

Metropolitan Council  
Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul  
**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**  
**Monday, January 9, 2012**

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair Roxanne Smith	Jon Commers James Brimeyer Adam Duinick	Jennifer Munt Edward Reynoso Jon Commers
Members Absent	John Đoàn		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison:	none present		

### **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 January 9, 2012 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Commers, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Brian Lamb introduced Frank Stumpf, MT South Garage Bus Operations Manager. Stumpf presented the employee recognition award to 23-year employee Theresa Collins. Collins was recognized for her outstanding customer service. She has received 32 commendations in the past 3 years - 12 commendations within the past year, as well as many positive comments from her bus riders.

### **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT**

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

#### **Federal Commuter Tax Break**

The federal transit commuter tax break was not addressed in the payroll-tax cut deal. Since the 1990s workers have been able to set aside money before taxes to help offset the cost of their commutes. The Recovery Act increased the amount of the monthly transit benefit from \$125 to \$230 to bring it in line with the benefit for those people who commute by car. That increase expired on December 31, so the transit benefit drops to \$125/month while the tax break for driving rises to \$240. The Washington Post editorialized that “whether the federal government should give a tax break to workers to help pay for their commutes is a question that is certainly worthy of discussion. What shouldn’t be on the table is giving a bigger edge in any subsidy to those who drive, as opposed to those who use mass transit.” It is anticipated this item may be revisited by Congress.

#### **Metro Mobility Operations.**

Ridership on Metro Mobility is growing substantially. One tool to help deal with the demand is Peak Demand Overflow (PDO). PDO uses a taxi service to provide the trips. PDO is intended to be a flexible, short-term solution to provide service to riders for whom the Metro Mobility Core providers to not have adequate capacity, and the service

has stipulations. Metro Mobility began using PDO in December 2011. From December 16, 2011 through January 3, 2012, 231 rides were delivered by taxis. No PDO trips were provided between December 23 and January 2 due to lower demand. The average subsidy amount for these trips is \$36.60 with an average trip distance of 15.22 miles. By contrast, the average Metro Mobility demand service subsidy was \$22.66 per passenger trip in 2010 with an average trip distance of 10.84 miles per trip. Early results indicate an improvement in Metro Mobility service quality from the primary Metro Mobility providers. Overall the service is working well although there have been a few complaints that the taxi did not pick the passenger up and a few people have refused to use taxi service. Metro Mobility will continue to monitor the cost effectiveness and the service quality of the PDO service.

## **METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

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

### **Twin Cities Bus-Only Shoulders Draw National Attention**

In the past few weeks, newspapers in Kansas City, Kan., and Charlotte, N.C., as well as *Scientific American* and *The Atlantic* have run stories and online columns featuring the Twin Cities' network of 290+ miles bus-only shoulders. The Twin Cities have more bus-only shoulder miles than the rest of the U.S. several times over.

### **Holidazzle Northstar Free Rides Response Positive**

The Commuter Rail division reports that initial ridership reports show that more than 4,500 parade goers took advantage of Metro Transit's free ride offer and rode Northstar trains to the Holidazzle parade on Dec. 18. In addition, preliminary reports show that supporting bus service carried about 400 customers to Target Field Station. For the return trip, nearly everyone was able to board one of the three five-car trains, although supporting bus service carried a few late customers as far as Big Lake. St. Cloud Metro Bus used four coach buses to carry about 475 passengers from St. Cloud to Big Lake Station and back. Response from riders was overwhelmingly positive.

### **Miller Free Rides Promotion Scheduled for December 31.**

On Saturday, Dec. 31, Twin Cities residents and visitors rode buses and trains free from 6 p.m. through the last scheduled trip on routes operated by Metro Transit, Metropolitan Council or Minnesota Valley Transit Authority. Miller Lite Free Rides were made possible through a partnership with Metro Transit, Miller Lite and J.J. Taylor Distributing Company. For 15 years, the program has been a popular transportation alternative during St. Patrick's Day festivities. This is the first time the program has been offered in the Twin Cities on New Year's Eve.

### **Metro Transit TIGER grant**

Metro Transit was awarded a TIGER grant for the Interchange Project outside Target Field. Staff is working on a funding package to be ready by the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2012. There may be more funding opportunities from private sector investments toward the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2012.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items**

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt to approve items 2012-2 and 2012-3 as consent items. Motion passed.

2012-2: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request for Hennepin County SP#072-619-019 CSAH 19/North Shore Drive over West Arm Channel bridge replacement in Orono (TAB Action 2011-68)

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include an increase in the total cost of the North Shore Drive over West Arm Channel bridge replacement in Orono to \$2,250,000.

2012-3: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment request to add MnDOT SP#1925-55: Preliminary Engineering for Managed Lane on TH 77 from 138<sup>th</sup> St. in Apple Valley to I-494 in Bloomington (TAB Action 2011-69).

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include Preliminary Engineering for a managed lane on TH 77 from 138<sup>th</sup> Street in Apple Valley to I-494 in Bloomington.

## **Non-Consent Items**

2012-1: Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) 2012-2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) (TAB Action 2011-70).

Russ Owen, MTS Aviation Planner presented this item to the committee, and MAC staff were also present to answer questions.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Find that the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has an adequate public participation process for the development and review of its 2012-2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including preparation of an assessment of environmental effects (AOEE) for 2012 projects with potential environmental effects.
- 2) Find that the 2012 CIP projects have adequate funding and are in conformance with the region's Aviation System Plan and consistent with Council policy.
- 3) Recommend approval of the following project: MSP Checked Baggage Inspection System (CBIS).

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-4: Authorization to Amend Contract for Cedar Avenue BRT Services

Bruce Dreier, MTS Project Administrator, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 09P172 with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for Cedar Avenue BRT transit service and facilities maintenance to extend the term through December 31, 2012, and amend the maximum contract amount by \$650,000, for a total contract amount of \$1,700,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2012-5 SW: Metropolitan Council Vanpool Service Re-Branding

Anjila Olsen, Metro Transit Market Development Specialist, and Charles Decker, Metro Transit Senior Graphic Designer, presented this item. Randy Rosvold, MTS Senior Project Administrator, was also present to answer questions about the Vanpool program.

There were no questions from the committee following Decker's presentation of the branding examples.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council):

- 1) Approve "Metro Vanpool" as the new name for the Council subsidized vanpool program.
- 2) Approve the recommended logo and vehicle branding designs, attached as part of the business item.

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-6: Authorization to Execute Agreement with Cubic Transportation Systems for Fare Collection Software Support Services

Tom Randall, Metro Transit Sr. Manager Revenue Operations presented this item. Randall answered questions from committee members regarding the price of the contract compared to the previous agreement and compared to other systems and whether there are built-in enhancement capabilities to the software (such as distance-based system in the future).

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a fare collection software support agreement with Cubic Transportation Systems (Cubic) for three years with options to extend for two additional one-year terms for a value of up to \$3,750,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Information:

Northstar Commuter Rail: Updates for Ramsey Station and BNST (Burlington Northern) Agreements

Ed Byers, Metro Transit Director Northstar Commuter Rail presented background on this item and clarified what the \$3.4M is for – in response to a question from Schreiber. Reynoso commented that the city and the region are excited to get this station built.

2012-7: Northstar Commuter Rail: Authorization to Execute Agreements for Ramsey Station with Burlington Northern (BNSF)

Action was taken following Byers' presentation.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement for a Ramsey Station Easement with Burlington Northern Railway Company (BNSF) in a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,400,000; and

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Platform Agreement and an Overpass Agreement with BNSF for the Ramsey station; and

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute amendments to the Joint Use Agreement and the Commuter Service Agreement with BNSF.

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-8: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Reimbursement to Minnesota Public Radio for Airborne Noise Mitigation

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented the business item and reminded the committee that this item is NOT related to the litigation between MPR & MC but pertains to the April 2009 agreement with MPR. Mitigation measures include replacing windows, updating interior walls, heavy insulated doors, etc.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to act to implement terms of the April 2009 Agreement between the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota Public Radio (MPR). Specifically to:

- Make payment to MPR in the amount of \$475,000 to improve MPR's recording studios MMW and P, mitigating them against the impacts of Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) airborne noise;
- Negotiate and execute any required documentation associated with this payment, consistent with the terms of the April 2009 Agreement between the Metropolitan Council and MPR.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Information:

Southwest Light Rail Transit Project Update

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager gave an update of the overall status of the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project as an introduction to the next two business items (2012-9 and 2012-10).

2012-9: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Authorization to Execute Southwest Project Office

Lease Agreement between Metropolitan Council and Golub and Company/AEW Capital Management Partnership

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Brimeyer, seconded by Munt:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Southwest Project Office lease agreement between the Metropolitan Council and Golub and Company LLC / AEW Capital Management, L.P. for leasing a 21,953 square foot area in the fifth floor of Park Place West in St. Louis Park for the seven-year five-month (89-month) period from March 1, 2012 through July 31, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$3,600,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-10: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Authorization to Purchase Office Furniture and Information Technology Equipment for Southwest Project Office

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the business item. Schreiber questioned whether some of the CCPO project equipment could be re-used at the Southwest Project Office. Fuhrmann stated that the CCPO will not close until 2015, long after the needs of the SPO. However, some furnishings from the CCPO may be reusable at the O&M facility for CCLRT.

Motion by Brimeyer, seconded by Munt:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase office furniture and information technology (IT) equipment for the Southwest Project Office (SPO) in a total amount not to exceed \$1,975,000 for office furniture and IT equipment for Phase One of the project office mobilization through preliminary engineering (PE) in 2012 and 2013.

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-12: Adopt 2012 Transportation Committee Work Program

Arlene McCarthy and Brian Lamb presented the Transportation Committee work program.

There was no action taken at this committee meeting. Elkins asked the committee to list their top 10 priorities and send to the committee recording secretary, LuAnne Major. The item will be discussed at a future meeting.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Metro Mobility Hybrid Buses Update

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, gave an update on the Metro Mobility Hybrid Buses and the Hydraulic Launch Assist (HLA) Bus pilot project.

2. Arterial Transitway Corridors Study Update

Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Manager of Transitway Projects, presented an update on the Arterial Transitway Corridors Study. Councilmember Brimeyer requested the PPT presentation be e-mailed to committee members.

3. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): 2011 Construction Summary, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)/Workforce Update

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, Rich Rovang, Metro Transit Deputy Director, and Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director Equal Opportunity, presented this item. The presentation included photos of construction and facilities along the LRT line. The fall 2011 weather allowed for a lot of work to be accomplished and the project reached 40% completion at the end of 2011.

Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director of Equal Opportunity, Metro Council, gave an update on DBE and Workforce. She answered questions from committee members about how the contractors are monitored for compliance with DBE goals.

Fuhrmann stated that a future meeting will include "lessons learned" from the 2011 construction that may help to improve the 2012 construction season.

4. 2012-24: Reallocation of \$20 million 2011 Transit Capital Improvement State G.O. Bonds

Arlene McCarthy presented this item as information only to the committee, and stated that a letter will go to Washington County on Tuesday 1/10/12 confirming the approval of the reallocation request from Washington County.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:25 p.m. January 9, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary