

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: January 23, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Robert St Chambers

Members Present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Molly Cummings, District 5

John Pacheco, District 6

Raymond Zeran, District 9

Francisco Gonzalez, District 12

Kris Fredson, District 14

Phillip Sterner, District 15

= present, E = excused

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Cummings to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager introduced the following:

Jake Rooney who presented awards to Rail Transit Supervisors John Aliperto and Martin “Marty” Jensen. Jim Perron presented an award to Train Operator Bill Blair.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Data collection for the Travel Behavior Inventory has begun. In-person listening sessions for the Transportation Policy Plan has begun with the counties. MetMo customers and advocates are invited to participate in the virtual gatherings coming up this week. IS and MetMo staff implemented a major server upgrade and the work is appreciated.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Building on the Awarding Accomplishments earlier recognizing heroic work during December’s difficult weather I wanted to acknowledge that we suspended bus service for a few hours on Wednesday, January 11, due to incredibly icy and unsafe road conditions. Northstar and light rail continued to operate during this time, but we know that suspending all bus service creates a hardship for our customers, and it’s not something we do lightly. I want to acknowledge the quick work of our employees that day to assess the situation, take steps to pause bus service until we could resume safe operations, and communicate with our customers and employees about the service disruption.

On our operator shortage, I want to note that we are continuing to see strong turnout at our hiring events and continue to receive applications for our open operator positions. We've mentioned this before, but I wanted to make another plug for our hiring event scheduled for Saturday, February 4. We are hosting the February 4th event at our new North Loop garage, and it will provide attendees with an opportunity to test-drive a forty-foot Metro Transit bus. Additionally, maintenance and Metro Transit police will have information booths there as they are also actively hiring for positions. The mechanics will have mechanical models for interested candidates to interact with. So – this is just one more example of how we are testing out creative ways to attract applicants and build up our workforce.

Cummings asked for information about the hires. Funk gave an overview of the hiring approach.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Dugan reported on the TIP Amendments on the consent agenda.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. 2023-20 SW: 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: SouthWest Transit Bus Purchase (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
2. 2023-21 SW: 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: Three 2022 Regional Solicitation Projects (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
3. 2023-22 SW: 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: Minneapolis Broadway Street Intersections (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
4. 2023-23 SW: 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: Washington County Central Greenway Regional Trail Trailhead (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Sterner.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. 2023-15: Metro Transit Agency Safety Plans (Andrew Brody 651-602-1671)

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council adopt Revision 4 of the Bus Transportation Agency Safety Plan and the Light Rail Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Metro Transit as required by 49 CFR Part 673.

Zeran asked if the committee members are listed in the business item and how they became appointed. Brody said management appointed management and the union appointed the union folks. Zeran asked if committee time was paid time and Brody said that was correct. Kooistra gave an overview of the joint committee process. Chamblis commented on the process and asked for future updates. Sterner asked about the timeline process. Pacheco asked for the Council process. Chamblis asked for a report back to this committee.

Motion carried.

2. 2023-18: METRO Green Line Extension Amendment No. 2 to the BNSF Construction Agreement (Jim Alexander 612-373-3880)

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Pacheco, that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to Contract 17M155 with BNSF Railway (BNSF) for the Freight Rail Coordination Agreement – Construction Phase (Construction Agreement) to add \$1,937,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$6,437,000.

Motion carried. Hearing no opposition the item is sent consent to Council.

- 2023-19: METRO Green Line Extension Amendment No. 1 to the Canadian Pacific Connecting Track Agreement (Jim Alexander 612-373-3880)

It was moved by Cumming, seconded by Pacheco, that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to Contract 17M152 with Canadian Pacific (CP) for the Connecting Track Agreement (CTA) to add \$300,000 for a total amount not to exceed \$799,000.

Chamblis voiced appreciation for the spur involving coordination between multiple cities.

Motion carried. Hearing no opposition the item is sent consent to Council.

- 2023-11 SW: Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan partial repayments from City of Ramsey for Parcels along US Highway 10 (Tony Fischer 651-602-1703)

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council accept five proportional repayments of Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Numbers (RALF Loans) L0801, L0705, L0404, L0503 and L0602 in the City of Ramsey and release related Council claim on the portions of the property that the payments are intended to cover.

Chamblis asked about the restrictive covenants.

Motion carried.

Information

- Overview of Network Now (Eric Line 612-349-7521, Sophia Ginis 612-373-3853)

Cummings asked how the information will be incorporated. Pacheco asked about the EAC involvement and noted the importance of the involvement. Chamblis and Barber noted the positive potential.

- Development Trends Along Transit (Michael Krantz 612-349-7392, Amy Yoder 612-349-7167)

Sterner asked about future projects. Chamblis brought up the data around non-metro emissions.

- Regional Transportation and Climate Change Multimodal Measures Study (Tony Fischer 651-602-1703)

Sterner asked for presentation to the TAC as well.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of January 23, 2023.

Council Contact:

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