

# Minutes

Transportation Committee



**Meeting Date:** February 13, 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 Fredson, seconded by Zeran 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 Cummings, seconded by Sterner to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

## Reports

### 1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Carlson reported on the listening sessions taking place across the region.

### 2. Interim Metro Transit General Manager

Kandaras reported on the most recent hiring event and updates to the Route 17 project. Kandaras also shared that Transit Driver Appreciation Day is coming up and all are welcome. American Public Transit Association is holding their conference in downtown Minneapolis. Kandaras noted the upcoming Gold Line milestone. Cummings commented on the driver hiring event. Funk said that staff are working to bring the hiring event back.

### 3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

Fenley reported that the January TAAC was cancelled due to the massive snowfall. Fenley thanked the committee for keeping the wayfinding app open, and noted that the acquisition of minivans is being explored. Fenley gave an update of legislative items and shared that TAAC celebrated transit workers with disabilities. Cummings voiced appreciation for TAAC Chair work.

## Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

### 1. 2023-34: METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit – Subordinate Funding Agreement (19I054D)

with Washington County (Mike Ulmer 651-602-1957)

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Sterner.

Motion carried.

## Non-Consent Business

1. 2023-51: Safety Targets Action Item (Jed Hanson 651-602-1716)

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2023 annual targets for the roadway safety performance measures, detailed in Table 1.

Sterner asked about the process for hitting targets set. Hanson said there is a lag after setting targets.

**Motion carried. Motion carried. Hearing no objection the item is sent Consent to Council.**

2. 2023-35 JT: 2023 Budget Amendment – Carryforward (Ed Petrie 612-349-7624, Nick Hendrikson 651-602-1340)

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2023 Unified Budget amendment as indicated, and in accordance with, the attached tables.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

**Motion carried.**

3. 2023-14: Master Contracts for Arterial BRT Section 106 Consultation Services, Contract 22P322 (Adam Smith 612-349-7160)

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Chamblis, that the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Contract 22P322A with 106 Group Ltd., and Contract 22P322B with Mead & Hunt, Inc., for Section 106 consultation services in the amount of \$550,000 each, for a total not to exceed value of \$1,100,000.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

**Motion carried. Motion carried. Hearing no objection the item is sent Consent to Council.**

4. 2023-33: METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Full Funding Grant Agreement if Awarded by the Federal Transit Administration (Alicia Vap 612-349-7079)

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Chair and the Regional Administrator to execute the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in an amount of \$239,345,549 if awarded by the FTA.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

**Motion carried.**

5. 2023-36: METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit – Station Pylon Contract Option (Alicia Vap 612-349-7079)

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Fredson, that the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an option on existing contract 19P385A with Albrecht Sign Company for the fabrication and delivery of 31 pylon signs for installation on the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project (Gold Line Project), in an amount not to exceed \$734,529.52, contingent upon receipt of the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

**Motion carried. Hearing no objection the item is sent Consent to Council.**

6. 2023-49: METRO Green Line Extension Reciprocal Easement and Operating Agreement and Easement Modification with Beltline Mixed Use LLC and the St. Louis Park Economic Development Authority (Jim Alexander 612-373-3880)

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Zeran, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Reciprocal Easement and Operating Agreement with Beltline Mixed Use LLC, their successors and assigns, and the St. Louis Park Economic Development Authority and modify the associated transit easement for the Beltline Boulevard Station Park-and-Ride.

Zeran asked for clarification on land ownership. Alexander said the Council has continuing control from the easement that has been purchased. Cummings brought up concerns about the possibilities of private partnerships.

**Motion carried.**

## Information

1. Metro Mobility Fleet Update (Paul Colton 651-602-1668)

Cummings asked if there was a cap. Colton said up until 2019 prices were locked in but since then there has never been guarantees in the marketplace so contracts could either be cancelled or legal action be taken up. Sterner asked how many of the buses are electric and Colton said in March the Zero Emission Bus Plan will be brought before the Transportation Committee, in the small bus world the current technology would need about 1,700 buses which is a jump from the current 1,600. Carlson noted that there has not yet been a mass-produced option. Sterner asked about chassis production and Colton said Ford is the only one that meets the Buy America standards. Chamblis asked about the status in 2025, Colton responded that the majority of the fleet should be built and in service by 2025. Zeran commented that the Council may want to hold on to the fleet longer. Fredson asked about profit margins. Colton added that since federal funds are being used the price increases are detailed.

2. 2022 Year End Ridership (John Harper 651-602-1744, Eric Lind 612-349-7521)

Chamblis asked about decision-making to travel via Metro Transit for those beyond the core cities. Sterner asked about marketing for venues. Sterner brought up safety and security.

3. 2023 Transportation Committee Work Plan (Lesley Kandaras 612-349-7513, Charles Carlson 651-602-1754)

Add recap of information item discussion.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of February 13, 2023.

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### Council Contact:

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary  
[Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us)