

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 22, 2016

LOCATION: Inver Grove Heights City Hall, 2150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights

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

Committee Members Absent: Gail Dorfman

TAB Liaison Present: None present

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2016 at the City of Inver Grove Heights City Hall.

Inver Grove Heights Mayor George Tourville came forward and addressed the committee, and Chair Schreiber thanked the city for working with Metropolitan Council staff and for hosting the Transportation Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt to approve the 2/22/16 agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Commers to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2016 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Rodriguez reported from the TAB. The TAB met on 2/17/16 and approved TIP amendments, three of which are on the Transportation Committee agenda today. The TAB also approved \$1.5M in Innovative TDM grants and approved adding an inflation factor to bus purchases. The TAB also discussed defederalization of projects - process and policy. TAB members questioned how minority requirements could be affected through defederalization. The TAC will research the differences between State and Federal requirements and bring back to the TAB so that the TAB can determine what they want to include in the defederalization policy.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER and METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported that in January 2016, the 7th month of the State Fiscal Year, Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) revenues were at 91.34% of the state November 2015 forecast. The year-to-date MVST is at 100.26% of projection. MVST revenues are impacted by the number of collection days in a month. For example, the preceding month December 2015 had 113.79% revenues to forecast.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. After 52 years, Silas Sharp will be retiring from Metro Transit. Mr. Sharp began as a bus cleaner and is now a bus garage manager. A retirement celebration will take place in early April. Lamb will forward information to Transportation Committee members.
2. Metro Transit had a busy week with the NHL and Alumni outdoor hockey games. There were 50,000 fans in attendance in the stadium and the platform was cleared in 40 minutes, as opposed to parking ramps which took 1-1 ½

hours to clear. This upcoming weekend Crashed Ice will be held in St. Paul. Attendance is expected to be 100,000; last year Metro Transit gave 20,000 rides during Crashed Ice.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Barber to approve the following consent items.

Motion carried.

1. 2016-39 SW: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: City of Minneapolis Overhead Signal Upgrade project
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to adjust the description and increase the cost of the City of Minneapolis's Overhead Signal Upgrade project (SP# 141-030-028).

2. 2016-42 SW: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: MnDOT US 169 Bridge and Culvert Reconstruction
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to adjust the description to include box culvert #27X15, which will accommodate a bike trail for MnDOT's US 169 bridge and culvert replacement project (SP# 2772-113).

3. 2016-43 SW: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: Bloomington Old Cedar Avenue Trail Construction
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost and adjust the description for the City of Bloomington's Old Cedar Avenue Trail project (SP# 107-090-009).

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-36: Authorization to Amend the 2016 Unified Budget – Regular Carryforward Amendment
Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2016 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the Capital – Attachment #1 (Program Level).

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2016 Unified Budget – Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with the spreadsheet in Operating Attachment #2.

Motion carried

2. 2016-4 SW: Snelling Ground Lease

Metro Transit Director Transit Oriented Development Lucy Galbraith presented this item, first recognizing other staff who worked on this project: Associate General Counsel Jeanne Matross, Director of Engineering and Facilities Marilyn Porter, TOD Development Manager Amy Geisler, TOD Development Analyst Michael Krantz, and Assistant Director of Engineering and Facilities Pat Jones.

Letofsky asked about the transit purposes for this site and who is requiring them. Galbraith responded that Metropolitan Council will decide the transit purposes and will use experience of staff who have experience with transit at other stadiums. A question was also asked as to what the rent money can be used for. Galbraith said that the rent is transit program income, either capital or operating budget, and will be determined by the Council, adding that the stipulation of what the rent money can be used for is not part of the lease transaction.

Lamb reminded the committee to look at the revenue from a timing perspective. As the funds won't be received until 2018, there is time for the Council to discuss and decide how money will be used. Munt asked how this advances the equity goal and how the neighborhoods feel about the stadium. Commers spoke on behalf of the Citizen Advisory Committee (a large and diverse group that he served

on). He said the neighbors are excited about increasing the use and vitality of the 35 acres and listed the types of use as commercial, residential, mix, etc. Regarding equity, he said this is an opportunity to create centers of employment, residential and cultural opportunities as well as a stadium, and is very accessible to transit. Galbraith added that the city is requiring vendor outreach, local vendors, and stadium availability for community events. Commers thanked Lamb and Galbraith and thanked policymakers Council Chair Adam Duinck, Mayor Coleman and Port Authority President Louis Jambois. Rodriguez asked what the appraised value was and was told \$12 million. Barber asked how the Port Authority is going to pay, and what if Metropolitan Council's share goes above \$4.5 million? Galbraith said the Port Authority will manage all contracts, and apply for all grants. Under the proposed lease language, Metro Council has the authority to review and approve design changes to reduce costs so as not to exceed total resources including the Council's \$4.5 million.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator or his delegate to negotiate and execute a ground lease with the City of Saint Paul for the property located at 400 Snelling Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota, such lease to contain the provisions stated below (in Business Item No. 2016-4 SW) in the Funding paragraph, and in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws.

Motion carried

3. 2016-40: Amendment to the Transitways Guidelines to Add Noise Mitigation Guidelines for Light Rail

Metro Transit Asst. Director Environment/Agreements Kathryn O'Brien and Nani Jacobson presented this item.

Elkins asked if there are any particular areas on the SWLRT where these guidelines would apply.

Jacobson said there several properties that would be subject to this guideline. Munt asked if the community has input on noise mitigation measures identified for an area if they do not want it.

Jacobson responded that the project offices communicate identified mitigation measures with the impacted communities and individual property owners. Where impacts are "severe", the Council will weigh heavily the FTA criteria for recommended mitigation to mitigate these impacts, however there is more leeway for "moderate" impacts, which will be discussed with property owners.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council):

1. Amend the *Regional Transitways Guidelines*, Chapter 5, as follows:

Add a guideline related to noise mitigation in section 5.1 – Light Rail Transit Runningways: "Severe" and certain "Moderate" noise impacts identified through the NEPA process should be considered for mitigation if they meet the criteria for reasonableness, feasibility and cost effectiveness.

Add the following text in the discussion below the new guideline:

General guidelines for considering mitigation include:

- Reasonableness: noise mitigation provides at least a 5 dB reduction in project noise.
- Feasibility: noise mitigation is practical from engineering, operations and safety standpoints and may also take other factors into account such as community input and visual impacts.
- Cost effectiveness: the standard cost per benefited receptor is approximately what it would cost to build a 10' high noise wall.

2. Direct staff to update the associated *Runningway Guidelines User Guide* to add applicable definitions and criteria.

Motion carried

4. 2016-46: Interagency Agreement with HCRRA to Fund METRO Orange Line Project Development

Metro Transit Senior Manager, BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Lefotsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Interagency Agreement 16I013 with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) to fund METRO Orange Line Project Development activities.

Motion carried.

5. 2016-3: Approve TH 169 ramp closure at West 16th Street in St. Louis Park, Review #21519-1 Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Peterson presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by MnDOT to close the West 16th Street ramp access to/from Southbound Highway 169 in the City of St. Louis Park, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Performance Measures

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Brad Utecht presented this item including the definition of performance based planning, process and structure, modal work groups. Transportation Committee members (3-5) are being asked for their interest in participating in an Ad Hoc Working Group to provide input on draft performance measures and provide guidance on public outreach. Members interested should contact Chair Schreiber.

The Transportation Committee business was concluded at 4:50 pm.

DAKOTA COUNTY/CITIES PRESENTATION

1. Welcome by Inver Grove Heights Mayor George Tourville. Tourville welcomed the Transportation Committee at the start of Transportation Committee business earlier in the meeting. Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee (TC) Chair Schreiber explained that the TC has periodically held their meetings at other city/county locations in order to have a chance to hear different entities' needs outside of the two core counties. The Transportation Committee members introduced themselves and stated which Metro Council District that they represent.
2. Welcome by Commissioner Kathleen Gaylord of the Dakota County Board of Commissioners. Gaylord welcomed the Transportation Committee and gave an overview of the present Transportation System in Dakota County and projected growth for Dakota County. Gaylord also serves on the TAB as a representative from Dakota County.

Dakota County Transportation Engineer Mark Krebsbach continued with the presentation. He spoke on the existing trunk highways/county highways/principal arterials/rural highways, river crossings, age of existing roads, lack of east-west principal arterial south of CSAH 42, capacity deficiencies, interchange needs, improvements that have been made with existing funding, and funding shortfalls in future plans. Dakota County has formed the "Dakota County Transportation Coordinating Collaborative" (DCTCC) which is a joint effort between Dakota County, Transit operators and specialized transportation stakeholders with the mission to prioritize and implement efficiencies in meeting specialized transit needs. Metro Council member Barber expressed an

interest in learning more about the DCTCC because some of the same issues exist in Scott County which is her district.

MnDOT Metro Area District Engineer Scott McBride introduced Pat Bursaw and Jon Solberg from MnDOT, who work closely with Dakota County. McBride noted that MnDOT has experienced an excellent partnership with Dakota County.

3. Dakota County Suburban Cities Presentation by Russ Matthys, Eagan Public Works Director and John Mazzitello, Mendota Heights Public Works Director.
Matthys and Mazzitello presented on pavement maintenance and preservation, safety improvements, traffic operations & management, capacity expansions. They also spoke about local and regional trails, and ADA upgrades. They also noted funding needs, and the fact that local governments cannot tax to generate their own revenues.
4. Inver Grove Heights presentation by Tom Link, IGH Community Development Director.
Link reported on the City of Inver Grove Heights (IGH). He spoke of the steady growth that IGH has experienced over time. There is a five square mile area in the northwest area of the city that has development potential, one of the largest parcels in the regional area. He said that Inver Grove Heights is expecting an increase in the rate of growth and that the city struggles to maintain the transportation facilities that it has, let alone expanding facilities.
5. Dakota County Townships' presentation by Dean Johnson, Resources Strategies.
Johnson gave a history about the Dakota County rural area and spoke about the townships performing their own planning until the mid-1990s. In 2000, the townships became a collaborative. He presented maps of the Rural Collaborative Comprehensive Plan. Most of the land is rural and farming and does not fit well with developing to the standards of developed/or developing property.

Following these presentations, Metro Council Transportation Committee members stated the information has been helpful, although disheartening because there are so few transportation dollars compared to need. They stated this is a regional issue and encouraged all to contact their legislators to encourage a comprehensive transportation bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.