

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

November 23, 2015

Committee Members Present: Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice-Chair Katie Rodriguez, Jon Commers, Steve Elkins, Jennifer Munt, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Marie McCarthy.

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2015.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Letofsky, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councilmember Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Barber to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Nick Eull, Senior Manager of Revenue Operations, introduced Bill Wilken, Supervisor of Revenue Operations; Nick Gorell, Intern, Revenue Operations; Lois Johnson, Finance; Jodi Fromenthal, Finance; Annamarie Moseng, Finance; Rick Anderson, Rev Ops TVM Technician; Paul (Andy) Anderson, Rev Ops TVM Technician, and commended them for their exemplary customer service regarding special events that Metro Transit provides.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Commissioner Randy Maluchnik reported that Scott McBride of MnDOT told the TAB that the Lafayette Bridge is now open after five years of construction; the northbound I-35E MnPASS Lane will open on November 30th with one free month of operations; there will be a charge for use of the lane starting January 2016. Mr. McBride also reported about Carver County's 101 Bridge re-opening (closed due to flooding) ceremony scheduled for this week. Congressman Erik Paulsen will be speaking and Senator Amy Klobuchar plans to attend. Maluchnik mentioned that MAC's Executive Director Jeff Hamill is leaving in May after several decades on the job; the MAC, U of M and Department of Veteran's Affairs are collaborating to organize a beekeeping project for veterans with traumatic brain injury on MAC property. Commissioner Maluchnik said that Councilmember Katie Rodriguez gave a LRT update at the TAB meeting, and also spoke about the need for all TAB members to have alternates. Discussion about the 2016 Regional Solicitation process and the modes being used, particularly in the area of disparities, was discussed at length; Maluchnik also mentioned that he was very encouraged by the Equity Workshops that were held recently.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER AND MTS DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported that the popularity of the Green Line is not waning at all, with the week ending November 15th averaging more than 41,000 rides, which makes 11 straight weeks of peaking above 40,000. The Blue Line has already surpassed 9 million rides this year and is expected to set a new annual record. Mr. Lamb also mentioned that our first Bus Rapid Transit bus is en route to the Twin Cities; also Metro Transit has been adding NexTrip signage to stops in Saint Paul, Maplewood, Robbinsdale and Minneapolis.

Last week Metro Transit was honored to be recognized at the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce 2015 Political Leadership Luncheon's Leaders in Local Government Awards. Metro Transit's communications efforts, in partnership with the launch of CHS Field and its ties to transit options, garnered us the organization's communications award. Reading from the award:

Metro Transit understands that transit information is not just about a bus schedule. It is about responding to news as it happens, it is about building connections to local events and it is about information the public about new initiatives that will impact their commuting decisions. From engaging with the community in public meetings to a wide variety of information channels, Metro Transit is engaging with the Twin Cities more effectively and more often than ever before.

Director of Transportation Services Arlene McCarthy gave an update on MVST with October at 100.32%, which brings the year-to-date figure to 96.84%. Our TransitLink buses are now able to accept GoTo Card fare payments. The smaller buses with their lower voltage power systems proved to be a challenge in that regard, but fortunately not an insurmountable one.

A deal on highway bill framework is close, but elusive; Congress was close to announcing a framework conference agreement for the Surface Transportation bill, but instead passed a two week extension from November 20 to December 4 for MAP-21, and will continue to work on achieving agreement on disputed issues. Some of the issues are the length of the bill – 5 to 6 years of program authorizations; passenger rail provisions; and freight programs.

BUSINESS

CONSENT ITEMS:

1. 2015-306: Amend Bus Rapid Transit Ticket Vending Machine Contract No. 14P205 (Ed Petrie 612-349-7624)
2. 2015-298: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: Ladders of Opportunity award to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
3. 2015-299: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: I-35W pavement rehabilitation scope change (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
4. 2015-300: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: Bassett Creek Regional Trail Cost Increase (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)

A motion was made by Councilmember Rodriguez to approve the four Consent items as Consent items to Council, seconded by Councilmember Letofsky. Motion carried.

NON-CONSENT ITEMS:

1. 2015-280: Blue Line Extension (Bottineau Light Rail Transit) Revised Scope and Cost Estimate; Municipal Consent Plans and Public Hearing. Presented by Dan Soler, Assistant General Manager, TSD-BLRT. Proposed action: That the Metropolitan Council approve the revised project scope and cost estimate of \$1.496 billion as recommended by the Blue Line Extension Corridor Management Committee at their November 12, 2015 meeting; direct staff to prepare Blue Line Extension Municipal Consent Plans consistent with the project revised scope, and submit to Hennepin County and the cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, Golden Valley and Minneapolis; authorize scheduling and conducting a joint public hearing with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council on the

revised plans on January 19, 2016 at Hennepin County's Minneapolis Central Library. Councilmember Letofsky asked about ridership figures and funding for the project; Councilmember Barber asked about the status of BNSF negotiations; Councilmember Rodriguez asked if ridership estimates are being overestimated, as they are nationally; Councilmember Munt asked about better ways to manage public expectations about costs of rail projects; Councilmember McCarthy questioned why we don't keep the 34% contingency vs. dropping it to 30%? Motion by Councilmember Munt, second by Rodriguez, motion carried. Non-consent to Council.

2. 2015-301: Authorization to Amend the 2015 Unified Budget Downtown East Area Enhancement. Presented by Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the amendment of the 2015 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables. The Management Committee reviewed and approved the proposed amendment for all the divisions at its meeting on November 18, 2015. There were no issues or concerns. The Transportation Committee reviewed and approved the proposed amendment with two Committee members voting against the motion at its meeting on November 23, 2015. There were no issues or concerns raised by Committee members. Motion by Councilmember Rodriguez, second by Barber. Motion passed. Non-Consent to Council.
3. 2015-302: Amendment One to the Restated and Amended Cooperative Funding Agreement with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA). Presented by Metro Transit's Assistant Director of Environment/Agreements Nani Jacobson. Proposed action: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Restated and Amended Cooperative Funding Agreement (CFA) for Project Development (PD) with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRRA) for the Southwest LRT Project (SWLRT). There were no questions from Councilmembers; motion to approve was made by Councilmember Commers and seconded by Councilmember Munt. Motion carried. Consent to Council.
4. 2015-307: Authorization to Execute 2016 Agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB). Presented by MTS Grants Specialist Heather Johnson. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) to receive funds in 2016 for the following projects:

Capital:

- 1) Green Line Extension (Southwest LRT) - \$99,314,531
- 2) Blue Line Extension (Bottineau LRT) - \$17,760,000
- 3) Orange Line BRT - \$10,738,500
- 4) Mall of America Station - \$2,250,000

Operating:

- 1) Red Line BRT Service – up to \$1,725,010
- 2) Cedar Avenue BRT Express Service – up to \$191,344
- 3) Northstar Commuter Rail Service - \$6,755,400
- 4) Light Rail Service (Blue Line and Green Line) - \$23,194,427
- 5) I-35W South BRT Express Service - \$286,209

There were no questions or discussion related to this item. Motion by Councilmember Munt, seconded by Councilmember Letofsky and carried. Non-consent to Council.

5. 2015-303: Authorization to Execute Sole Source Agreement for Red Line BRT Transit Service. Presented by MTS Project Administrator Bruce Dreier. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source subordinate agreement with Minnesota Valley Transportation Authority for METRO Red Line Station-to-Station Service 2016 operating expenses in an amount not to exceed \$2,453,231. There were no questions from committee members. A motion was made by Councilmember Letofsky, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez and carried. Consent to Council.
6. 2015-305: Authorization to enter into an agreement with Taxi Services Incorporated (Airport Taxi, Town Taxi, Minneapolis Yellow Cab) to provide Metro Mobility Premium Same Day (PSD) Service. Presented by MTS Project Administrator Dana Rude. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Taxi Services, Inc., to provide Metro Mobility Premium Same Day (PSD) service from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2020 in an amount not to exceed \$2,779,293. There were no questions; Councilmember Rodriguez commented that the PSD program is a “creative solution.” Motion by Councilmember Letofsky, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez and carried. Consent to Council.

INFORMATION

1. I-94 & Manning Park and Ride Update. Presented by Metro Transit’s Assistant Director, Facilities Engineering Pat Jones. Councilmember Letofsky asked whether the park and ride would be connected to bike trails; Jones replied that Lake Elmo is considering it; Councilmember Munt asked whether Wisconsinites would be using and displacing Minnesotans; Jones answered that there are other park and rides, such as Guardian Angels, that have the same situation.
2. Travel Behavior Inventory – Future Program Recommendations. Presented by MTS Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich. Questions from Councilmembers Elkins, McCarthy, Barber, Munt and Schreiber concerning costs of the program and data collection.
3. RALF Annual Report. Presented by MTS Senior Planner Brad Utecht. Questions from Councilmembers Rodriguez and Barber regarding whether it might be premature to consider eliminating the RALF Program – overall program is \$56 million, with \$44 million in loans that are still to be collected.
4. Quarterly Regional Ridership Report. Presented by MTS Director Arlene McCarthy. Third quarter 2015 down 2% from 2014, with the exception of U of M; local bus ridership is the largest share.
5. Rail~Volution 2015 Debrief. Councilmember Elkins, Councilmember McCarthy, and MTS Director Arlene McCarthy discussed aspects of the the Rail~Volution annual meeting held in October in Texas including comments about the Dallas-Fort Worth area’s long-range TOD planning.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Linda Thayer
Recording Secretary