

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, July 9, 2012

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair	Edward Reynoso Roxanne Smith John Doan	Jennifer Munt Jon Commers
Members Absent	James Brimeyer	Adam Duininck	
Staff Presiding	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	
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 July 9, 2012 at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber to adopt the agenda for the July 9, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commers, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

MnDOT's Multimodal Plan was published today, July 9. The staff report from the June 25 Transportation Committee indicated that MTS would come to the July 9 meeting with comments on the plan; however, due to the short time frame and the length of today's agenda, it was decided that staff-recommended comments would be presented at the July 23 meeting. In the meantime, committee members are encouraged to review the plan, with particular focus on Chapter 4, and forward any comments to staff. Also under consideration is a future staff presentation to the committee on the potential for the region falling into non-attainment status by not meeting air quality requirements and the implications for funding and policy considerations.

Officials from the USDOT were in town the last week of June for the quadrennial certifications review process for MPO planning. On Thursday, June 28, a verbal closeout meeting was conducted; a written draft report will be prepared and forwarded to the Council for review. During the review no corrective actions were cited. There will be recommendations made for things to look at and work on, and there will be commendations as well. DOT officials also commented specifically on the strong working relationship between the MPO of the Met Council and both MnDOT and the transit provider.

The Bottineau Corridor locally preferred alternatives (LPA) process is currently underway, moving on to the Council and the TAB. Hennepin County recently took a vote and will be going to TAC planning on July 12 and moving through the TAC and TAB process. Concurrently the Council is ready to work with Hennepin County to continue to meet with City of Golden Valley on issues they have identified. To date the City has not given its support to the recommended alternatives.

A two-year federal transportation bill was signed last week, authorizing funding through federal fiscal year 2014, which ends 9/30/14. Because the bill cannot be paid for totally through the federal gas tax and the normal transportation funding sources, there will be an infusion of \$18.8 billion from the federal general fund. Favorable provisions of the bill include streamlining of the federal process and expansion of the definition of BRT in the New Starts program. In addition, funding for bike and pedestrian projects was reduced and moved into a broader category, and funding decisions were moved to the local level. And one disappointment from a transit perspective is that the tax discount previously offered to transit commuters had expired earlier while the automobile commuter tax discount remained in place. This bill does not correct that inequity, but there is currently a proposal circulating to address that.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

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

A groundbreaking event was held today, July 9, marking the beginning of construction at the site of what will become the Interchange near Target Field and the Metro Transit Heywood campus. Once construction is completed in 2014, the Interchange will be a bustling urban park, transit station and neighborhood gathering space. It will connect approximately 500 trains arriving and departing daily via the METRO Blue Line (Hiawatha LRT), METRO Green Line (Central Corridor LRT) and Northstar Commuter Rail, as well as more than 1,900 daily bus trips and miles of bike and walking trails. The event included remarks by Senator Klobuchar, Representative Ellison, Senator Senjem, Commissioner McLaughlin and others from the public and private sectors.

The national board of directors of "Rail~Volution" recently announced it has selected the Twin Cities as host site for the group's four-day national conference in mid-September 2014. "Rail~Volution" is comprised of 1,200 transit and land-use professionals from across the U.S. and other countries that have a strong interest in rail and the way transit systems support effective regional growth and livable cities. The Met Council will co-host with Counties Transportation Improvement Board and Minnesota Department of Transportation. The conference is not only about rail, but also more than a dozen "mobile workshops" demonstrating the region's Bus Rapid Transit facilities, extensive bus network, intermodal facilities, bike trails, pedestrian improvements and other transportation-related facilities. The region will also showcase its transit-oriented development projects.

A group of 140 bicyclists boarded a Northstar train in downtown Minneapolis on Saturday, June 23, as part of a partnership with bicycling groups to encourage more bicyclists to expand their recreational options using Northstar. The group took the train to Big Lake and rode their bikes back to Minneapolis, following the Mississippi River Trail.

Through May, 2012, bus operators are 5 percent below the agency-wide accident ceiling goal of no more than 3.8 accidents per 100,000 miles with a rate of 3.61. Accidents are defined as collisions with objects, other vehicles, bicycles or pedestrians or customer injuries (such as a customer fall).

BUSINESS

Consent Items

(None)

Non-Consent Items

2012-210 SW: Construction Contract for Highway 36 and Rice Street Park-and-Ride

Metro Transit Senior Engineer Robert Rimstad presented the item. GM Lamb noted that the item is before the committee as same-week in order to maximize the time available during this year's construction season. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Doãn:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Rachel Contracting, for construction of the Highway 36 and Rice Street Park-and-Ride in Little Canada for \$2,227,124.00.

Motion passed.

2012-211: Minnesota GreenCorps

Pat Jones, Assistant Director, Engineering and Facilities, introduced E&F Intern Molly McClung, who presented a summary of the Sustainability Implementation Plan. Julie Brenny, Engineering and Facilities, and Robert Rimstad then presented the business item. CM Munt asked whether the GreenCorps position would need to be filled by a Council employee at the end of the program. Staff responded that per the application requirements the GreenCorps member is to get the sustainability program established but not to take the place of a staff position or create the need for one in the future.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a board resolution of support to participate as a Host Site for the GreenCorps program and authorize the Regional Administrator enter an agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Motion passed.

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

2012-212: Red Line Bus Rapid Transit Grant Agreement with Dakota County Regional Rail Authority

Lindsay Sheppard, Senior Engineer with Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a grant agreement with the Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) for funds granted to the Council by the DCRRA to procure goods and services needed for Red Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

Motion passed.

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

2012-218: 147th Street Station Phase 2 Joint Powers Agreement with DCRRA and City of Apple Valley

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, presented the item. Following a brief presentation by Senior Engineer Lindsay Sheppard on the building design and concept drawings of the stations, McCarthy reviewed the background and proposal to be addressed by the JPA. Station construction bid opening is scheduled for late August. The Red Line opening date will be set after the construction contract is awarded. Possible use of this approach as a model for future projects was discussed.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) and the City of Apple Valley to provide the City with the option to fund the METRO Red Line 147th Street Station Phase 2 so that it is constructed concurrent with Phase 1.

Motion passed.

2012-213 SW: Hiawatha Light Rail Facility Expansion, Project 64910

Jeff Freeman, Senior Project Coordinator for Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to contract 09P161, Light Rail Transit O & M Facility Expansion Design and Construction Support Services, in the amount of \$158,300.

Motion passed.

2012-214: Property Acquisition for the I-35E and County Road E Park-and-Ride, Vadnais Heights

Associate Planner Julie Quinn presented the item. CM Smith asked whether the final purchase of the two Wal-Mart properties would be contingent on successful purchase of the third parcel. Staff responded that it would not. CM Doan asked whether Metro Transit is still considering the option to lease existing parking spaces from Wal-Mart for the park-and-ride. Staff responded that the option is still a consideration, but it will depend on negotiations with Wal-Mart. In either case, staff will pursue purchase of enough property to accommodate the 2030 projected demand of 300 parking spaces. If a shared parking arrangement is successfully negotiated, a portion of the property could be left undeveloped for as long as the shared parking is available.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and purchase, at the appraised value,

two properties and a permanent easement from Wal-Mart Realty Company totaling one and a half acres at I-35E and County Road E in Vadnais Heights.

Motion passed.

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

2012-216: Regional Transit System Fare Collection Contract with Cubic Transportation Systems

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann and Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented the item. Staff responded to questions from committee members about equipment life cycle, sole source rationale, vendor value and future needs for equipment and systems support.

Motion by Doan, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a sole source contract with Cubic Transportation Systems (Cubic) for production and delivery of 68 ticket vending machines, 114 smart card validators, 50 handheld smart card readers, coin hoppers and spare parts at a total cost not to exceed \$9,429,332.

Motion passed.

2012-217: 2012 Unified Capital Program Amendments

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2012 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 1,300,000
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- Amend the 2012 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 1,300,000
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Motion passed. The item will proceed to the Management Committee.

INFORMATION

1. 2013 Transportation Operating Budget

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb and MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented the proposed Transportation Operating Budget for 2013 and responded to general questions from committee members.

2. Metro Mobility Radio Consultant Report

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Paul Colton introduced Andy Terry, a consultant with Short Elliot Hendrickson. Mr. Terry reviewed his report to the Council and responded to questions about radio use and the history and structure of its governance.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Transportation Committee meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m. July 9, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary