

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 8, 2020

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

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent:

TAAC Member Present: David Fenley

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:04 p.m. on Monday, June 8, 2020.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Fredson seconded by Cummings to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Motion by Zeran seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

TAAC REPORT

Fenley reported that the disability community has been impacted by COVID and the TAAC discussed this.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Regional Solicitation Application Summary

Applications window closed May 15 with 132 applications received – slightly less than previous cycles, there were 137 in 2018. There were 41 different applicants, like prior cycles. Roads had 72 applications, Bike/Ped/SRS 50, Transit 19. Request for \$466 M in federal funding, with local commitment of \$344M. Total availability of \$180 M. Scoring committees will start on June 25m scores released August 20th, TAB approves projects in December then to Council for concurrence.

Operations update

All MTS transit operations are back to their COVID level service types and levels. Health Care worker trips continue to be strong - increased after we suspended general transit service and have remained high since service resumed. We are working on transitioning food shelf delivery service from Metro Mobility to Transit Link. This is going to be necessary as Metro Mobility trips increase, particularly as day training and habilitation and adult day care centers reopen. Contractors began temperature checks of all employees and drivers this morning and this practice will continue. In addition, we continue to offer COVID testing to all transit essential workers from our Contractors. Contractors are reporting no issues with staffing levels needed to meet service demands.

Cummings asked about type of Regional Solicitation applications. Thompson said the roadway expansion category was expanded so there were more applications in that category. Atlas-Ingebretson asked about food shelf delivery. Thompson said it is mostly food shelf delivery, the grocery delivery has not had the demand.

Metro Transit Chief of Staff Lesley Kandarar reported:

Developments since last Wednesday's Committee of the Whole

You likely recall that at last Wednesday's Committee of the Whole meeting, the General Manager provided a thorough report of Metro Transit's service suspension and Metro Transit's contributions to the coordinated state response to the situation in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. By last Thursday morning, we restored all Metro Transit service back to our covid service levels. Bus service and Northstar were restored last Wednesday as Wes shared with you during the Committee of the Whole. And as planned, we were able to restart light rail service on Thursday morning. I'll just note that restoring light rail first required a very careful inspection of our rail infrastructure by rail systems staff and others, especially given how close to fires different segments of both the Blue and Green lines were. Even though we had fully restored service on Thursday, that day, the Department of Public Safety directed us to stop service at 10 p.m. to coincide with the curfew, which we complied with. In all, between May 29 and June 7th, Metro Transit completed 224 assignments for support buses at the request of the multi-agency command structure. Generally, throughout the past couple of weeks, rail, bus, police, and engineering and facilities departments worked closely together. And the Engineering and Facilities department continues to repair damage. I just want to mention what Engineering and Facilities Director Marilyn Porter has shared with others – that community cleanup efforts made their job easier. All the volunteers that came out to begin the process of cleaning up Lake Street and other areas meant that in a lot of cases, broken glass and debris had already been removed. We are really thankful for those efforts.

Metro Transit's quarterly service changes go into effect on Saturday, June 13.

This quarter's changes are very minor service adjustments. For the most part, we are continuing our reduced service schedule that was instituted back in March in response to the COVID pandemic. With this Saturday changes, we will be at roughly 65% of the service levels we were offering at the beginning of the year. With the June 13th service adjustments most local bus routes will continue to follow Saturday schedules. Some routes will see additional service added Monday through Friday. On all days of the week, many bus trips after 11 p.m. and before 4:30 a.m. will be restored. Light rail service will continue to operate between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. daily.

Ongoing efforts to adjust and refine our COVID responses based on the latest available public health guidance COVID

Back on May 21st, several of us at Metro Transit met with representatives from the Minnesota Department Health and Minneapolis Health Department. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss strategies to reduce COVID risks for operators and riders. We recognize that we are not health experts

here at Metro Transit. It was really valuable to have a dialogue with people who are health experts and hear their perspectives on what we are doing and what we might consider moving forward. This provided us with contact information for several people involved in the state efforts, so we can continue to engage with them.

Atlas-Ingebretson asked that there be time at the next Transportation Committee meeting for the community call to end racial injustice for what the committee stewards. Fredson commented that Minneapolis and Minnesota Department of Human Rights decisions could form a base for the Metropolitan Council to take action. Ferguson said money should be set aside for community engagement and talked about how the Council oversees the Metro Transit Police Department. Barber said she will pass the information along to staff.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Gonzalez, seconded by Cummings and carried, to approve the following consent items:

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

1. **2020-163 SW:** 2020-2023 TIP Amendment for St. Paul: Electric Vehicles for Car Sharing

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to eliminate mobility hubs from St. Paul's electric vehicle carshare project.

2. **2020-164 SW:** 2020-2023 TIP Amendment for MnDOT: I-94 / US 952A Bridge Rehabilitation

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add rehabilitation of three additional bridges to its US 952A / I-94 bridge rehabilitation.

3. **2020-165 SW:** 2020-2023 TIP Amendment MnDOT: US 12 Safety Improvement Study

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a safety improvement study on US 12.

4. **2020-166 SW:** 2020-2023 TIP Amendment for MnDOT: Metrowide Replacement of Dynamic Message Signs

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to amend the scope of MnDOT's replacement of dynamic message signs.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2020-141 JT:** 2020 Unified Budget Amendment – 2nd Quarter

Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner and Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item.

Chamblis asked about the RealTime signs. Petrie said IS is hiring folks to monitor, repair, and maintain the signs.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2020 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. 2020-162: Federal CARES Act Subrecipient Grant Agreements

Metropolitan Transportation Services/Community Development Grants Manager Heather Giesel presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements with Maple Grove Transit, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, Plymouth Metrolink, SouthWest Transit, and the University of Minnesota in the amounts listed below.

Maple Grove Transit: \$1,213,690

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority: \$6,118,007

Plymouth Metrolink: \$1,188,885

Southwest Transit: \$2,525,156

University of Minnesota: \$1,085,532

Motion carried.

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. 2020-142: Master Contracts for Structural Design Services – Contract 19P262

Metro Transit Senior Project Administrator Julie Brenny presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute three master contracts for structural design services to support Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities:

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. - \$700,000

TKDA - \$700,000

SRF Consulting Group, Inc. - \$700,000

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

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. **2020-157:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Legal Services Contract in Support of Project Activities, Contract 20P007

Metro Transit Transit System Development Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item.

Chamblis asked about the DBE firm that did not submit a proposal. Alexander said he can follow up with OEO and get back to the committee. OEO Director Cy Jordan said OEO can reach out to the applicant.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award, negotiate and execute a legal services contract with Schiff Hardin to support SWLRT Project activities in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.

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

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. **2020-159:** METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit - Master Funding Agreement with Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority

Metro Transit BRT Projects Assistant Director Chris Beckwith presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) for the METRO Gold Line BRT (GBRT) Project.

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

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

6. **2020-160:** Gold Line BRT Subordinate Funding Agreement #1 with Washington County for Service Center Design

Metro Transit BRT Projects Assistant Director Chris Beckwith presented this item.

Chamblis commented that she is pleased with the service center including the workforce center.

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (Gold Line) Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 01 with Washington County (County) for Service Center Design in an amount not to exceed \$4,975,000.

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

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. **2020-161:** Gold Line BRT Master Funding Agreement and Subordinate Funding Agreement #1 with Minnesota IT Services for Duct Bank Relocation Design

Metro Transit BRT Projects Assistant Director Chris Beckwith presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (Gold Line) Master Funding Agreement (MFA) and Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 01 with Minnesota IT Services (MnIT), the latter in an amount not to exceed \$770,000.

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

Aye: 9 Atlas-Ingebretson, Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

INFORMATION

1. Freeway System Interchange Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary