

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 28, 2021

LOCATION: Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held electronically.

Committee Members Present: Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Deb Barber

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Vice Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, June 28, 2021. A quorum was present when the Committee discussed and approved action items.

AGENDA

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Cummings to approve the amended agenda of the June 28, 2021 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 5 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Barber, Gonzalez, Sterner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Fredson to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 5 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Barber, Gonzalez, Sterner

TAB REPORT

Dugan reported on grant opportunities and shared agency reports. Dugan encouraged folks to view the presentation that takes place 56 minutes into the June TAB meeting.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Acting Director Amy Vennewitz reported:

INFRA

The USDOT should be announcing the INFRA grant recipients today. We were joint applicants with MnDOT for the I494 MnPASS lane project.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

Receiving a 2021 Low No Emissions Grant

On Friday, we learned we will receive a nearly \$4.2 million Low-No Emissions Grant from the FTA. Partner with the manufacturer Proterra. Fund the

incremental difference for eight of their 40-foot buses. The eight new buses will be used on core local routes to gain more experience with battery electric buses

Legislative Update

House and Senate passed the Transportation Omnibus bill last week. Governor signed into law on Saturday. Several transit provisions we are grateful for. Highlights include: Received our general fund base appropriation, Senate passed bill at the end of regular session cut all but \$5,000 of our base for the coming biennium. Legislature decided to make Metro Mobility a forecasted program. Provision goes into effect on July 1, 2024. Applies beginning with the November 2024 forecast for each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025. The bill includes a \$57.5 M one-time general fund appropriation for arterial BRT. The bill was just signed into law over the weekend. We have more work to do to detail exactly how the Council may designate these new funds. At this point, it's fair to say that between last fall's \$55 million in the state bonding bill and this new \$57.5 million, Metro Transit will be able to transform how we delivers these projects. We anticipate the appropriation will complete the funding for E Line (Hennepin/France). The amount going to E Line will be determined as the project budget develops and from applicable remaining funds from last year's \$55 million bonding bill for the D Line and B Line. These funds will also help advance the F Line (Central/University). The fact that money is available much earlier in the process for this line means that Metro Transit may be able approach the F Line funding differently, including by possibly using these new funds as local match for FTA Small Starts funding. If successful, federal funding opportunities leveraged by the appropriation mean Metro Transit could possibly even begin work on additional future lines with remaining state funds. The next programmed arterial BRT line is the METRO G Line (Rice/Robert). Includes \$250,000 in one-time funding to produce a Zero Emissions Transition Plan. \$250,000 to develop a zero-emissions transit vehicle plan. Must provide a plan to the legislature by February 15, 2022 and revise it every 5 years afterwards. This plan and funding will complement the work already underway through the master contracts passed by the Council in May. Includes Regional Transit Capital Bonds – total of \$98.4M for next two years. Provides \$250,000 to the Council to analyze transit improvements in the trunk highway 55 corridor from Medina to downtown Minneapolis. The analysis must include options for highway BRT. The appropriation also requires a non-state match. This did not include administrative citations authority, which is a big disappointment.

Preview of July “Stronger/Better” presentations

In July, we have a two-part series of presentations about our plans to emerge from the pandemic a stronger transit system. At your July 12 meeting, we will present the first part of this two-part series. Data we are watching regarding ridership trends and how this informs our decisions about which service to prioritize bringing back or increasing. Overview of the quarterly service changes going into effect with the August pick. Update on operator hiring, since operator numbers will be the primary factor in how much service we bring back. Will take a moment to say we had two successful one-day hiring events last Wednesday and Saturday. 65 people attended our hiring events last week and 60 were interviewed. 42 passed the interview and minimum qualifications so we're now working hard to get their materials through the background process. We'll be starting new hires as quickly as all information is verified and the pre-employment physical is completed. Then, at your July 26 meeting, we will present Part 2 of this presentation. Part 2 will focus on our multi-pronged approach to improving the customer experience and rebuilding confidence in transit. This umbrella of improvements includes: Our approach to future service changes beyond the August pick, Our commitment to service reliability, Improvements to security, Improving the conditions of our vehicles and facilities, Transit fare promotions or product changes. Our goal is to provide you with this whole-cloth picture before the end of July, so you can see how we are approaching this historic, transformative time in public transit

Cummings voiced appreciation for staff work on legislative matters. Cummings asked about the status on electric buses. Kooistra said the chargers on nearing the end of manufacturing and the hope is to have them back on the chargers by the end of the summer.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no items on the consent agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2021-145:** Positive Train Control (PTC) Software Support Amendment #3 Contract 17M165 Metro Transit Commuter Rail Director Tony Hebert presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source Amendment #3 to Contract 17M165 with Wabtec Railway Electronics, Inc. (WRE) for maintenance and support of Positive Train Control software for a total contract amount not to exceed of \$684,147.07.

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

Aye: 5 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Barber, Gonzalez, Sterner

INFORMATION

1. Arterial BRT Program Update

Metro Transit BRT Assistant Director Katie Roth presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Non-Consent Items:

2. **2021-152:** METRO D Line – Amendment to Design and Construction Administration Services Contract 18P182

Metro Transit BRT Project Manager Shahin Khazrajafari presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Amendment 1 to contract 18P182 with HDR Engineering, Inc. for design and construction support services for the D Line BRT Project, to increase the contract value by \$2,640,810, for a revised contract value not to exceed \$11,926,474.

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

Aye: 5 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Barber, Gonzalez, Sterner

3. **2021-153:** METRO B Line – Authorization to Release Recommended Corridor Plan for Public Comment

Metro Transit Senior Planner Adam Smith presented this item.

Chair Chamblis asked for new graphics on demographics.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Authorize release of the METRO B Line Recommended Corridor Plan for public review and comment
- Direct staff to collect comments through Friday, August 13, 2021, summarize comments, and report the findings to the Metropolitan Council

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

Aye: 4 Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 4 Barber, Ferguson, Gonzalez, Sterner

4. **2021-154:** Trapeze/TransitMaster Sole Source for Bus Hardware Upgrade 21P163

Metro Transit Business Systems Analyst Richard Paulson presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize, award and execute sole source contract 21P163 with Trapeze Group, in the amount not to exceed \$1,389,999 for Bus Hardware Upgrade.

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

Aye: 5 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 Barber, Gonzalez, Sterner

5. **2021-157:** Approval of Ramsey County, FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning (Rush Line) 21I001

Metro Transit Senior Project Manager Kathryn Hansen presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Intergovernmental Agreement 21I001, which is a pass-through Subrecipient Grant Agreement (SGA) with Ramsey County for the \$1,250,000 FTA Pilot Program for a TOD Planning grant award.

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

Aye: 5 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 3 Barber, Gonzalez, Sterner

6. **2021-164:** SWLRT (Green Line Extension) Civil Construction Change Order – Grouting for the Kenilworth Tunnel Construction
Metro Transit Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item.

Cummings noted that this was responsive and necessary.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator through the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Council Authorized Representative to negotiate and execute a change order for Contract 15P307A with Lunda McCrossan Joint Venture (LMJV) in an amount not to exceed \$4,354,203.30 for grouting for the Kenilworth Tunnel construction.

Motion carried.

Aye: 5 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 3 Barber, Gonzalez, Sterner

7. **2021-165:** Metropolitan Transportation Services Agency Safety Plans (ASP)
Metropolitan Transportation Services Bus Safety Manager Andrew Brody presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt Revision 1 of the MTS Agency Safety Plan as required by 49 CFR Part 673.

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

Aye: 5 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 3 Barber, Gonzalez, Sterner

INFORMATION

2. Minneapolis Bus Garage

Metro Transit Engineering and Construction Manager Robert Rimstad, Construction Services Manager Lisa Kline and Construction Manager Stan Owens presented this item.

Chamblis voiced appreciation for the ways that solar energy is being used and water is being conserved.

3. Metro Transit Mobile App Transition

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

Chamblis thanked staff for their work. Chamblis asked about loading multiple trips and needing a refund. Mehl said the rides are purchased individually.

4. Transportation Improvement Program

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau and MnDOT Molly McCartney presented this item.

Chamblis commented on the importance of the TIP.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary