

## **Minutes of the**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

September 25, 2017

LOCATION: Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

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

**Committee Members Absent: Gail Dorfman**

**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 4:05pm on Monday, September 25, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

#### **APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Chair Rodriguez stated the first Information Item would be deferred to a later meeting. Motion by Elkins, seconded by McCarthy to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2017 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 Rail Transportation Michael McNamara presented to Metro Transit Assistant Manager Rail Transportation Catrina Boucher.

Metro Transit Manager Revenue Processing Dennis Dworshak presented to Metro Transit Lead Revenue Mechanical Technician Tim Maloy.

#### **TAB LIAISON REPORT**

Peter Dugan relayed the agency reports from the last TAB meeting:

MnDOT – Highway 169, Nine Mile Creek bridge reopened a month ahead of schedule.

MPCA – EPA has approved fuel volatility requirements to increase gas supply. Had issued an ozone alert early this month, mainly because of the smoke fires in Northwest. VM Settlement of \$47 million will be officiated on October 3<sup>rd</sup> by the federal courts.

MAC – Has awarded largest construction project to date with the parking ramp; phase 2 concessions should have been announced today; new hotel on MAC grounds will have connection to Terminal C & its own TSA security checkpoint.

Dugan also reported that several other discussions were had regarding: Regional Solicitation (if conversion of lanes from 2 to 3 should be consider expansion or modernization); Autonomous Vehicles and if points should be awarded in Regional Solicitation for communities planning for this; TAB consideration for a future separate category in Regional Solicitation for Technical Advances; if grant recipients are responsible for maintaining bike and pedestrian projects. Chair Hovland also asked that staff bring a list of the lowest cost, highest profile and benefit projects for the next meeting.

## METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

### Autonomous Vehicles

Presentation to Transportation Committee on Autonomous Vehicles will be rescheduled. The Council is a member on the Autonomous Vehicles Connected Jurisdictional Committee that MnDOT initiated. The committee met today and will be working on various issues. MnDOT has a pilot starting in November and there will be opportunities to try the shuttle, which runs 8-12 mph and only allowed to test on nonpublic streets. If interested, ITS Minnesota has a Fall Forum on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> in Bloomington which will include a presentation on *Future of Autonomous Vehicles*.

### Metro Mobility Task Force

The task force is now at full membership and have had their second meeting which focused on the overview of Metro Mobility and presentations from TNCs.

### Regional Allocation Policy for MVST

Tomorrow is the second meeting with Suburban Transit providers to work through the new regional allocation policy for MVST. The meeting will focus on Suburban Transit providers presenting their ideas on how regional allocation could change to reflect new legislation.

Luanne Major, Transportation Committee recording secretary January through June, will be retiring October 6<sup>th</sup> (with 30 years of service).

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

### Plans for electric buses moving forward

Metro Transit's next rapid bus line will bring battery-electric buses to the Twin Cities for the first time. At least six of the 60-foot articulated buses that will be used on the C Line will be fully-propelled by rechargeable batteries, eliminating tailpipe emissions. The Xcelsior® battery-electric, sixty-foot, heavy-duty transit buses will be manufactured and delivered by St. Cloud, Minnesota-based New Flyer of America. The buses will be among the first 60-foot battery-electric articulated buses put into service in the United States. Adding electric buses to our fleet is an exciting new chapter for our organization and our region. We're excited to see these sustainable vehicles as part of a package of service improvements coming to one of the region's busiest transit corridors."

### Next segment of Metro Transit Technicians being sought

Metro Transit is providing another opportunity for job seekers with limited or no maintenance experience to acquire the skills needed to pursue a career in Bus Maintenance. Applications for what will become the third group to participate in the Metro Transit Technician program (MTT) will be accepted through Sunday, Nov. 5, and the program will begin later this year. The program creates a path to fulltime employment through academic and personal skills training, on-the-job experience and support toward earning a degree. Up to 50 applicants will be invited to participate in the first phase of the program, which includes tutoring and personal development training with the workforce readiness organization Twin Cities R!SE.

### Summer Student pass

Our Summer Student Pass program had its most successful year yet, with nearly 7,300 students taking 518,000 rides over the past three months. Summer Student Passes allow eligible area high school students to take an unlimited number of rides from early June through the beginning of September. The passes are used by current ninth- through twelfth grade students attending a participating, state-

certified school within the seven-county metro region. This year, 138 schools participated, including all Minneapolis and Saint Paul Schools.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

### **Non-Consent Items:**

1. **2017-113 SW:** CTIB Assignment to Dakota County of Apply Valley Transit Station Capital Grant Agreement

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no comments or questions from Council members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to consent to the assignment and assumption of the CTIB Capital Grant Agreement #1-2009-07 for the Apple Valley Transit Station.

Motion passed.

2. **2017-215:** Metro Mobility Agency Contract

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Manager Metro Mobility Christine Kuennen presented this item. Chair Rodriguez asked what percentage of the agency rides contributed to the total rides, with Kuennen responding that about 10% maybe a little more.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 11P199 with First Transit Inc. to extend the term by three months from June 30, 2018 to September 30, 2018 and increase the maximum contract amount by \$1,915,500 to an amount not to exceed \$33,671,440.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez said this item could process to the full Council as a consent item.

3. **2017-218 SW:** Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Travel Behavior Inventory Household Survey

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich presented this item. There were no comments or questions from Council members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into negotiations and to execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to fund the Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Household Surveys for an amount not to exceed \$2,220,000.

Motion passed.

4. **2017-219 SW:** 2018 Travel Behavior Inventory Household Survey Contract Award

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich presented this item. There were no comments or questions from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into negotiations and to execute a contract with RSG to conduct the 2018, 2020, and 2022 Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Household Surveys for an amount not to exceed \$3,900,000.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. Planning for Autonomous Vehicles

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

### 2. Gold Line Update

Metro Transit Senior Manager of BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Project Manager, BRT Small Starts Chris Beckwith and Metro Transit Deputy Project Manager Lyssa Leitner presented this item.

### 3. Strategic Initiatives Department Update

Metro Transit Director Strategic Initiatives John Levin presented this item. Several Council members expressed their amazement and appreciation for the work Levin and team are doing. Barber asked if some of the tools could be shared and used for Metro Mobility. Levin answered that yes, he offered assistant to Metro Mobility staff and Metro Transit Brian Lamb added that going forward there will be a need to prioritize projects.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Becky Davidson  
Recording Secretary