

# Minutes of the JOINT MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

December 8, 2014

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Adam Duinck; Chair Gary Cunningham; Vice Chair Lona Schreiber; Vice-Chair Jon Commers; Edward Reynoso; Marie McCarthy; Jennifer Munt; Sandy Rummel; Steven Chávez; Katie Rodriguez; James Brimeyer; Steve Elkins

**Committee Members Absent:** Wendy Wulff, Richard Kramer

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Transportation Committee Chair Duinck called the Joint Meeting of the Council's Transportation and Community Development Committees to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2014.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Elkins to approve the Amended Agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2014 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Metro Transit

Public Relations Specialist Drew Kerr, Rail Transit Supervisor Jesse Archambault and Ruter Operator Jerry Lang received Awarding Accomplishment honors for exemplary work. Kerr was nominated by Customer Services & Marketing Director Bruce Howard for assuming the role of primary media contact and spokesperson for three months after the prior Public Relations manager left the agency.

“Despite having only been at Metro Transit for about a year, Drew did not hesitate to take on every challenge – he handled sensitive data practices requests, did tough on-camera interviews and coordinated agency responses to complex issues, in addition to his regular work,” Howard said.

Rail Operations Manager Michael Guse nominated Jesse Archambault following a commendation after the Nov. 2 Vikings game. Archambault, who was working special event service for the game, drove a father and son to retrieve a wallet the son had left on a Blue Line train when transferring to the Green Line.

In his commendation, the customer wrote: “We still had plenty of time for the game. He went above and beyond customer service for us. I was so impressed with this guy. I will let everyone know how great I was treated.”

Ruter Transportation Manager Jay Kluge said Jerry Lang is an inspiration to everyone he works with. In his seven years with Metro Transit, he has collected six safe driving awards and seven Outstanding Operator awards. He became a relief instructor in 2010, has been acting garage coordinator several times, and currently chairs the Transit Safety & Security Committee. “Jerry has a can-do attitude and he truly leads by example,” Kluge said.

**TAB LIAISON REPORT:** No TAB liaison present, but Chair Duininck mentioned that at the last Transportation Advisory Board meeting there was discussion regarding the Transportation Policy Plan as an information item, which will continue at the TAB meeting scheduled for next week; also of note, Chair Bill Hargis informed Chair Haigh that he plans to step down, effective as soon as a replacement can be found.

### **DIRECTOR OF MTS AND GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy stated that the EPA released a proposed rule last week that would strengthen federal standards for ozone, changing it from 75 parts per billion down to 65 to 70 parts per billion. Currently, our region has concentrations at 67 parts per billion. If the final standard that is adopted by the EPA is on the low end of the range, our region would be deemed to be in “non-attainment status”, which we have had before. Regarding the timeline, after the proposed rule is published on the federal register, it is followed by a 90-day comment period. The EPA will adopt a final rule no later than October 2015; after that, the MPCA will have one year to submit data to the EPA, supporting a non-attainment designation, if applicable. If that is the case, around mid-2017, we would be required to address conformity for ozone in both our TPP and TIP; then at or around mid-2018, a state implementation plan would be due from the MPCA to the EPA demonstrating how this region will achieve attainment status. If we do end up in non-attainment status, that will impact how we spend our federal transportation dollars.

The second item is good news regarding motor vehicle sales tax receipts. For the month of October, we achieved 116% of the state forecast. That is a very strong month, which brings our state fiscal year-to-date at about 103.6% average.

General Manager Brian Lamb updated the Council on the recent fatal stabbing near the Blue Line Lake Street Station, stating that a 25-year old is now being held in the matter. He applauded the efforts of Metro Transit Police Department Lieutenant Troy Schmitz, who led the investigation. Mr. Lamb also stressed the importance of having cameras on buses and in stations, which leads to quicker arrests – and sends the message that if you do crime on Transit, *you will be caught*.

### **Service changes will go into effect on around 40 bus routes beginning Saturday, Dec. 13:**

Notable changes include: In the East Metro, Route 285 and Route 275 will be combined. The new Route 275 will provide express service between downtown St. Paul and Park & Rides along the I-35E corridor, including new locations at County Road 14 in Lino Lakes and County Road E in Vandais Heights. Each of the new Park & Rides includes 300 surface parking spaces, waiting shelters, lighting and bike racks. There will be six trips to downtown St. Paul each morning and seven trips from downtown St. Paul each afternoon. Smaller Park & Ride locations that are further from I-35E will be closed. Locating the Park & Rides closer to I-35E will allow Metro Transit to streamline express service. Commuters will also benefit from the future opening of MnPASS lanes on I-35E.

Express Route 674 will be extended to serve the Maple Plain Park & Ride (previously a Park & Pool). Route 674 will provide three trips to and from downtown Minneapolis each weekday. The route also serves a Park & Ride in Wayzata. Frequency of Sunday service will be reduced on several bus routes that connect to Green Line stations due to lower demand.

**Ride free to Holidazzle Village next two Saturdays:** Metro Transit is offering free rides to Holidazzle Village on Nicollet Mall every Saturday this month. Free rides are available on all buses and METRO lines from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. with a downloadable pass. The free ride offer is not available on Northstar but Roundtrip Family Passes are available.

Expanding on the Twinkle Bus tradition, multiple buses, light rail and Northstar trains have been decorated with holiday lights and decorations and are being used in service throughout the holiday season.

**Partnership continues New Year's Eve free-ride program:** Metro Transit will help area residents celebrate the New Year safely again this year. Free rides will be available on all Metro Transit routes beginning at 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve. The free ride offer expires at 3 a.m. on New Year's Day. This is the fourth year that Metro Transit has partnered with Miller Lite and J.J. Taylor Distributing Company to provide free rides on New Year's Eve. The program has provided a safe ride to more than one million people in the Twin Cities and has the full support of local and state law enforcement.

## **BUSINESS – Consent Items**

1. 2014-307 SW: Authorize 2015 Agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board.
2. 2014-308 SW: Authorization to Execute an Operating Grant Agreement with the City of Carver.
3. 2014-283 SW: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: Ladders of Opportunity Award to Improve, Replace, and Construct Bus Facilities.
4. 2014-291 SW: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: FTA Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.
5. 2014-299 SW: UPWP Resolution Regarding 2015 Carryover Funds– Resolution No. 2014-34.
6. 2014-288 SW: SWLRT (Green Line Extension): SW Station Cohabitation Agreement.
7. 2014-289 SW: SWLRT (Green Line Extension): Master Funding Agreements with Project Partners.
8. 2014-292 SW: Blue Line Data Network Update.
9. 2014-297 SW: Transit Systems Development e-Builder Sole Source Contract Amendment.
10. 2014-302 SW: ABRT Station Shelter Design and Manufacture.
11. 2014-304 SW: Authorization to Award and Execute a Contract for the Purchase of Bus Passenger Waiting Shelters.

Motion to approve the eleven Consent Items to go Consent to Council was made by Jennifer Munt, seconded by Katie Rodriguez. Approved unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Southwest Corridor Investment Framework was presented by Katie Walker of Hennepin County and Southwest Corridor Project Manager Craig Lamothe.
2. Transit Oriented Development 2014 Report and 2015 Work Plan was presented by TOD Director Lucy Galbraith.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

1. 2014-305 SW: Authorization to Amend Metro Mobility Fuel Contract with Mansfield Oil, Inc. The item proposes that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 12P042 with Mansfield Oil Inc. to:

- 1) extend the termination date of the contract from December 31, 2014 to June 30, 2015, and

- 2) increase the maximum compensation by \$3,351,517 for a new contract total of \$22,448,303.

Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director, presented this item. She explained the two reasons for this fuel contract amendment and that a RFP for a new fuel contract will be issued early in 2015 after the new Metro Mobility contracts are awarded. Councilmember Reynoso asked what the duration of the next fuel contract will be. McCarthy responded the duration will likely be at least two years, but staff will confer with Council staff fuel procurement experts before making a decision. Motion to approve, sent to Council as a Consent Item.

2. 2014-294 SW: South St. Paul Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plan. Presented by MTS Senior Planner Russ Owen. Proposed action that the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Determine that the South St. Paul Airport 2032 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) is consistent with the Metropolitan Council's development guide.

- 2) Determine the preferred alternative in the 2032 LTCP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan with no change from its regional aviation system classification of Minor airport.

- 3) Direct staff to include the updated LTCP in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan.

Owen explained the process for reviewing the South St. Paul Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP). He also discussed the alternatives in the LTCP and the reason for selecting the preferred alternative. There were no questions and the committee moved that the item be approved and sent non-consent to Council.

3. 2014-290 SW: Transit Systems Development Right of Entry (BLRT and SWLRT). Presented by TSD-SW Assistant General Manager Craig Lamothe. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council adopt Resolution 2014-32 that authorizes access to property for survey, environmental testing, or geotechnical investigation before eminent domain proceedings in accordance with Minnesota Statutes Chapters 473 and 117. Motion made by Councilmember Schreiber, seconded by Councilmember Rodriguez and approved to go to Council as a non-consent item.

4. 2014-296 SW: SWLRT (Green Line Extension) Award of Advanced Design Consultant Services. Presented by Transit Systems Design and Engineering Director Jim Alexander. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an engineering services contract with AECOM for Advanced Design Consultant (ADC) Services for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (METRO Green Line Extension) Project in an amount not to exceed \$117,654,545.

Councilmember Commers asked about receiving only one proposal. Alexander stated that the Project Office reached out to potential proposers and DBE firms earlier this summer to generate interest in the work, and that it comes down to a business decision on the part of potential proposals as to whether to submit a proposal. Alexander stated that AECOM is well qualified, they understand our process and what it takes to complete these projects. Councilmember Munt asked if any of the firms are local. Alexander stated that there are 19 sub-consultants on the team, 11 of which are DBE and all of the firms on the team but one have local offices. Councilmember Brimeyer asked how many engineering firms are capable of doing this type of work. Alexander stated that there is not a large pool of firms that are capable of leading these types of contracts.

Motion made by Councilmember Reynoso, seconded by Councilmember to approve, sent non-consent to Council.

5. 2014-300 SW: Award of BLRT (Blue Line Extension) FEIS Services Contract. Presented by Rail Maintenance Supervisor Kathryn O'Brien. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council authorize

the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with HDR for the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the BLRT Project in an amount not to exceed \$3,600,000.

Councilmember Munt asked about the commitment and approach for public involvement as part of the contract. Ms. O'Brien responded that the FEIS consultant's role was to support the vision established by Project Office Outreach staff. Councilmember Schreiber asked where HDR's office was located and their experience and qualifications. Ms. O'Brien responded that HDR has offices located around the country and locally in Golden Valley, and that HDR has experience working on other New Starts LRT projects. Motion made by Councilmember Schreiber, seconded by Councilmember Elkins, and approved, non-consent to Council.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Linda Thayer  
Recording Secretary