

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 13, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

**Committee Members Absent:** Lona Schreiber

**TAB Liaison Present:** none present

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Rodriguez stated that received a request from Munt to pull Item 2017-44 from the consent agenda and put on non-consent. There was no objection from committee members. Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky to approve the February 13, 2017 agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Reynoso to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2017 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Chair Katie Rodriguez reported that the TAB has not met since the last Transportation Committee.

#### CTIB UPDATE:

Chair Rodriguez has asked Schreiber to give periodic updates on CTIB. Schreiber was not present at this meeting.

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

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. Legislative Session

Staff continues to respond to various bills and testify at legislative committee meetings. This week, staff will be testifying at the Transportation Finance Committee meeting regarding Metro Mobility and the budget challenges and delivery of service.

2. Outreach

Thompson continues to conduct outreach with various partners. Most recently he met with the City of Minneapolis, Suburban Transit Providers, and 7W (Wright/Sherburne Counties and cities).

3. TPP Update

The TPP Update began with a kick-off at the TAC Planning committee last week. This week the item will go to TAC Funding and Programming. An update will be given at the Committee of the Whole meeting Wednesday February 15. The TPP will be the focus of much of MTS work this year.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Metro Transit Celebrates Black History Month

Metro Transit will again be celebrating Black History Month with a program at FT Heywood on 2/24 from 11:00 am-2:00 pm, and a lunch and program from 11:00 am-2:00 pm at the Rueter Garage on 2/16. Council members are invited attend both events.

2. Metro Transit receives award

Metro Transit received an award from the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association recognizing Metro Transit as being among the state's (and country's) largest users of soy-based biodiesel. The amount used by Metro Transit has more than doubled in 5 years. Metro Transit uses up to 20% biodiesel in their fleet, depending on the time of year and fuel prices.

3. Metro Transit Ridership

Metro Transit saw an increase in ridership in January; the total system ridership was 6.6 million rides. Some of the increase was due to the Women's march. In February, the A Line is expected to reach 1M rides since its opening last summer.

4. Metro Transit Police and Metro Transit Operations

Metro Transit sent representatives from the police force and from operations to Houston this month to observe how their transit system operated during the Super Bowl and festivities leading up to the game. Staff will use these observations as the planning continues for the coming year.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

Motion was made by Elkins, seconded by Commers and passed, to approve the following consent items:

1. 2017-41: Washington County FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning (METRO Gold Line)

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator or his delegate to negotiate and execute a pass-through Subrecipient Grant Agreement (SGA) with the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRRA) for the \$1,000,000 FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning grant award. These grant funds will be used for station area planning along the planned METRO Gold Line (Gateway) BRT corridor in Washington and Ramsey Counties as described in the grant application.

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

1. 2017-44: Hennepin County FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning (METRO Blue Line Extension)

Metro Transit TOD Director Lucy Galbraith and Senior Project Manager - TOD Kathryn Hansen presented this item.

Munt stated that community members from Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center who serve on the Equity Advisory Committee have raised concerns about not duplicating efforts that the community has already done with respect to housing and transit connections. She cautioned to be sensitive and respectful of people's time and said the community would find it helpful if issues were discussed in one place and the input that the community has already submitted is not revisited. Galbraith said she appreciated knowing these concerns, and that TOD is still putting the work plan together, it is in the early stages.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize Regional Administrator or his delegate to negotiate and execute a pass-through Subrecipient Grant Agreement (SGA) with Hennepin County for the \$1,200,000 FTA Pilot Program for TOD Planning grant award.

These grant funds will be used for advanced station area planning and developing implementation strategies along the planned METRO Blue Line Extension (Bottineau) LRT corridor in Hennepin County as described in the grant application.

Motion passed. This item will proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2017-46: Railworks Track Systems, Inc. Construction Contract 16P310

Metro Transit Assistant Director E&F Pat Jones presented. Metro Transit Principal Engineer E&F Tom McGannon and Lead Project Manager E&F Mark Leemon were also present to answer questions, if necessary.

Jones and McGannon answered questions from Barber regarding the expectations for the new track life expectancy, and why the existing rail has received such wear.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract with Railworks Track Systems, Inc. for construction in the amount of \$11,817,000 for the upgrades to the Park Avenue and Warehouse crossovers and replace the embedded rail at the intersections of Park Ave., Nicollet Ave. and Hennepin Ave.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Principal Arterial Intersection Conversion Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Steve Peterson, MnDOT Project Manager Paul Czech, and Doug Abare-Bolton Menk presented this item.

2. MTS Regional Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item.

3. MapIt! Tool

Metro Transit Assistant Manager - Transit Information Ben Rajkowski, Business Systems Analyst II – Transit Information Kenny Knoll, and Applications Developer III – GIS Jim Gonsoski presented this item.

4. Retail and Wholesale Transit Pass Options

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Collections Nick Eull presented this item.

5. Draft 2017 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb and Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson presented this item.

Committee members discussed off-site meetings the need to try to slot items in the schedule that pertain to the location where the meeting will be held. Lamb said that the off-site meetings would need to be put on the calendar early so that staff could try to meet this objective. The committee also discussed joint meetings with Community Development to coordinate policies. Also discussed that the Equity Advisory Committee requests a look at our work plan and wants to serve a role.

Commerz said it is a very robust work plan, and made a suggestion to put more onus on committee members to digest the information before hand so the questions can be of more detail at the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.