

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 12, 2018

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent:

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:02pm on Monday, February 12, 2018 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2018 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following, who presented recognition awards to employees:

Metro Transit Manager Chris Royston presented to the following:

Metro Transit Electro Mechanical Technician Michael Erickson

Metro Transit Electro Mechanical Technician Alex Green

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Peter Dugan relayed the following information from the last TAB meeting:

New TAB Appointments

Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough will be the alternate for Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire. New appointments from Metro Cities and the Metropolitan Council will be announced at the next TAB meeting, February 21, 2018. Lisa Freese is the new TAC Chair, Paul Oehme was selected as chair of the TAC Funding & Programming Committee, and Jan Lucke was selected as chair of the TAC Planning Committee.

Regional Solicitation Classifications Map

Changes have been approved. Letofsky, Elkins, Rodriguez, and Schreiber all have roads that received a new classification. There was a lot of discussion regarding business item **2018-09: Scope Change: Oakdale/Marie Ave Trail, West St. Paul**. It generated discussion because a sidewalk on the north side was eliminated in favor of a multiuse trail and sidewalk on the south side. This was done to save money, the majority of the housing is on the south side, whereas the north side is primarily commercial establishments with parking for the automobiles which are mainly used. It has never been clearly established who funds the right-of-way: even though an applicant is eligible for federal funding, most applicants choose not to apply because of the time constraint and cumbersomeness of the process.

VW Settlement

The Transportation Committee will receive a copy of the presentation that was given at TAB. Dugan gave a brief overview of the options for money received through the VW Settlement. 15% of the funds can be used for charging stations, vehicle replacement (diesel to new diesel) they pay 75% of the cost and the federal funds will pay the remaining 25%.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Corridors of Commerce

Last Monday was the close of Corridors of Commerce public application period, MnDOT received around 300 proposals. There are numerous duplicates, so about 200 are unique project designs, 108 of those projects are in the Metro area, the Metropolitan Council submitted 10. Overall, we were well represented in the region. Future agenda items will have updates.

Metro Mobility Task Force

The Task Force held its last meeting and unanimously voted for the recommendations. The report is being finalized and will be submitted to the legislature by the 15th of February. After the report is submitted, the Metro Mobility Task Force will present the findings to the Transportation Committee.

TAB

TAB Orientations are this week and Council Members are welcome to attend: February 14, 10:00-11:30am, 3:30-5:00pm; February 16, 9:00-10:30am.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Buses return to Nicollet Mall

After being detoured during Super Bowl festivities, several of our busiest bus routes returned to Nicollet Mall and 8th Street early on Saturday morning. Staff report a smooth transition for both operators and customers. The return to regular routing comes with an additional bonus for Nicollet Mall customers who can now use a dozen new shelters with on-demand heat, light and real-time signs installed along the transitway last month.

Bus safety best it's been in nearly two decades

The number of bus collisions and passenger falls reached its lowest level in 18 years last year, a testament to Metro Transit's skilled operators and effective training at all stages of an operator's career. There were 3.53 traffic and customer accidents for every 100,000 vehicle miles traveled in 2017. Our training and safety staff will build on that success by continuing to coach operators at the beginning of their career, during their transitions to full-time roles and if they are involved in an incident. Also notable was that, with all the activity and extra service during the Super Bowl, there were no injuries reported.

Synthetic oil conversion underway

Bus Maintenance will soon begin using synthetic oil across the bus fleet, a move that will create significant savings without impacting performance. The transition comes after a two-year data collection effort helped confirm synthetic oil could be used longer than conventional oil without impacting engine performance.

With synthetic oil, buses can travel up to 12,000 miles between oil changes, double the traditional 6,000-mile interval. Extending the mileage between oil changes means we'll go through fewer oil filters and use half as much oil as we used to. Technicians will also be able to dedicate the time they'd spend

on oil changes to other tasks. Historically, we've done about 5,500 oil changes a year. The transition to synthetic oil is expected to be complete this spring, after our final supplies of conventional oil are depleted.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Commers, seconded by Elkins and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2018-41:** 2018-2021 TIP Amendment: Dakota County CSAH 46 Traffic Management System Project

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost and split into two projects Dakota County's CSAH 46 Traffic Management System project (SP # 019-030-009).

2. **2018-38:** 2018 Small Bus Procurement – Metro Mobility Agency and Demand Buses

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 121155) for up to 29 replacement buses and 9 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000; and with Hoglund Bus (MNDOT Contract 121183) for up to 41 replacement buses and 9 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$3,759,000.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2018-40:** Release of the 2018 Regional Solicitation for Transportation Projects

Metropolitan Transportation Services TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos presented this item.

Dorfman asked if we take into account how the President of the United States releasing his proposed infrastructure change would impact the regional solicitation. Koutsoukos said from what she's seen the recommendation is that federal funding is 20%, so it may really impact who applies. MTS Director Thompson said we will closely monitor this, as the money available to the region may change. He said we will not make changes until the President's proposal has been passed. Rodriguez requested that Council Members are given a heads-up in the fall when TAB makes a decision about funding distribution. Koutsoukos shared that in September/October it should be going through TAB and can be brought to the Transportation Committee then as well.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to approve the attached Regional Solicitation package for 2022-2023 funding (2020-2021 funding for TDM projects) and to release the solicitation.

Motion carried.

2. **2018-1:** Memorandum of Understanding Between the Metropolitan Council and the Minnesota Department of Transportation

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Memorandum of Understanding with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

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

3. 2018-5 SW: Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services Contract Amendments

Metro Transit Assistant Director Administration, Communication, & Outreach Robin Caufman presented this item.

Dorfman said that she remembers that there were residents who viewed the land up until the trail as being the individual's property, even though there was right-of-way. She thought Hennepin County had made taxing decisions about that parcel. She wanted to know if homeowners are losing their backyard or acquisitions are being done as well. Caufman answered that the majority of those are in Minneapolis, there are some encroachments and people will be notified so they can relocate fences or personal property. Caufman also said there are some construction easements, but there are no homes that are being acquired, only businesses are being moved. Dorfman stated that she remembered a number in Eden Prairie as well. Munt asked at what point the property acquisitions happen, given the uncertainty of the project. Caufman shared that about 20 tenants have already completed their relocation and many others are in midstream. Dorfman said that she is getting that same question and thinks the explanation needs to be provided to the public to justify moving forward before everything is finalized. Rodriguez stated that she thinks we need to continue with the right of way since there will be a problem of timeline if we do not continue with the deals that have been started. Dorfman said she would like guidance on how to discuss this with people asking. Metro Transit General Manager Lamb said that staff would be happy to give an overview, he shared we are still on track and need to make sure we have control of the parcels when it comes time to execute against the construction contract. Lamb said the risks associated with moving forward are well considered and that we are moving forward with the best confidence possible in an uncertain area. Munt said that she is glad we can show forward momentum and that the public is still uncertain.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council approve sole source contract amendments to six Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services contracts to increase the amounts as follows:

- Wilson Development Services by \$100,000 not to exceed total contract amount of \$300,000
- WSB & Associates by \$65,000 not to exceed total contract amount of \$215,000
- HDR Engineering by \$25,000 not to exceed total contract amount of \$200,000
- SRF by \$25,000 not to exceed total contract amount of \$125,000
- KLJ by \$25,000 not to exceed total contract amount of \$75,000
- Evergreen Land Services by \$25,000 not to exceed total contract amount of \$75,000

Motion carried.

4. 2018-34: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Construction Monitoring for Contaminated Materials for Contract Award

Metro Transit SWLRT Environmental Project Manager Kelcie Campbell presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract for Construction Monitoring for Contaminated Materials for the Southwest LRT Project in an amount not to exceed \$2,145,606 to Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc. (SEH).

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

5. 2018-30: METRO Blue Line Extension – Master Funding Agreements with the Corridor Cities
Metro Transit Director Transit Systems Development MarySue Abel presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute METRO Blue Line Extension (BLRT) Master Funding Agreements with the corridor cities of Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Robbinsdale, Golden Valley, and Minneapolis.

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

6. 2018-43: Mall of America Transit Station Renovations Bid Rejection
Metro Transit Principal Contract Administrator Derek Berube presented this item.

Elkins said recently the bus area was relocated, he asked if it will be moved back. Berube said it was already moved. Dorfman asked why we are authorizing a new NTE budget amount. Berube said the NTE budget amount includes the original budget for design as well as staff time. Munt stated that she thought this work was desired to be done prior to the Super Bowl and wanted to know if it affected the bid. Berube said that was correct but some funds were not received until the last legislative session so due to the compressed schedule it was decided to wait until after the Super Bowl when the bidding climate was better. Rodriguez expressed her pleasure about this project being moved forward.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to reject all bids received for Contract 17P185, Mall of America Transit Station Renovations Project.

Motion carried.

7. 2018-39 SW: C Line and Penn Avenue Road Construction Contract Award
Metro Transit Manager Arterial BRT Katie Roth and Metro Transit Senior Engineer Shawn Walding presented this item.

Barber asked what the plan is for maintaining consistency of service for Route 19. Roth answered there a couple plans in place. There will be minutes added to the schedule to alleviate a construction impact. Riders will also be encouraged to sign up for mobile alerts, especially as there will be a series of detours. Munt asked if Thomas and Sons employs union construction workers or not. Walding stated he did not know. Commers asked how we reconcile that business item 2018-43 would indicate that the

market was tight whereas this business item leads to a different conclusion. Roth answered that staff was surprised, but a large component of road reconstruction work is not the specialized transit work seen at the Mall of America. Lamb said that the number of subcontract specialists needed for the Mall of America project is a different kind of civil project. Lamb said there is rescoping that is being done to look at what parts of bids are concerning, etc.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 17P256 with Thomas and Sons Construction Inc. for the construction of the C Line BRT and Penn Avenue Road Construction project at a cost of \$12,976,110.

Motion carried, with Munt and Reynoso voting against.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, Munt reported that she found out Thomas and Sons does employ union workers and thus she would have supported 2018-39 SW.

8. 2018-23 SW: Amend C Line / Penn Avenue Engineering Agreement with Hennepin County Metro Transit Manager Arterial BRT Katie Roth presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment 1 to Agreement 15I080 with Hennepin County, increasing maximum County participation by \$254,000, up to an amount not to exceed \$2,100,000.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. D Line Station Plan Update

Metro Transit Senior Planner Scott Janowiak and Manager Arterial BRT Katie Roth presented this item.

Barber asked if there are any anticipated concerns with the Brooklyn Center Transit Center. Roth answered that there was a lot going on at the Brooklyn Center Transit Center, there is also electrification being brought in for charging stations. Letofsky asked about conversation around the 46th Street station, and wanted to know the neighborhood reaction. Roth said there has been a lot of interest in the Chicago and 46th Street, as well as interest in a station of Chicago and 48th Street as well. The plan includes a station at 46th, not an additional station at 48th because the ridership is not very high and it seemed too close to 46th.

Munt interjected that she found out Thomas and Sons is a union construction firm, and she feels they are consistent with our equity goals because that would indicate that they pay their workers fairly – thus she would have supported 2018-39 SW.

Dorfman asked if they had reached out to schools regarding this. Janowiak said it is a good suggestion and he will follow up, he shared that in on-bus outreach they have spoken with high schoolers to get a sense of their thoughts on the project. Schreiber said she is pleased that this is in the planning stages; however, one of the problem areas that was brought to her attention when she was appointed included the mischief in Brooklyn Center. She shared that there were significant reports of vandalism, a toilet being ripped from walls, neighborhood complaints, etc. She said the situation has calmed down with the

addition of more of our transit police. Schreiber shared that she spoke to the local mayor and he is supportive of this project. Rodriguez stated that she is excited about the improvement for a lot of riders with these 2 BRT projects.

2. Super Bowl Service Recap

Metro Transit Deputy Chief of Police AJ Olson and Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operations Officer Bus Brian Funk presented this item.

Letofsky asked if ridership met expectations. Funk said he has not seen the final count but there were huge early-in-the-day loads that started to even out during the day, he said they filled up trains consistently for over an hour. Letofsky asked how bus bridges, detours, etc. impacted the regular riders. Funk said all field reports were positive, buses every 5-7 minutes, more frequent than train service, no reports of overloads. Funk added that on game day itself, traffic was not as heavy as expected with the most challenging times being Friday night and Saturday with the combination of snow and the influx of charter buses, limousines, etc. Dorfman reported that leading up to the event, there were a lot of concerns about what would happen to the homeless. She went to shelters and talked with the homeless, she said those who rode the trains at night shared they were not harassed. Dorfman asked if we have had time to assess the financial impact. Metro Transit General Manager Lamb said the revenue overall is about where we projected it, but will verify within the next couple of weeks. Reynoso complimented the team, and asked how our texting system worked, if there were a lot of concerns, if there were a lot of texts, if it proved to help with issues, etc. Olson said the Text to TCC continues to gain ground in terms of popularity, the highest number of complaints were for smoking on trains, which of course people would not call 911 to report, so the system is working. Olson said police reports were very low for the week of the event, which he thinks was due to the additional presence. Olson shared that the only reports that he saw were regarding the human trafficking unit, who made a high number of arrests, around 150 arrests in the 12 days. He said there was another unit to investigate fraud, which was another reason Metro Transit chose to do game day sales on the app. Funk said another use for the texting option was for the ambassadors to use at the start of their shift, sharing their location so they could get updates specific to their area. McCarthy reiterated congratulations, and also mentioned the potential for new customers to our services through this event's exposure. She shared that she received feedback from first-time transit users that it was easy and effective. McCarthy echoed how transit-dependent the Super Bowl was, and that the Metro Police came out and immediately communicated the situation and responded quickly when the protest took place. McCarthy said the contingency plans were well received and noticed. Rodriguez thanked Lamb and his team again.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary