

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 14, 2021

LOCATION: Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held electronically.

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent:

TAAC Liaison Present: David Fenley

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. on Monday, June 14, 2021.

AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 7 Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Ferguson

TAAC REPORT

Fenley reported on the latest presentations the TAAC has had come before it. Fenley also reported on the TAAC workgroups. Sterner said it would be important to have a uniform response for citizens.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning and Finance Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz on behalf of Director Nick Thompson reported:

TBI

The 2021 TBI is starting up data collection this summer and invitations are expected to go out at the end of this week. We have transitioned to an every other year rolling format. During 2020 a special COVID survey was added. Small focus groups will start meeting later in the summer to give insight into the BIPOC community travel patterns.

Riverview

The Riverview public comment period is beginning and June 23 is an open house.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

Final regular COVID report

Metro Transit has had a total of 442 employees who have tested positive for COVID since the start of the pandemic. Since the last Transportation Committee meeting on May 24, we've had 5 employees test positive for COVID. Beginning

next meeting, regular COVID reports won't be included unless something unusual happens. In July, we will bring an information item to this committee to provide a whole-cloth look at how we are making plans to emerge from the pandemic a stronger and better system.

Operator hiring

As mentioned at the last meeting, our first class of new bus operators in more than a year started on May 17 including four (4) who started training today. Our current staffing levels are sufficient to meet today's needs but we are aiming to hiring 70 full-time operators by this fall. This will allow us to keep up with expected attrition and to be well positioned for additional service as demand increases. On June 23 and June 26, we are going to hold to hiring events for people interested in becoming operators, similar to our one-day hiring event back in June 2020 that proved quite successful.

38th and Chicago

The City of Minneapolis has made two attempts to open the 38th Street and Chicago Ave interaction, the intersection is not open to auto traffic. This means our bus routes remain on the detours that have been in place since May 2020. Metro Transit is not aware of plans for future attempts to open the roadway. We continue to monitor the situation as the City of Minneapolis determines their next steps. The Chicago & 38th D Line station was removed from 2021-22 construction plans. D Line construction is underway elsewhere on Chicago Avenue, toward late 2022 service. In addition to the detours in place at 38th & Chicago, there are several active detours on Route 5 due to D Line construction. We thank our riders for their patience as intermittent detours to continue across this year and into 2022 as crews complete work on the line. Plans for a station will happen in the future, working with the City and community around the long-term vision for the area. While a station here is not currently being constructed, we're continuing to work with the City to coordinate how to connect stations to the north and south with the underground fiber optic network that spans the length of the entire D Line corridor. Committee members will hear more about D Line construction progress in an arterial BRT update on 6/28.

Police graduation

All Council Members are invited to next Wednesday's MTPD Promotion and Graduation Ceremony. You received an email last Tuesday with the details. The event takes place next Wednesday, June 23, starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Town & Country Club in Saint Paul.

Retirement

This Friday is Vince Pellegrin's last day at Metro Transit. Vince is retiring after 41 total years in transit – 24 at Metro Transit. Metro Transit's first Chief Operating Officer. Helped lead the agency through multiple high-profile events – 9/11, 35W bridge collapse, strike, opening of rail lines, Super Bowl, Covid. Industry leader in alternative technologies – helped introduce some of the country's first natural gas and hybrid electric buses while in LA and New York. At Metro Transit, helped improve fleet appearance and performance (introduced mid-life repaint program) and became agency's first state designated emergency manager. Has been a mentor to staff at all levels of the organization.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no items on the consent agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2021-148:** Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds, Resolution 2021-16

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

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2021-16 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Formula Grants for Rural Areas funding for 2022 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to support Transit Link service.

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

Aye: 8 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. **2021-99:** Gold Line Subordinate Funding Agreement #2 with the Office of MN.IT Services for Duct Bank Relocation

Metro Transit BRT Projects Assistant Director Chris Beckwith presented this item.

Zeran asked about connections. Beckwith said it is a significant backbone of their system.

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (Gold Line) Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) Number Two with the Office of MN.IT Services (MNIT) in an amount not to exceed \$2,497,770.35.

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

Aye: 8 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. **2021-117:** Approval of METRO Orange Line Connection Bus Study Recommended Plan

Metro Transit Route Planning Manager Cyndi Harper presented this item.

Cummings voiced appreciation for the work done on this project.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the service changes in the METRO Orange Line Connecting Bus Study Recommended Plan for implementation with the opening of the Orange Line BRT project, and related Title VI analysis.

Motion carried.

Aye: 8 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. **2021-118:** Heywood Office Upgrades Design Services, Contract 20P055
Metro Transit Principal Project Coordinator Molly Ellis presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 20P055 with TKDA, for Heywood Office Upgrades project for necessary upgrades to the 1984 Heywood Office in a not to exceed the amount of \$800,000.

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

Aye: 8 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. **2021-121:** Ubisense Sole Source for Upgrading Garage Hardware 21P148
Metro Transit Business Systems Analyst Richard Paulson presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize, award and execute sole source contract 21P148 with Ubisense America LLC, in the amount not to exceed \$1,259,428 for Garage Hardware Replacement.

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

Aye: 7 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Gonzalez

6. **2021-127:** Metro Transit Agency Safety Plans
Metro Transit Rail and Bus Safety Director John MacQueen presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt Revision 2 of the Metro Transit Agency Safety Plans for Bus and LRT (including the safety target goals) as required by 49 CFR Part 673.

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

Aye: 8 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. **2021-128:** Cubic Ticket Vending Machine Bill Note Acceptor Upgrade Kits, Contract 21P173
Metro Transit Revenue Collection Senior Manager Nick Eull presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole-source Contract 21P173 with Cubic Transportation Systems to provide new ticket vending machine bill note acceptor upgrade kits in an amount not to exceed \$1,360,000.

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

Aye: 7 Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 Chamblis

8. **2021-132:** SWLRT (Green Line Extension) Systems Construction Change Order – Systems
Component Storage

Metro Transit Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item.

Zeran asked if selection of a local contractor could have served us better since a local contractor would own property. Alexander said there were multiple contracts set in place already with the bid. Chamblis asked if the storage facility will be kept and reused. Alexander said this facility is leased because there was no time to build a facility. Chamblis asked about other domino effects from the delay. Alexander said there will be.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator through the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Council Authorized Representative to negotiate and execute a change order for Contract 17P000 with Aldridge – Parsons, a Joint Venture (APJV) in an amount not to exceed \$8,972,046.95 for up to three years of storage for manufactured light rail system components.

Motion carried.

Aye: 8 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

9. **2021-133:** Northstar Corridor Funding Agreement with State of Minnesota Department of
Transportation (MnDOT) | Resolution 2021-17

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item.

Zeran asked is this any different than any other funding agreements that were previously. Petrie said the funding structure is consistent.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Calendar Year 2022 to provide funding for public commuter rail service in Sherburne County, Minnesota, for an amount up to \$1.9 million per year.
- Execute the attached Resolution of the Governing Body (Metropolitan Council) to enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for Calendar Year 2022.

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

Aye: 8 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

10. **2021-134:** Extend University of Minnesota Revenue Contracts One Year
Metro Transit Sales Operation Specialist Dustin Crescini presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. Execute a one-year extension of the Upass agreement with the University of Minnesota for student participants for the period of August 31st, 2021 to August 31st, 2022, and,
2. Execute a one-year extension of the Metropass agreement with the University of Minnesota for staff and faculty participants for the period of October 1st, 2021 to September 31st, 2022, and,
3. Execute a one-year extension of the Campus Zone Pass agreement with the University of Minnesota for staff and faculty participants for the period of August 31st, 2021 through August 31st, 2022.

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

Aye: 8 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

11. **2021-144:** Amend Orange Line Design Project, Contract 15P138
Metro Transit Engineering and Construction Manager Derek Berube presented this item.

Zeran brought up the difficulty with operator retention. Berube said the design had station utilities in the original design.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes and amendment to the design contract with HNTB Corporation in the amount of \$319,138 for additional design and construction support services of the Orange Line.

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

Aye: 8 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Gonzalez, Sterner, Zeran, Barber
Nay: 0
Absent: 0

INFORMATION

1. Travel Demand Management

Metropolitan Transportation Services Multimodal Planning Manager Cole Hiniker presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

2. 2021 Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper and Metro Transit Analytics and Research Manager Eric Lind presented this item.

Zeran asked about telecommuting. Lind said there are pre-COVID numbers that can be accessed. Kooistra added that investment has been happening into safety and cleanliness.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary