

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 11, 2015

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

**Committee Members Absent:** Steve Elkins, Edward Reynoso

**TAB Liaison Present:** None

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2015 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Commers to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz presented the recognition awards to a team of employees for their contributions to the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP):

Katie White, Connie Kozlak, Mark Filipi, Jonathan Ehrlich, Steve Elmer, Cole Hiniker, Russ Owen, Rachel Wiken, Dave Vessel, Heidi Schallberg, Carl Ohrn, John Kari, Michelle Fure, Linda White, Libby Starling, Dan Marckel.

## TAB LIAISON REPORT

There was no report from the TAB.

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

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. Last week comments were sent to the FTA on the Proposed Interim Policy Guidance the Capital Grant Investment program. Highlights of the comments are:

Small Starts: Allow combining frequency for station-to-station service and express routes serving major BRT stations to meet frequency requirements. Request relief from the requirement that all 3<sup>rd</sup> party agreements be complete prior to obtaining construction grant agreements.

New Starts: Ask FTA to clarify project's eligibility for pre-award authority if there is a waiting period between Record of Decision completion/end of Project Development and the FTA's approval to enter Engineering. Strongly disagree with FTA's proposal to lock in FTA's funding at the level requested with entry into engineering given limited level of design; proposed instead funding be locked in following the FTA's risk assessment and determination of required contingency which are typically when design and engineering are at 60%; alternately propose allowing negotiation with FFGA if project costs changed in the interim.

Land use: Support inclusion of strong federal policy direction within the New Starts and Small Starts programs that encourage transit supportive development. Support inclusion of affordable housing within FTA's evaluation criteria with the criteria focusing on

how well a region is meeting existing affordable housing demand; we suggested two measurement options for FTA's consideration.

2. MVST numbers: for March - revenues were at 100.52% of forecast and for April- revenues were at 100.56% of forecast. The YTD State Fiscal Year is it 101.51%.

3. The Federal Transportation Bill (MAP 21) will expire on 5/31. McCarthy reported on two options being considered. 1) An extension through the end of the calendar year which would require \$10-\$11 billion in additional revenue (or cuts in other programs). This would give Congress an additional 7 months to search for an answer to funding transportation infrastructure and the level of commitment. 2) An extension only through July 31, 2015. This would not require additional revenue and would keep pressure on to pass a multi-year transportation bill.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. The electric bus demonstrations continue this week, and the third manufacturer will have a bus here on 5/19.

2. Metro Transit mechanics will travel to high schools to speak about career opportunities at Metro Transit. Students will hear about mechanics' career paths and current work, observe bus engines and other components and participate in hands-on experiences that mimic work done by mechanics/technicians. Participating students will also get information about a new training program that combines customized college readiness coursework, a Metro Transit internship and a scholarship to St. Paul College that will begin later this year.

3. The St. Paul Saints kick-off with an exhibition game on 5/19 with the first regular season game on 5/21. Metro Transit will be offering free rides with proof of ticket purchase during season home games.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

There were no consent items on the agenda

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

1. 2015-92: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Authorize Public Hearing for Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) (Robin Caufman 651-602-1457) Metro Transit Asst. Director Admin/Communications/Outreach Robin Caufman presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize scheduling and conducting public hearings for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS). Public hearings are scheduled for the following dates and times:

- June 16, 6:00 p.m. Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hopkins  
An open house will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- June 17, 6:00 p.m. Eden Prairie City Center, 8080 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie  
An open house will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- June 18, 6:00 p.m. Dunwoody College of Technology 818 Dunwoody Blvd., Minneapolis  
An open house will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2015-64: Approval of Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with East Metro SWAT Team  
Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington presented this item.  
There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by M. McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a joint powers agreement (JPA) between the Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit Police and the East Metro SWAT Team.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

3. 2015-95: Approval of the Award of Contract for Ticket Vending Machines for Bus Rapid Transit Stations (Contract No. 14P205)

Metro Transit Sr. Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull presented this item.

There was some discussion as to why these vending machines are not as expensive as the ones for LRT, whether they can be adapted for regular bus use, and the languages that will be provided on the vending machines (four languages – same as LRT).

Motion by Munt, seconded by M. McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Parkeon, Inc. for a Ticket Vending Machine System for the A-Line Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Line, in an amount not to exceed \$1.2 million, with options to expand the System to the C-Line, in an amount not to exceed \$1 million, and to the D-Line, in an amount not to exceed \$2 million, for a total amount of \$4.2 million.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

## INFORMATION

1. MTS Regional Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented regional ridership numbers for the first quarter of 2015.

2. TOD and Snelling Site Update

Metro Transit Director TOD Lucy Galbraith presented this item.

3. ~~Metro Transit Police Update~~

This item was removed from the agenda prior to the meeting.

4. West Broadway Study Concepts

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to a later date.

5. SWLRT Project Update

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to a later date.

## ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, a motion was made by Dorfman, seconded by Commers and passed to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.