

Minutes of the

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

November 26, 2018

LOCATION: Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the special meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00pm on Monday, November 26, 2018 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2018 special 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 Rail Transportation Assistant Manager Jim Perron who presented to Metro Transit Rail Transit Light Rail Operator Andrew Brokl.

Metro Transit New Starts Program Interim Director Joan Hollick who presented to Metro Transit Light SWLRT Agreements Lead Kelly McKeon.

TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Peter Dugan relayed the following from the November 21, 2018 TAB meeting:

MCPA: David Thornton is retiring.

MAC: Thirty new restaurants are under construction as well as a new parking ramp (Silver), which once completed the Blue and Red ramps will be torn down. A new sculpture is being added that is 37 ft. high, goes from the baggage area to the mezzanine and will have 8,000 lights that change color. The baggage turn tables will be replaced in 2020.

TAB approved six items and an update on the Riverview modern street car was presented. There were several items of discussions. First being a study on Regional Solicitation before and after on a sample of projects from 2007 – 2014. The study will help future regional solicitation and provide a cost benefit analysis. The second was focused on funding scenarios for Regional Solicitation. Chair Rodriguez added there was a little bit of discussion in regards to Washington County stating they felt they had not gotten as much percentage funded compared to their population. This evolved into discussing regional balance. Chair Rodriguez also stated that going with an expansion heavy scenario is in conflict with the TPP, which is more preservation mode due to the lack of funding for the current system.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Regional Solicitation

Scenarios will be sent out to Council members –will include 4 scenarios and then 4 additional scenarios that include the HourCar project, which is asking for \$6.7M. TAB will look at the 8 scenarios in December and narrow down to one final recommendation in January 2019.

Connected & Autonomous Vehicles

Tomorrow is the last meeting of the Governor’s advisory council, in which they will view the recommendations that will go forward to the Governor. The draft recommendations focus on where Minnesota should be, setting clear policy over testing and oversight, securing funding for infrastructure, public education (including building trust and understanding on what these technologies can bring for benefits but also what limitations are), partnerships and equity (people of Minnesota are first in all policies).

Next steps for Automated vehicles for the Council will be a series of scenario planning workshops. Those invited will be Council members, TAB members, cities, counties and other stakeholders. Another workshop will be held in Spring once the new Council and TAB members are seated.

Travel Behavioral Inventory

This started in October 2018 and we have seen strong progress with about 1,100 surveys completed to date. The goal is to have 7,500 surveys completed by October 2019 which is looking positive.

Annual Freight and Logistics Forum

This forum will be held on December 7, 2018 at a hotel in Minneapolis. The focus will be on cyber security and technology in logistics.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Shelter Signage Improvements

We’ll hear more about ongoing efforts to expand and improve our bus shelter network later in this meeting. But I wanted to briefly highlight two other ways we’re making the waiting experience better for customers:

First, customers will see a subtle but important change to the schedules that appear at our shelters when service changes take effect on December 1. Rather than showing time point information – which indicates when a trip is scheduled to depart locations that may be nearby –shelter schedules will show departure times for the boarding location where it is posted. We’re also adding route maps. The changes respond to customers who said timepoint information could be confusing.

Secondly, and you may have already seen this in the news, we’re putting better protection over our shelter heaters to deter vandalism. The new guards were conceived by one of our electricians and are being fabricated by technicians at the Overhaul Base. After testing them at a few locations earlier this year, they’re now being installed at other busy boarding areas.

E Line Open Houses Scheduled

We’ll be inviting feedback on plans to bring rapid bus service to Hennepin Avenue at two upcoming open houses. Plans for the E Line, which will largely replace Route 6, will be shared on Monday, Dec. 10, at the Pershing Rec Center, and on Thursday, Dec. 13, at the Marcy Open School. Both open houses will run from 4:30-6:30 p.m. No presentations are planned, so people are invited to come at any time. One objective of the open houses is to get feedback on routing options for the north and south ends of the E Line. We are also putting together a Community Advisory Committee that will provide input on key decisions. Applications to serve on the committee are being accepted through Dec. 20.

Transit Goes to the Turkeys

A photo of three turkeys outside the door of a Route 9 bus in Minnetonka quickly spread online last week. A caption contest on our Facebook page generated more than 1,400 clever responses. In the end, we chose to put this submission at the head of the table: "This bus is stuffed, we'll wait for the next one." We're also seeing the usual outpouring of interest in our holiday buses and trains, which went into service just before Thanksgiving. If you happen to catch one, we encourage you to take a photo and share it on social media.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Barber and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2018-283:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 11 with Minnesota Department of Transportation Staffing

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 11 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for 2019 SWLRT staff support in the total amount not to exceed \$2,729,569.

2. **2018-299:** Gold Line BRT– Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA #2) for 2019 MnDOT Staffing

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a METRO Gold Line BRT Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 02 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount not to exceed \$1,032,108 for calendar year 2019.

3. **2018-308:** 2019 METRO Red Line Agreements

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sole source agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for:

1. Cedar Avenue express service and public facility maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$341,878.
2. Cedar Avenue Red Line Station to Station BRT service and public facility maintenance not to exceed \$2,422,182.

4. **2018-319:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-94 Bridge Replacement Project

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a MnDOT-Sponsored project replacing two bridges on I-94 in Wright County.

5. **2018-320:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding for eleven "Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities" projects.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2018-270:** Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Branding Framework

Metro Transit Customer Service and Marketing Director Bruce Howard presented this item. Munt stated the branding makes sense but asked about why the Orange Line is using a color instead of a letter, as

it seems to confuse customers. Howard answered that we've asked our customers and most state it doesn't matter much to them if it is a color or letter line name and our marketing tries to make it clear that those with a 'color' have dedicated transitway lanes whether bus or rail and lettered BRT lines operate in mixed traffic. Commers said he supports this approach as it's consistent and one of the strengths of Metro Transit is managing a brand and package of services with a customer driven approach. Commers continued that as we continue to build out this rapid network, we need to maintain similar focus on the brand of the local network. Chair Rodriguez agreed with Commers statement, as the local bus services fulfills critical needs. General Manager Brian Lamb concurred that it is important to stay focused on local bus services and throughout the next several years there will be focus of frequency on high productive routes in addition to improvement to core local routes. Lamb added that we will also work to partner with new types of shared mobility.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Regional Transitway Guidelines be amended to include the following recommendations to guide and ensure consistent branding of arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT) in the region:

1. Position, brand and identify arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT) as part of the existing METRO system of light rail transit (LRT), dedicated bus rapid transit (DBRT) and highway bus rapid transit (HBRT) services.
2. Name ABRT lines using a letter designation.
3. Apply the regional transit color scheme to ABRT vehicles, stations, and signage.

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

2. 2018-323: Armored Transport Services Contract (Contract No. 18P327)

Metro Transit Revenue Processing Manager Dennis Dworshak presented this item. Chair Rodriguez stated she read about another peer system that surveyed their customers to ask why they paid cash – and top reason was they forgot their 'go-to card'. Chair Rodriguez asked if Metro Transit has done anything similar, since it's so expensive to move cash around. General Manager Brian Lamb answered that we haven't surveyed our customers to date regarding that but there is a growing appetite towards cashless, which could be seen in the next fare policy with incentives to paying cashless.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council approves the contract for Armored Transport Services with Star Security for an amount not to exceed \$2,960,000 for a five-year period from March 15, 2019 through March 14, 2024.

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

3. 2018-306: Amendment to Orange Line 2017 Funding Agreement with CTIB

Metro Transit BRT Small Starts Project Manager Christina Morrison presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment 3 to Agreement 16I092 with Hennepin County, increasing the grantor's participation from \$14,450,000 to \$15,109,000, and extending the grant activity period to December 31, 2019.

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

4. **2018-322:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services Contract Amendment with WSB
Metro Transit TSD Administration Director Robin Cauffman presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a sole source contract amendment for Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services with WSB (14P265C) to increase the contract amount by \$35,000 for a total contract amount of \$250,000.

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

5. **2018-282:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Second Amendment to Lease Agreement with Middleton Partners

Metro Transit TSD Administration Director Robin Cauffman presented this item. Munt stated the St. Louis Park location has proven effective and is a great middle point for the local communities. Rodriguez thanked staff for being nimble and managing these contracts.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a lease agreement amendment with Middleton Partners, LLC that:

- Terminates the lease of the 6th floor space (effective Feb. 28, 2019); and,
- Extends the lease of the 5th floor space by fifty-three (53) months beginning August 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2023 in an amount not to exceed \$2,800,000.

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

6. **2018-211:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Contract Award for Wetland Technical Support

Metro Transit SWLRT Environmental Project Manager Kelci Campbell presented this item. Munt stated she feels this is a wise investment, as there are a number of wetlands along the corridor and community concerns about water quality.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract for Wetland Technical Support for the Southwest LRT Project (SWLRT) in an amount not to exceed \$695,618.07 to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA).

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

7. **2018-318:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-94 Reconstruction and Expansion

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. Letofsky stated that she will be voting against this item due to the fact she has heard from constituents who have concerns about this not being within the normal process and not what should be invested in within the region. Schreiber stated it was the federal government that mandated our area expand to include parts of Wright and Sherburne counties. Schreiber continued that she and Chair Rodriguez have been to several meetings with the local community and county commissioners who are happy about this project.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project reconstructing and expanding I-94 in Wright County.

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

8. 2018-325 SW: Release Public Comment Draft Amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan to Add Riverview Modern Streetcar Locally Preferred Alternative

Metropolitan Transportation Services Multi Modal Planning Manager Cole Hiniker presented this item. Commers stated that there has been a lot of work on this corridor and that it's great to see all parties are aligned and ready to take the next steps.

Motion by Commers, seconded by McCarthy:

That, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the attached draft amendment to the [2040 Transportation Policy Plan](#) to add Riverview Modern Streetcar locally preferred alternative for public review and comment.
- Authorize a public comment period from Nov. 29, 2018 to Jan. 21, 2019, including a public hearing on the draft document to be held on Jan. 9, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Better Bus Stops 2018 Highlights

Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities Senior Project Coordinator Paul Lamb, Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities Senior Planner Berry Farrington presented this item. Letofsky asked why there isn't emergency phones inside the bus shelters. Lamb stated that the BRT and LRT stations have hard wire communication connections which allows us to route those calls directly back without interruption. Lamb added that there have preliminary reviews of cell phone service which is not reliable enough to meet those emergency condition needs. Munt expressed how proud she was of the Better Bus Stops project and was curious how many bus stops have shelters. Lamb answered the total number of stops with shelters is 1,127 which is a little under 10%. Munt asked that with the new guidelines is there sufficient enough funding to place a shelter at every stop where it's warranted. Farrington replied that staff would essentially have to do the BBS project again, looking at 150 – 200 stops but also added not all bus stops that meet the 30 boardings threshold have space to put a shelter. Schreiber asked if the ad benches that are placed around the city pose any problems. Farrington stated that there is a private company, with arrangement with the cities, places the benches usually in proximity of bus stops. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb added that the company is US Bench and Metro Transit has a healthy working relationship with them and when Metro Transit has had an issue about exact placement, etc. the company is very responsive. General Manager Lamb added that customers will be seeing the expansion of advertising on our shelters to help off set the costs.

2. Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper presented this item. McCarthy asked for clarification if the routes eliminated this year were factored into the numbers. Harper responded that the ridership is based on any service that fits the category at the time Letofsky asked what we know about industry trends and why ridership is dropping. Harper stated several factors could be contributors including car ownership (as people gain employment, some purchase cars), discretion rides are being taken on other modes, more mode options (scooters, bicycles, etc.) and using TNCs gets a quick response. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb added some additional

factors are the ongoing stability of gas prices, the return to Nicollet Mall hasn't see the rebound of increased ridership (from the decline when routes moved to Hennepin) and Metro Transit not living up to our brand promise of reliability. Lamb continued that the goal over the next couple of month is getting that brand promise back to our customers. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson added that in the current regional solicitation there was a project application that focused on parking contract and how to try and reshape those to possibly include transit express routes. Barber commented that she'd be interested in see the trend on employees promoting flex hours, telecommuter, etc. and the effect on express route ridership. Barber asked where the decrease in Transit Link is coming from. Harper answered that this could be a correction that was made with the fare increase. Harper explained that with the increase fare on Transit Link – matching that of Metro Mobility because it's similar service – those who were riding due to the low fare and acceptance of the 31-day pass have moved away from using the Transit Link service. Elkins asked if we know what the suburban provider's ridership looks like, to which Thompson responded that this will be reported at the end of the year but in talking to them their ridership is similarly down. Chari Rodriguez expressed her gratitude towards those funding a more robust Travel Behavior Inventory because people are traveling differently and the more data we can collect on, the more we can understand why that is and how we can adjust.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:37p.m.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary