

# Minutes of the SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

September 17, 2014  
Robert Street Chambers

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Adam Duininck, Vice-Chair Lona Schreiber, James Brimeyer, Jon Commers, Steve Elkins, Marie McCarthy, Katie Rodriguez

**Committee Members Absent:** Edward Reynoso, Jennifer Munt

## I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Duininck called the special meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2014.

## II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez approve the agenda. Motion passed.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

## IV. PUBLIC HEARING, 5:00 TIME CERTAIN: DRAFT 2040 TRANSPORTATION POLICY PLAN (TPP)

Chair Duininck announced that a public hearing would be held at 5:00 regarding the Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), and that members of the public that wished to speak please add their names to the sign-up sheet on the table outside the Chambers.

## V. TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Elkins reported that he attended TAB today and there was robust discussion of the Regional Solicitation equity components. The TAB voted to approve the Steering Committee weighting recommendations in the Regional Solicitation. The item is on this agenda.

## VI. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit:

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Dan Suggs, who presented the employee recognition to Mike Miller, Signals Foreperson for his efforts in designing, building and installing a microwave detector at BCS and work on a UPS transfer switch at the Warehouse.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Adam Harrington, who presented employee recognition awards to the following Service Development staff for their work on planning, scheduling and implementation of bus and LRT service for the Green line:

John Dillery, Senior Planner; Scott Thompson, Senior Planner; Ellen Skog, Data Management Analyst; Karen Underwood, Data Management Analyst; Mark Coon, Schedule Maker (not present); Steve Legler, Assistant Director; Kristin Thompson, Asst. Dir. Scheduling, Data & Analysis; Kellie Miller, Manager of Scheduling; and Cyndi Harper, Manager Route Planning.

## VII. METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER and MTS DIRECTOR REPORTS – Brian Lamb and Arlene McCarthy

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Vikings fans flock to Green Line

12,780 fans rode the Green Line to and from the Vikings' first regular season home game on Saturday, Sept. 14, representing 24 percent of announced attendance (52,530). During the Vikings' two pre-season games, an average of 10,513 fans road the Green Line to the stadium. Another 495 people rode Northstar to the Sept. 14 game. Extra trains were out on the Green and Blue lines and buses provided supplemental service for those traveling south from Downtown East. Nearly half of fans purchased round-trip tickets online in advance of the game, which helped efficiently clear Stadium Village Station after the game.

2. U of M boosts Green Line ridership

Green Line ridership increased 20 percent during the first week of the U of M's fall semester. Average weekday ridership Sept. 1-5 was 40,445, up from 36,801 the week before. The projected average weekday ridership for 2015 is 28,500. There have been 17,530 U-Pass sales so far this year; last fall semester there were 16,348 total U-Pass sales. Metropass sales have also increased. Campus Passes have also proven popular: 5,099 have been distributed to students and 1,665 have been distributed to faculty and staff.

3. Metro Transit safe driver named Minnesota Operator of the Year

Metro Transit operator Jerry Olson was honored as the Minnesota Bus Operator of the Year by the Minnesota Public Transportation Association last week. In 2014, Olson was honored for 41 consecutive years of safe driving, a first for the agency. Mark Fuhrmann was also recognized as Transit Professional of the year for his work on the Green Line and other rail projects.

**MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported:**

1. Metro Mobility receives MPTA Award

The Minnesota Public Transit Association (MPTA) has awarded Metro Mobility with the "Transit System of the Year" honor. Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger introduced and extended thanks to Metro Mobility staff: Dana Rude, Andy Streasick, David Russell, and Pamela Hall Clemens, and also Providers: Tim Ogren - First Transit and Mike and Stacy Richter – Transit Team.

2. MVST Monthly Report

For the second month of State Fiscal Year 2015, MVST receipts were at 90.62% of projections, this is a drop from July. The budget assumes 95% forecast. State Fiscal Year to date receipts are at 99.11%.

3. Rail~Volution 2014 begins next week. The Twin Cities is seeing record registration numbers.

Monday's welcome plenary session will feature Metropolitan Council Chair Susan Haigh, Commissioner Peter McLaughlin and MnDOT Transportation Commissioner Charlie Zelle. Tuesday's plenary session will feature Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx and possibly Senator Amy Klobuchar.

**VIII. BUSINESS**

**A. CONSENT ITEMS:**

There are no consent items on this agenda.

**B. NON-CONSENT ITEMS:**

1. 2014-221: Green Line Extension (SWLRT) Project Office lease amendment between the Metropolitan Council and Golub and Company/AEW Management

Metro Transit Director Transit Systems Development Craig Lamothe and Metro Transit Asst. Dir. Admin/Comm/Outreach Robin Kaufman presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez that the Met Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a lease agreement amendment between the Metropolitan Council and Golub Realty Management for expanding the Green Line Extension (SWLRT) Project Office by 12,432 square foot area in Park Place West Office Building in St. Louis Park, Minnesota for the 56-month period from December 1, 2014 through July 31, 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$1,460,000. Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2014-222: Execute a Purchase Order for Motorola Voice Communications Console Hardware and a Sole Source Contract for Installation  
Metro Transit Manager Communications Systems Chad LaVasseur presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase order for fourteen (14) Motorola MCC7500 voice communications consoles and supporting equipment in the amount of \$880,095. Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

3. 2014-228: METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit (BLRT) Extension Project: Award Engineering Services Consultant Contract (14P061) for the BLRT Extension – Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park  
Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item and answered a question from Brimeyer clarifying the bid opening process, and a question whether the four phases need separate action by TC. The answer is no, the committee will be notified of NTP but do not need to take separate action. Fuhrmann also answered Duininck's question whether there was thought of bringing in an oversight committee like other projects (Green Line & SWLRT). The answer is not at this time because BLRT is less structure-centered and less complicated engineering. Schreiber asked if the consultant will be responsible for right-of-way acquisition in railroad R/W. Fuhrmann answered that Kimley-Horn will be working with Project Staff and the railroad on design, but MC staff will be performing the acquisition.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Rodriguez that the Met Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an engineering services contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for engineering consultant services for the METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit (BLRT) Extension (known as the Bottineau Transitway during earlier planning phases) Project in an amount not to exceed \$110,046,172. Motion passed.

4. 2014-233: Authorization to execute contract award for West Broadway Transit Study  
Metro Transit Sr. Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson introduced new Metro Transit staff Senior Planner Shelly Miller. Carlson presented the item. In answer to Duininck, Carlson stated that Metro Transit staff will work with the consultant team on community engagement. No other questions.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute a professional services contact with SRF Consulting Group, Inc. to conduct a planned study of transit improvements including bus and potential streetcar along

West Broadway Avenue and connections to Bottineau LRT and downtown Minneapolis in the amount not to exceed \$614,816.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

5. 2014-226: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for City of West St. Paul: Safe Routes to School addition of preliminary engineering

Metropolitan Transportation Services Joe Barbeau presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017nTransportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include preliminary engineering for its Safe Routes to School trail and sidewalk project for Wentworth Avenue from Charlton Street to Bellows Street and Bellows Street from Wentworth Avenue to Thompson Avenue (SP# 173-591-001), contingent on TAB approval at its September 17 meeting.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

6. 2014-234: Concur with Transportation Advisory Board Approval of Regional Solicitation

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented this item. Schallberg, Duininck, Elkins and Rodriguez recapped the action that TAB took at their meeting earlier today.

Arlene McCarthy requested that the words "Steering Committee" be added to the motion below as clarification.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board action to approve the attached Regional Solicitation package for 2017-2019 funding, including the evaluation criteria and Steering Committee weighting, and to release the solicitation.

Motion passed.

## **IX. INFORMATION**

1. SIP Draft Plan

Metro Transit Manager of Service Planning Cyndi Harper and Associate Transit Planner Kyle Burrows presented an update on the SIP Draft Plan. This item will appear as an action item at the next Transportation Committee meeting. Harper stated that she will be arranging personal briefings of the Service Improvement Plan (SIP) Draft Plan through Linda Thayer – Metro Transit.

2. Orange Line Update

Metro Transit Sr. Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson and Senior Planner BRT/Small Starts Christina Morrison presented an update on the Orange Line BRT.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.