

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: November 14, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood 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

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01p.m. Chair Barber stated there were several additional Council members in attendance for the meeting but clarified they would not be voting any business.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Cummings 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 Pacheco to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2022, Special meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Pacheco to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2022, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Regional Solicitation

TAB will meet on Wednesday and is expected to decide on a regional solicitation package.

Weather

Thanks to our operators on the MTS side out in the field today assisting customers not just in driving but escorting to/from location in the case of Metro Mobility.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Hiring

We had over 90 people attend the last two operator hiring events on November 5th and 9th, which is about 3 times what we've had in the past. 28 of those applicants had CDLs and will move right into background review. 60 of the prospective operators will need to get their commercial permit and we are about to launch a training program to help them do that. We remain over 300 operators short of budgeted levels and about 70 operators below current service levels.

Supplemental Security

This pilot started at the Franklin station, and we have received good anecdotal feedback from customers and employees and some data that showed that calls for service were about 50% down from before the pilot began. While this does not cause a trend, it is good preliminary feedback and we will continue to watch closely. Supplemental security started today at Lake Street station. We are also in the process of putting together a RFP for the larger, more long term contracting of this, which includes adding more sites.

Recognition Week

This week is Employee recognition at Transportation Garages. Council members received an email on Wednesday with details and are welcome to stop in as their schedule allows.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC)
Fenley sent an email update due to being unable to attend.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-292:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to remove bus rapid transit stations from the description of Hennepin County's Hennepin Avenue bikeway project.
2. **2022-293:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add preliminary engineering for an extension of the Bruce Vento Trail.
3. **2022-294 SW:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to change the termini, add a retaining wall, and increase the cost for its Highway 36 ramp reconstruction project.
4. **2022-295:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add mill and overlay and a turn lane to Anoka County's CSAH 1 (Coon Rapids Boulevard) signal system project.
5. **2022-296:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add Southwest Transit's transit mobility hub.
6. **2022-298:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the purchase of two electric buses and a charging station for SouthWest Transit.
7. **2022-299:** That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the purchase of electric buses.

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-282:** Northstar and Sherburne County 2023 Subordinate Funding Agreement

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Sherburne County Regional Railroad Authority for subsidy funding of Northstar Commuter Rail 2023 Operations.

Operating

- Northstar Commuter Rail \$1,117,526

Metro Transit Finance Senior Manager Steve True presented this item. There were no



questions or comments from Council members.

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

2. **2022-283:** 2023 Operating Grant Agreements with the Funding Transitway Counties

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute operating grant agreements for calendar 2023 from the Funding Transitway Counties of Anoka, Hennepin, and Ramsey.

Operating (Base and Non-Annual Share)

METRO Blue Line LRT \$15,012,903

- Hennepin County - \$15,012,903

METRO Green Line LRT \$15,087,024

- Hennepin County – \$9,052,214
- Ramsey County – \$6,034,810

Northstar Commuter Rail \$5,945,217

- Anoka County – \$4,839,407
- Hennepin County – \$1,105,810

Metro Transit Finance Senior Manager Steve True presented this item. Cummings asked for clarification on the agreement with counties regarding percentages paid. General Manager Kooistra stated that the counties aren't paying 50% for Blue/Green Line and that we had requested the counties to pay additional money based upon inflation and rising costs, and they were not agreeable to that. Kooistra continued that we lowered the amount of county fundings to what's in the agreement and the difference will be replaced by Federal COVID relief funds. Kooistra stated we asked for a re-opening of the Master Funding agreement, with Ramsey and Hennepin stating they were not willing to do that.

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

3. **2022-313:** 2022 and 2023 Orange Line Operating Grant Agreements with the Funding Transitway Counties

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for operating grant agreements, and negotiate and execute final operating grant agreements for calendar years 2022 and 2023 from the Funding Transitway Counties of Hennepin and Dakota Counties for the METRO Orange Line.

Operating (Base and Non-Annual Share)

2022 Operating Grants

METRO Orange Line BRT \$2,355,144

- Hennepin County – not to exceed \$2,025,424
- Dakota County – not to exceed \$329,720

2023 Operating Grants

METRO Orange Line BRT \$2,468,907

- Hennepin County – not to exceed \$2,123,260
- Dakota County – not to exceed \$345,647

Metro Transit Finance Senior Manager Steve True presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.



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

4. **2022-305:** Metropass Agreement between Metropolitan Council and State of Minnesota Department of Administration, Contract Number 22R007-8030

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Enter into and execute a new 5-year Metropass agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Administration (Dept. of Admin) beginning December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2027 to provide Metropasses to eligible employees. Potential revenues for the term of this agreement are estimated at \$1.3M.

Metro Transit Sales Operations Specialist Dustin Crescini presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

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

Information

1. Proposed Transitway Advancement Policy

Chair Barber provided an introduction and Metropolitan Transportation Executive Director Charles Carlson and Metro Transit Deputy General Manager – Capital Programs Nick Thompson presented this item. Council members had discussion that included appreciation for this direction and confirmation that this policy will help ensure Council members have all the information to make decisions. Thompson and Carlson detailed what this policy is versus is not and explained how this policy will help provide detailed information/risks at each step along the way of a project timeline. Council members suggested this might change how business items are brought forwarded (typically as a staff recommendation) and how critical this will be to keep county/city partners informed.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:30p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of November 14, 2022.

Council Contact:

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