

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members Present: Adam Duininck, Lona Schreiber, James Brimeyer, Katie Rodriguez, Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Absent: Jon Commers, Jennifer Munt, Steve Elkins

I. CALL TO ORDER, Monday, March 10, 2014

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Duininck called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2014.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councilmember Brimeyer, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Schreiber, seconded by Councilmember Reynoso to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2014 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

IV. TAB LIAISON REPORT

Chair Duininck gave an update regarding the TAB Liaison, stating that the Chair of the TAB has appointed both Robert Lilligren and Carver County Commissioner Randy Maluchnik to share this position.

V. METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy introduced Andrew Krueger, Senior Manager, Metro Mobility, who gave a short update on Metro Mobility Operations and how service delivery and on-time performance have suffered during the difficult weather conditions of late. Improvements are underway with the warming trend. McCarthy also confirmed that the Cities of Prior Lake and Shakopee, who have been their own suburban transit providers, are merging with MTVA. The city councils have established a staff committee and policy committee to work on this merger.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb discussed the Service Pick, the quarterly update of schedules. The latest round of service changes went into effect on Saturday. Updated schedules are available online, and updated printed schedules are now available on buses, trains and other outlets. There will be schedule and route changes on more than a dozen Metro Transit runs including Route 30, which travels through North Minneapolis on West Broadway Avenue to the Quarry Shopping Center and an industrial area in Northeast.

Metro Transit has received 1,100 responses on station designs that will be used on the A Line and other proposed arterial Bus Rapid Transit lines. An online survey presented four different station designs; the stations will be sized to fit individual site conditions but retain the same look and feel across all BRT lines. Plans call for a dozen arterial BRT lines, which together would include more than 400 stations. Out of the four designs presented, the two that were the best received will be considered by staff, with the most promising advancing into detailed design in the next couple of months.

The Service Improvement Plan generated 3,399 online responses, and another 500 handwritten were submitted. This input will be used to create a draft plan outlining bus improvements for the next 10-15 years.

Metro Transit is again partnering with MillerCoors on a free-ride promotion set for St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Free rides will be available on Metro Transit buses, light rail and Northstar from 6 p.m. through the last scheduled trip that day. The free-ride offer also is available on routes operated by the Met Council, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, SouthWest Transit and Anoka County Traveler.

VI. BUSINESS

A. Consent Items

2014-56: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for SouthWest Transit CMAQ Grant Reassignment: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify the project sponsor from SouthWest Transit to Metropolitan Council and the description for SP# TRS-TCMT-11B for bus purchases. It was moved for approval by Councilmember Schreiber and seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez. **Motion carried.**

B. Non-Consent Items

2014-55: Adoption of Metro Mobility Downtown Zone Fare. That the Metropolitan Council approve a \$1.00 fare effective Tuesday, April 1, 2014, for all metro Mobility trips that are wholly within either the downtown Minneapolis or downtown Saint Paul fare zone, as established by Metro Transit. The business item was presented by Senior Manager, Metro Mobility Andrew Krueger. It was moved by Councilmember Schreiber, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez, that the Council approve the business item. **Motion carried.**

2014-57: Concur with the TAB Action to adopt a one-time process and release of the Request for Regionally Significant Transit Capital Projects to award 2017 CMAQ Funds. That the Metropolitan Council concurs with the Transportation Advisory Board action to approve a one-time process and release of the Request for Regionally Significant Transit Capital Projects to award 2017 CMAQ funds. Presented by MTS Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz. Moved by Councilmember Rodriguez, seconded by Councilmember Schreiber to be heard as a consent item at a Special Meeting of the full Council March 19th. **Motion carried.**

2014-51: Interagency Agreement with MnDOT to Fund I-35E/County Road E Park and Ride Construction. That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for funding of the construction of the I-35E / C. R. E Park & Ride. Presented by Joe Edwards, Metro Transit Project Manager, Engineering and Construction. Motion was made by Councilmember Schreiber and seconded by Councilmember McCarthy. **Motion carried.**

2014-52: Interagency Agreement with MnDOT to Fund I-35E/County 14 Park and Ride Construction. Presented by Joe Edwards, Project Manager, Engineering and Construction. That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for funding of the construction of the I-35E / C. R. 14 Park & Ride. After the presentation for both Business Item Nos. 2014-51 and 2014-52, there was a question from Councilmember Brimeyer regarding the specifics of Chapter 152 funding. Mr. Edwards responded that Chapter 152 was a State legislated program that provided funds for construction of projects that would mitigate traffic congestion on Trunk Highways, and that the funds are administered by MnDOT.

Motion made by Councilmember Schreiber and seconded by Councilmember McCarthy. **Motion carried.**

2014-53: Interagency Agreement with DCRRA relating to the Metro Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station: That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an interagency agreement with the Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) providing funding for the Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station. Presented by Pat Jones, Assistant Director, Facilities Engineering. Motion made by Councilmember Reynoso and seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez. **Motion carried.**

2014-54: Reinstate the Right of Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF) Program, with modifications. Presented by Connie Kozlak, Manager, Transportation Planning. Councilmember Brimeyer asked about the balance of outstanding loans, which is \$45.8 million, with approximately \$5.4 million of the older loans expected to be repaid soon as a result the upcoming construction of TH 610. Councilmember Van Eyll suggested that staff work with cities to encourage sale of properties that are no longer anticipated to be needed for future highways so those loans can be repaid to the fund. Councilmember Schreiber noted that use of RALF or a similar program for transit and TOD projects should continue to be investigated, noting that such a change would require legislation. Motion by Councilmember Schreiber, second by Councilmember Reynoso. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION

1. Transportation System Performance Evaluation. Presented by Manager, MTS Technical Services Mark Filipi and GIS Specialist Rachel Wiken. This report was required by the legislature and covers Twin Cities road conditions, transit ridership data and capital investment as compared with other major US cities.
2. Target Field Station Update. Presented by Metro Transit Principal Engineer Robert Rimstad. Slides showing progress in construction and discussion of steps leading up to grand opening on May 17th.
3. Commuter Challenge: Switch My Trip. Presented by Metro Transit TDM Program Supervisor Theresa Cain. New focus of Commuter Challenge from April 1 – June 30th, to increase public awareness of sustainable transportation options by encouraging customer pledges and asking participants to share their stories through emails.
4. Metro Transit Fuel Efficiency Testing. Presented by Metro Transit Assistant Director, Bus Maintenance, Chuck Wurzinger. Overview of testing conducted by Metro Transit Bus Maintenance covering fuel efficiency and performance of electrical and hybrid technologies.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Linda Thayer
Recording Secretary