

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

Meeting of the Transportation Committee

Monday, August 27, 2012

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair Roxanne Smith	Jon Commers Edward Reynoso Jennifer Munt	James Brimeyer Adam Duinick
Members Absent	John Doan		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	Robert Lilligren		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on August 27, 2012, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Schreiber to adopt the agenda for the August 27, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Reynoso, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Metro Transit:

Rob Milleson, Deputy Director of Bus Maintenance, introduced Mechanic Technician Terry Hinchcliffe, a 35-year veteran of Metro Transit who has spent the last 16 years working at Metro Transit's Overhaul Base. Mr. Hinchcliffe is being recognized for his talent and creativity in his position as fabricator-welder working on a variety of projects, whether repairing, designing or building. He has earned the respect of his coworkers, supervisors and others from across Metro Transit and is willing to help everyone and share his knowledge.

Metropolitan Transportation Services:

Connie Kozlak, Manager of Systems Planning, introduced Senior Planner Ann Braden. Ms. Braden is being recognized for her work as the lead staff person for the recently completed Transportation Planning and Programming Guide for the Twin Cities area. The new Guide represents a long process of revising and updating a previous document, resulting in a much more user-friendly reference for the general public and industry professionals alike in understanding how regional planning works.

Paul Colton, Senior Manager of Metro Mobility, introduced Joyce Doerffler and Harlan Peterson of Transit Team, Inc. Ms. Doerffler and Mr. Peterson are the previous, recently retired owners of Transit Team, which has provided contracted service to Metro Mobility since 1986. They are being recognized for their dedication and leadership in providing outstanding service to the Council and the region.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit, reported the following:

Today students at seven high schools in Minneapolis – Edison, Henry, North, Roosevelt, Washburn, Wellstone and Expanded Option students at Southwest – began participation in a new program using Metro Transit instead of school buses to travel to and from school. These senior high students have been issued Go-To Cards that will allow them access to buses and light rail from 5:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. seven days a week. Metro Transit staff has worked to accommodate all customers by adding trips and adjusting schedules on routes serving these schools. This morning's trips went very smoothly, with no issues reported. Between 3,200 and 3,500 students are expected to participate in the program this semester.

At the State Fair on August 24 Metro Transit introduced two New Flyer buses to show fairgoers the next generation of hybrid-electric public transit buses. GM Lamb was joined by Senator Amy Klobuchar – a strong champion of transit at the federal level – and by transit industry leaders from New Flyer, BAE Manufacturing, Thermo King and Cummins. Met Council members Melander and Doan also came by. The hybrid bus was wrapped with graphics promoting a message that the bus is the cleanest hybrid in the U.S. After being on display outside the Eco Experience building during the fair, the buses will go into service on routes serving Nicollet Mall.

On August 25 Metro Transit hosted a table and had a bus onsite at Urban League Family Day in North Minneapolis. TIC rep Traci Williamson – a resident of North Minneapolis – helped hundreds of attendees, including assisting many MPS students with their new passes. Duane Moore and Al Sesler, bus operators who also make their homes in North Minneapolis, showed kids how the forty-foot bus works and handed out goody bags. This event was the latest in Metro Transit's North Side outreach effort. It went very well, and a number of appreciative comments were received.

Regional Administrator Pat Born introduced John Harrington, newly appointed Chief of Metro Transit Police. Chief Harrington served more than 30 years with the St. Paul Police Department and is also quite familiar with policing transit, having served part-time with Metro Transit Police from 1985-1997. Chief Harrington will start in his new role with Metro Transit on Tuesday, September 4.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, MTS, noted that Arlene McCarthy is currently on vacation. During her absence, business matters should be directed to Deputy Director Vennewitz or Assistant Director Gerri Sutton.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren reported that the following items were discussed at the August 15 meeting of the Transportation Advisory Board:

Request from SouthWest Transit to reconsider its application for CMAQ funds to build a park-and-ride station at CH-169 and Pioneer Trail: After considerable debate the TAB re-voted to maintain its earlier decision not to include the project in this cycle of grant awards.

UPWP: The TAB voted to recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2012 Unified Planning Work Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area as outlined in TAB Action 2012-31.

TIP: The TAB voted to accept the public comment report and to adopt the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and to forward to the Met Council for concurrence.

Scope of Work for the Regional Solicitation Evaluation Study: Proposal to adopt a zero-based budgeting approach in evaluating and awarding grants.

MAP-21: Discussion of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century transportation bill passed in June.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

There were no consent items.

Non-Consent Items

2012-269: Authorization to Purchase Property – Gateway Layover Facility

Pat Jones, Assistant Director, Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, introduced Principal Engineer Jim Harwood, who presented the business item. Staff responded to questions from committee members about property valuation, division of ownership and insurance requirements.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the purchase of the Gateway Layover Facility located at 400 Third Street South in Minneapolis, MN at the negotiated real property value of \$7,500,000.

Motion passed.

2012-265: Controlled Access Approval for Construction of an Interchange at TH-36 and English Street in Ramsey County, Review #21016-1

MTS Senior Planner Ann Braden presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council approve MnDOT's request to build a grade-separated, tight diamond interchange at TH-36 and English Street in Maplewood, conditional upon any significant changes in the design of the proposed project being subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-266: Controlled Access Approval for St. Croix River Crossing Project (S.P. 8214-114) in Washington County, Review #21015

MTS Senior Planner Ann Braden presented this item. CM Commers noted that while he realizes the decision has already been made he believes there should be further discussion regarding how the project is aligned with the current Council's priorities.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Duinink:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by MnDOT to reconstruct TH-36/95 in Minnesota and provide a new St. Croix River Crossing, conditional upon any significant changes in the design of the proposed project being subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

Motion passed, with Munt voting against.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-267: Controlled Access Approval for Construction of an Interchange at TH-169 and CH-69 in Shakopee, Scott County, Review #21010-1

MTS Senior Planner Ann Braden presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council approve MnDOT's request to build an interchange at TH-169 and County Highway (CH) 69 in Shakopee, conditional upon any significant changes in the design of the proposed project being subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-268: Approval of 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment (TAB Action 2012-31)

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager of Systems Planning Connie Kozlak presented the item. In response to committee member questions, staff provided clarification of the type of work contained in the UPWP and noted that the 2013 UPWP will be coming to the committee for consideration in September.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Duinink:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2012 Unified Planning Work Program to identify the following additional products:

- Regional Solicitation Evaluation Study
- Highway Transitway Corridor Study
- Penn, Emerson/Fremont, Broadway Arterial Transitway Corridors Studies

- Thrive MSP 2040

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-270: 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
MTS Transportation Coordinator Kevin Roggenbuck presented the item and responded to general questions from the committee.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Concur with Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) actions to accept the Public Comment report and to adopt the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area;
- 2) Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is being carried out in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
 - Section 134 of Title 23, U.S.C., Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. A607);
 - Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d));
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VI assurance executed by each state under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794;
 - Section 1101 (b) (5) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (Pub. L. 109-59) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in FHWA and FTA funded planning projects (Pub. L. 97-424, Section 105 (f); 49 CFR part 23; and
 - The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, as amended) and U.S. DOT regulations (Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities, 40 CFR parts 27, 37 and 38).
- 3) Certify that the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
- 4) Find that the TIP is consistent with the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
- 5) Find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements.
- 6) Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for public, agency and transit operator involvement through its regular process and special public hearing.
- 7) Transmit the 2013-2016 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Quarterly Regional Ridership Report

John Harper, MTS Manager of Contracted Services, provided a review of ridership numbers for the region during the quarter ending 6/30/12. Data was broken down by provider and type of service, and historical levels for overall ridership were compared by month and year back to 2007.

2. Metro Mobility Radio Communications

MTS Assistant Director Gerri Sutton and Senior Manager Paul Colton presented a status report on the ongoing efforts to reduce airtime usage of the state emergency services radio frequency, along with staff recommendations for short-, moderate- and possible long-term solutions.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:37 p.m. August 27, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary