensuring the needs of the Metro Mobility system would be met.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administration to negotiate and execute a sole-source contract with Cubic Transportation Systems for the purchase of additional Go-To card readers and associated parts in an amount not to exceed \$700,000.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Bus Fleet Plan Strategy

Reynoso asked that this Information Item be heard first, due to the public wanting to speak to this item. Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operations Officer – Bus Brian Funk and Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Director Matt Dake presented this item. Chair Rodriguez asked for the ball park figures on electric bus costs. Funk replied that the vehicle itself (60ft) is \$1.2 M per bus, compared to a similar diesel which is \$700,000 - \$800,000. Funk continued that in addition to the vehicle price is the infrastructure charging equipment which is about \$100,000 a piece (which for right now we need a 1 for 1 match) and the on-route chargers which are about \$1M (\$750,000 each in addition to construction and installation cost). Letofsky asked how the operations costs will differ. Dake replied this will be part of the study but we

know while diesel costs are fixed, electricity can have demand peak charges. Dake added that we'll have to learn when the best time to charge is both financially and operationally. Elkins asked what the battery warranty from New Flyer was. Dake answered that the base warranty is seven years but the battery becomes warrantable when the stated charge is 70% or less. Reynoso stated this is exciting and asked how far Metro Transit has come with less emissions with the newer diesel buses. Funk responded that emissions controls have gotten a lot tighter and that 9 newer diesels produce the same emissions from just one bus from the model year 2004/2005. Munt expressed her appreciation for how responsive staff have been and that this is a statement about our commitment to the health of our riders, drivers and communities that we serve. Chair Rodriguez commended staff for finding the balance between being on the leading edge and not the bleeding edge on this.

Public Comment:

Several members of the public spoke in support of this plan. There were many members of MN350 in the audience who spoke about their advocacy towards the benefits of cleaner air, climate change and better health associated with using electric buses. Several members of the public indicated how they have canvassed the buses and trains surveying customers on their desire for electric buses and handed over to Metro Transit 1,200 petitions that were collected in support.

2. Regional Solicitation Scores and Ranked Lists

Metropolitan Transportation Services Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Manager Steve Peterson presented this item. Chair Rodriguez shared that typically we've gone with a base scenario at TAB but under this scenario Washington County wouldn't get any roadway projects funded, so there has been some momentum to get behind the expansion heavy scenario. Chair Rodriguez continued that regional balance is an important criterion but that the TPP talks about preservation and that the HourCar project is innovative and would only be 4% spending on what is considered the future of transportation. Chair Rodriguez asked that Council members review the scenarios and provide feedback, as TAB will meet on December 19th to continue discussion and make a decision in January 2019. Elkins stated our data shows that you never achieve perfect geographic balance in a solicitation but over time it works out and urged TAB to not put too much weight on geographic balance in any one solicitation cycle. Barber agreed with Elkins and asked that staff send out the data on regional balance that has been presented in the past.

3. Orange Line Update

Metro Transit BRT Projects Director Charles Carlson first introduced and recognized Metro Transit BRT Small Starts Project Manager Christina Morrison for her work; Morrison presented this item. Commers asked what the Green Crescent was. Morrison answered that this path runs between Lake Street and Midtown Greenway along Stevens Ave and will be a new trail connection to the Greenway. Dorfman stated there has also been a focus on bringing public art to the station.

4. Fare Policy and Procedure Recommended Changes

Metro Transit Revenue Collections Senior Manager presented this item. Dorfman asked for clarification on the fare box goal change to a range. Eull explained that previously the 28.5% was the line in the sand where conversations would start to build around a fare increase and that the 23% would sort of be the minimum to have those discussion, while there certainly could be an opportunity before the rate got to that. Chair Rodriguez stated that she is really pleased with the procedure changes that will help provide good transparency but is hesitant changing a policy at this point, recommending this policy be updated by the future Council, which also allows time to engage the community. Chair Rodriguez added that having a smaller range would be more realistic and would allow us to expand our TAP program. Munt concurred and stated part of the rationale to establish a range was that it's harder on our riders to go a long time without a fare increase and then have a steep increase, as opposed to smaller, more frequent increases. Elkins said it's good to remember the fare box recovery rate has actually held up during this Council tenure and that cost wasn't a factor that drove down the recovery

rate but decreasing ridership. Commers and Barber asked that Metro Mobility be included in the annual report, to which Eull responded that this will be part of the annual update. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson added that historically Metro Mobility has a 11% - 13% recovery rate but we would never propose a fare increase based on that recovery rate because it's driven by the local fare.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary