

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

October 12, 2015

Committee Members Present: Chair Lona Schreiber, Steve Elkins, Jennifer Munt, Marie McCarthy, Cara Letofsky, Gail Dorfman, Deb Barber, Jon Commers, Katie Rodriguez

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 12, 2015 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the October 12, 2015 Transportation Committee agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

The TAB Liaison was not present at the meeting. Arlene McCarthy noted that there has not been a TAB meeting since the last Transportation Committee meeting.

DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. Update on the 2016 Operating Budget

The 2016 Operating Budget for MTS Planning that will come before the Council will increase \$1.85 M from the last presentation. Two things are driving this: A) \$1.1M for the Transit On Board Survey (funds were authorized to allow the contracting process to carry over into 2016, \$800,000 in STP Funds from TAB and \$300,000 match); B) an Asset Management project which will kick off in 2016. The proposed rulemaking was received on 9/30/15. After a comment period, the federal government will issue the rules for asset management and there should be a couple of years in which to become compliant with those rules. A placeholder of \$750,000 has been added to the 2016 Operating Budget for the Asset Management project.

2. Equity Workshops

Committee members should have received a calendar appointment for the next Equity Workshop on 10/21/15 from 1:30-3:00. Please reply to the Outlook invitation, whether you are attending or not, and also fill out the survey that accompanies the appointment.

3. Transportation Committee on the Road

The 11/09/15 Transportation Committee is planned to be held in Blaine. The County and Cities will coordinate to spotlight their area. Following the meeting, the Transportation Committee will discuss if it was successful, whether to plan more off-site meetings, how to decide how often and the location. Dorfman suggested that staff provide items of interest specific to

the location for members to look at prior to the meeting, as has been done for the Community Development meetings that are conducted at other locations.

4. Council committee meetings in December

December 2015 has five Wednesdays. Due to the holidays, December 9 will be the only Council meeting in December. The Transportation Committee is regularly scheduled for 12/14. Items from Transportation Committee 12/14 would not appear before the Council until January 13, 2016. There is discussion about moving the 12/14 TC to 12/07 to allow same week items to the Council 12/09. December 7 is a regularly scheduled Community Development Committee date. Elkins suggested a joint CDC/TC meeting. Staff will check into this.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Green Line record ridership

The Green Line experienced record ridership in September. There were 45,644 average weekday rides last month – well above the previous high of 37,597 from last October. There were nearly 1.25 million total Green Line rides last month – the highest monthly total since its opening and the third straight month with more than 1 million rides.

- Blue Line: up 12 percent over last year, with just over 8M rides
- Northstar: Down less than 1 percent, with 554,500 rides
- Bus: Down almost 9 percent 47M rides

2. Transit information improvements

Efforts to improve transit information on the street continue to move forward.

- Automatic bus stop and wayfinding announcements were recently activated on all Metro Transit and MTS bus routes. Previously, announcements were made only on Hi-Frequency routes, Route 17 and the METRO Red Line. Announcements are automatically made at more than 5,000 stops, timepoints, transfer points and major landmarks. The announcement technology will be available fleetwide in 2021, after the oldest in-service buses are replaced with new models. These announcements are particularly useful as the days grow shorter and it becomes harder for customers to identify their stops.
- After a successful pilot this summer, we'll be installing around 2,300 new bus stop signs with enhanced information this fall. The new signs include route numbers, a unique stop number and instructions for how to access NexTrip information for that stop. The new signs are going up in St. Paul (along routes 63 and 64), North Minneapolis and the Northwest corridor. Metro Transit has over 12,000 bus stops. New signs will be installed at the remaining stops over the next two years. Installations began today in St. Paul.

3. College Pass Success

Freshmen at Augsburg College responded well to a new program that introduced them to transit and encouraged continued use. Students received a Go-To Card with \$20 in stored value as part of their freshman seminar, which involved taking transit to explore the city. Students who added at least \$10 to their card by Oct. 1 were given another \$45 in stored value at no cost. Nearly 150 students, about a third of Augsburg's freshman class, added value by the Oct. 1 deadline – twice the original goal of the program. The promotion was sponsored by Metro Transit and the Central Corridor Anchor Partnership, a group of secondary schools in the Central Corridor that is leveraging their collective influence to boost transit use, increase local hiring and support businesses in the Central Corridor. Another College Pass promotion allowed up to 150 new students at St. Paul College to purchase a College Pass for a discounted price of \$20. The passes quickly sold out.

4. Bus operator testing event planned

Individuals interested in a career as a Metro Transit bus operator can attend a testing event later this month. Part-time bus operator testing will be held on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Earle Brown Heritage

Center, 6155 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center. Testing will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event is limited to the first 200 people. To participate, attendees must bring a valid driver's license and resume. This is another example of Metro Transit going out into the community to actively recruit a diverse workforce. You'll hear more about these efforts in a presentation later in the meeting.

5. Green Line campaign wins APTA award

The opening day campaign for the METRO Green Line was recognized in the special events category at APTA's AdWheel Awards last week. The AdWheel Awards recognize transit agencies and APTA business members for excellence in advertising, communications, marketing and promotion. Metro Transit's entries are judged against other transit agencies with more than 20 million annual rides. The opening day campaign received a Grand Award, which means it was selected as the best entry in its category. AdWheel awards were presented at APTA's Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Calif. on Monday, Oct. 5.

6. Mass Transit Magazine has awarded their "Top 40 under 40" award to Kristen Thompson, Metro Transit Manager of Schedule Analysis.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Rodriguez, seconded by Commers, and carried to approve the following consent item:

1. 2015-241: 2016 MTS Small Bus Procurement

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council, contingent on Council approval of the 2015 Unified Budget Fourth Quarter Amendment (Business Item 2015-231), authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with:

- Høglund Bus (MnDOT Contract 88294) for up to 15 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,035,000; and
- North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 88331) for up to three replacement buses and 14 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,105,000.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2015-239 SW: CTIB 2015 Project Grant Applications Consistency with the 2040 TPP
Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz presented this item.

It was noted that wording in the action should be changed from "finds the nine projects" to "finds the twelve projects". This wording will also be corrected prior to Council action.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council finds the *twelve* grant applications (summarized in the Attachment) submitted to the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for CY 2016 funding to be consistent with the Council's 2040 Transportation Policy Plan adopted in January 2015.

Motion carried.

2. 2015-240: Approval of Metropolitan Area 5310 Grant Awards

Metropolitan Transportation Services Asst. Director Contracted Services Gerri Sutton presented this item.

There were no questions from the committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following Metropolitan Area 5310 grant awards for 2016.

Organization	Project	Federal Award Amount
Dakota County	Mobility Management	\$171,200
Newtrax, Inc	Mobility Management	\$132,800
Scott County	Mobility Management	\$280,000
Washington County	Mobility Management	\$103,200
Achieve Services, Inc.	Replacement Bus	\$59,200
Ally People Solutions	Replacement Bus	\$59,200
East Suburban Resources, Inc.	Replacement Bus	\$59,200
Lifeworks Services, Inc	2 Replacement Buses	\$118,400
Mankato Rehab Center, Inc. (Rosemount)	Replacement Bus	\$59,200
Midwest Special Services, Inc.	2 Replacement Buses	\$118,400
NEWTRAX, Inc.	6 Replacement Buses	\$355,200
ProAct, Inc.	Replacement Bus	\$59,200
Sholom Community Alliance	1 New Bus	\$59,200
Rise, Inc.	3 Replacement Buses	\$177,600
Norwood Young America Economic Dev.	1 New Bus	\$59,200
TOTAL		\$1,871,200

Motion carried.

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

3. 2015-230 SW: Resolution to affirm MnDOT Agreement for Federal Funds for the Transit On Board Survey

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item and answered a question in broad terms from Letofsky about how the survey is performed. Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich is the Project Manager of the project and could elaborate further, if desired. Dorfman asked for talking points about the importance of the project in order to be able to answer questions that may be raised by constituents. Arlene McCarthy said that she will have Jonathan Ehrlich prepare this.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- o Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.
- o Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA STP funds.

Motion carried.

4. 2015-231: Authorization to Amend the 2015 Unified Budget: Fourth Quarter Amendment Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager MTS Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented the fourth quarter budget amendments for their respective divisions.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2015 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the Capital – Attachment #1 to the business item (Program Level).

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2015 Unified Budget – Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with the spreadsheet in Operating Attachment #2 to the business item.

Motion carried.

5. 2015-233: Maple Grove Service Agreement

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a three-year service agreement with the City of Maple Grove for the service Period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018.

Motion carried

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

6. 2015-238: Green Line Rail Signal System – Additional Functionality

Metro Transit BLRT Project Director Dan Soler and Metro Transit Director Rail Systems Maintenance Mark Benedict presented this item.

Soler answered questions from Barber whether this technology applies to Green Line and Blue Line Extensions. Rail signal control will be built into these contracts from day one. Munt questioned whether Siemens is given favor in the RFP environment and Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb explained that there are pre-bid conferences to address this, and the Council desires more than one bid. In this case, some of the work is still under warranty with Siemens, and Siemens was the original contractor.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract with Siemens Industry, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$1,740,000 for additional functionality to the signal system on the METRO Green Line.

Motion carried.

7. 2015-243 SW: Authorization to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Port Authority regarding the property at 400 Snelling Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota
Metro Transit TOD Director Lucy Galbraith presented this item.

In answer to a question from Elkins, Galbraith stated that amount of the lease payments will be worked out in the JPA. Letofsky asked if this framework applies if there is no soccer stadium and Galbraith replied it wouldn't, but framework could apply to other situations. Munt stressed working with/and engaging the community. Galbraith said it will mostly be the City of St. Paul as the lead in working with the community, but that community engagement and other issues will be part of the discussions covered under this agreement. In answer to a question from Dorfman, Associate General Counsel Jeanne Matross defined what the Joint Powers Agreement specifically addresses.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council 1) determines that it is in the best interests of the Council and the public to continue use of the Snelling Property for transit purposes consistent with Council TOD Policy goals and FTA guidance, and 2) authorizes the Regional Administrator to: (a) execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Saint Paul ("City") and the Saint Paul Port Authority ("SPPA") to provide a framework for communication and negotiation with respect to the development of the property at 400 Snelling Avenue, St. Paul; and (b) to provide to the City and the SPPA the appraisal or appraisals obtained by the Council for the Council property.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Regional Transit Operating Revenue Allocation Information

Metropolitan Council Budget Director Paul Conery presented this item.

2. Metro Transit Technician Program

Metro Council Director Office of Equality Opportunity Wanda Kirkpatrick introduced Assistant Director OEO Aaron Koski and Metro Transit Manager Training Bus Maintenance Michael Joyce, who presented this item.

3. Transportation Division Proposed 2016-2021 Transit Capital Program
Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy and Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb presented this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.