

Minutes of the

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 25, 2019

LOCATION: Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Francisco Gonzalez

TAB Liaison Present:

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the special meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2019 in the Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Barber proposed moving the consent item to non-consent since it was the only business item on the agenda.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Ferguson to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Sterner to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2019 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced the following, who presented recognition awards:

Metro Transit Assistant Transportation Manager Annette Hammerlund who presented to Metro Transit Bus Operator Joseph Sturdevant.

Metro Transit Assistant Manager Jacob Rooney who presented to Metro Transit Rail Transit Supervisor Matt Hutchinson.

Metro Transit Maintenance Director Daniel Suggs who presented to Metro Transit Track Maintainers: Scott Longsdorf, Lucas DeHaven, Elden Olin, Travis Long, Clarence Maloney; Track Supervisor Shawn Jensen, Track Supervisor Jason Mucha, and Track Manager Tony Klinger.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

March TAB Meeting

On behalf of TAB Liaison Peter Dugan:

TAB policy changes were discussed and adopted, TIP amendments and streamlined TIP amendments were also passed.

TPP Amendment

On Tuesday, April 2, 2019 there will be a public hearing for the Transportation Policy Plan Amendment #2. Council Members are encouraged to attend.

Metro Mobility

At the April 10, 2019 Council meeting there will be an overview on Metro Mobility but in the meanwhile Council Members are free to contact MTS Director Thompson since many customers contact Council Members directly regarding their service.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

Special Events

Metro Transit will play a pivotal role in getting fans safely to and from several sporting events beginning this month. The Twins host their regular season home opener on Thursday – the earliest opening day in Twins history. As usual, fans can get to Target Field on light rail, buses, and Northstar, which will provide service before and after each home game this season. Last week, Metro Transit joined local and NCAA officials to remind fans that transit will be a great way to get to and from Final Four activities in downtown Minneapolis. Some extra light rail trains will be available for what is expected to be the busiest times, and special Northstar trips will operate on Friday, April 5, and Saturday, April 6. Metro Transit staff will be at several light rail stations to help direct fans. Due to Final Four festivities, buses will be detoured from Nicollet Mall to Hennepin Avenue beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 1, and returning to Nicollet Mall on the evening of Wednesday, April 10. Metro Transit is also gearing up for opening day at Allianz Field in St. Paul. Some extra bus and light rail service will be provided after each game, and Metro Transit staff and police will be on hand to help direct customers. Most fans who take transit will use the Green Line's Snelling Avenue Station or nearby A Line stations at University and Snelling avenues. To make boarding more efficient, fans are being strongly encouraged to purchase an All-Day Pass, which provides unlimited rides from the point of first use until 2 a.m. the next day.

Customer Experience

Steps taken to improve the customer experience include more communications staff, directed police patrols, and light rail cleaners. Investments like these require sustainable funding – something Metro Transit hopes will be achieved this year by the state legislature. But Metro Transit also knows how important it is to engage customers in creating a positive, welcoming transit environment. To help, Metro Transit is introducing a new campaign that encourages respect, kindness, and inclusivity in April. As part of the Drive Change campaign, Metro Transit staff and representatives from partnering organizations will visit several local college campuses and busy boarding areas to share resources, encourage positive behaviors and celebrate displays of kindness. Partnering organizations include the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Sexual Violence Center, and Kind Lips. More information is available on the Metro Transit website.

Transit Driver Appreciation Day

Kooistra thanked the Council Members who visited our garages, served meals, and helped celebrate Transit Driver Appreciation Day last week. Operators truly appreciated the show of support from Council Members and customers. Those who joined for lunch at East Metro had even more to celebrate as students from St. Paul's Focus Beyond program visited to personally thank the operators who help them get to school, jobs, and other opportunities.

Chamblis asked about the service improvements and if they will include an increase in heated shelters. General Manager Kooistra said improvements include replacing some that are out of date. Kooistra added that the funds being freed up are one-time funds and sustainable funding is still needed so that heaters can be added more widely and a long-term asset management program continue to be implemented. Fredson asked where the harassment videos are going to be shown and what the duration and frequency will be. Metro Transit Everyday Equity Manager Ericka Jones said it will be the whole month of April and there are nine outreach events at various stops and universities. Jones added that the videos will also be on a landing page, the social media platforms, and the light rail platforms. Atlas-Ingebretson asked if this information will be shared with high school students and what steps an operator takes when an act of violence is threatened. Jones said there is a current outreach with high

schools to identify next steps and people are educated to call 911 if they are in danger but before that point are encouraged to feel free to text for safety. Kooistra said there are systems in place to coordinate with other police departments as well. Sterner asked if there was a video about panhandling. Jones said there is a code of conduct discussed but details are not laid out. Cummings asked what the quickest response is, text versus dialing 911. Metro Transit Interim Chief of Police AJ Olson said individuals are still encouraged to call 911 if it is a true emergency.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2019-61: Statewide Regional ITS Infrastructure

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the updated Minnesota Statewide Regional ITS Architecture as the Regional ITS Architecture by enacting Resolution 2019-3.

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

INFORMATION

1. Council Member Committee Orientation

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra, Metro Transit Chief Operating Officer Vince Pellegrin, Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operating Officer – Bus Brian Funk, Metro Transit Director of Rail and Bus Safety Michael Conlon, Metro Transit Director of Bus Rapid Transit Projects Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Director of Transit System Development Robin Caufman, Metro Transit Director of Service Development Adam Harrington, Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Engineering & Facilities Marilyn Porter, Metro Transit Interim Chief of Police AJ Olson, Metro Transit Director of Strategic Initiatives John Levin, Metro Transit Director of Transit Oriented Development Lucy Galbraith, and Metro Transit Director of Customer Services and Marketing Bruce Howard presented this item.

Fredson asked about prioritized signals. Funk said they are across the Twin Cities. Sterner asked if there are solar panels on the electric buses as well. Funk said they have only external power sources, but a future project will be to look at making more use of renewable energy as well. Sterner asked if Metro Transit benchmarks safety against other transit entities. Conlon said that Metro Transit does through the National Transit Database. Sterner asked about density levels. Harrington said various density levels merit different responses. Atlas-Ingebretson asked about disparities in service based on geography (ACP 50), she asked for more information on our disparities. Harrington said Metro Transit is required to make sure there is compliance with Title VI and audits are always passed but ACP 50 areas have the highest levels of bus and train service. Harrington said there is a conversation to be had of what should be implemented with heat, service, etc. Harrington said from a service level standpoint there is no disparity. Chamblis asked about if future upgrades for the fareboxes will allow for credit cards. Petrie said he believes they will. Sterner asked if there is any employee theft, dishonesty. Petrie

said he works closely with internal audit and there is constant testing and monitoring so there is a very low error rate. Kooistra said there will be mini workshops set up and there can be more in-depth information given about the transportation budget as well. Chamblis asked if the shelters can be retrofitted for heat and light if they do not have them currently. Porter said the goal is to increase heat and light in shelters where feasible. Chair Barber said a presentation on the Better Bus Stops program will come forward in the future. Atlas-Ingebretson said accessibility and snow removal has been brought up multiple times and she asked if there are standards. Porter said there are meetings with the cities prior to the winter season to discuss this so that Metro Transit is not removing snow that the city then replows. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Thompson said that some customers who use Metro Transit and Metro Mobility will change their route to use Metro Mobility exclusively when the weather is bad until the snow has been dealt with. Kooistra said this past winter showed that some areas to plow fall under the responsibility of Metro Transit, some fall under the city, some fall under the local business owner, but all impact the customer. Cummings asked about part time officers. Olson said the statute requires that any part time officers must be employed at another agency full-time. Atlas-Ingebretson asked about disparities found in the division and how they can be mitigated. Olson said there are disparities found when the data is analyzed, and so strategies are employed to help mitigate the disparities, such as having multiple officers do fare checks, and a different approach to first time offenders for fare evasion. Olson added that the ACP neighborhoods are often the neighborhoods that generate a lot of calls. Atlas-Ingebretson asked about de-escalation strategies especially with interactions with youth. Olson said there is specific training to create time and distance. Cummings asked for more information about the autism-specific training. Chamblis asked if there is a plan to make the Brooklyn Center building more open. Porter said there are short-term upgrades and Metro Transit is working with the Brooklyn Center City Manager for a long-term plan. Sterner asked if transit brings multifamily housing or if multifamily housing brings transit. Galbraith said transit changes the value and opportunities, it is never the only factor, but it does make the land more valuable. Fredson asked if all of the stations are worked on for all of the lines. Galbraith said there is a priority list mapped out and all transit-owned property is looked at.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary