

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Monday, April 22 2013

Committee Members Present: Adam Duinick, Chair Steve Elkins James Brimeyer
Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair Edward Reynoso
Roxanne Smith Jon Commers

Committee Members Absent: John Doan Jennifer Munt

TAB Liaison: Robert Lilligren – not present at meeting

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Duinick called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. April 22 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Reynoso to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Commers to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2013 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT – Robert Lilligren

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren was not present at the meeting, no report.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Bill Beck – Acting Deputy Director of Maintenance at Overhaul Base and Jim Perron – Assistant Transportation Manager at South Garage, who presented the employee recognition awards to Scott Jordan – Metro Transit mechanic and Rodney Smith – Bus Operator, respectively.

Scott Jordan is being recognized for putting in additional work shifts and different hours in order to keep the work flowing during a time of shortage of shift operators due to personnel moves.

Rodney Smith is being recognized for his professionalism and service during over 34 years as a bus operator. During that time, Smith received 33 safe operator awards – 33 straight years of safe bus operation without a responsible accident. This equates to approximately 70,000 hours of safe operation.

DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

Central Corridor's New Operations & Maintenance Facility

Lamb recognized Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann and Assistant General Manager-TSD CC Rich Rovang. Fuhrmann/Rovang shared slides showing the status of the CCLRT OMF. The facility has changed quite a bit from 1 year ago when the Transportation Committee toured the site. A temporary certificate of occupancy has been secured and staff can start moving in – there will be approximately 1800 staff at this location.

Brimeyer requested an information presentation regarding the Metro Transit staffing plan at a future meeting.

Earth Day

To mark Earth Day today, on the Xcel Plaza downtown, Northern States Power's vice president and CEO, Judy Pofert, and I met with the media and Transit riders as a customer outreach and appreciation event to emphasize that the Blue/Hiawatha light rail would run solely on wind power today, which highlights another sustainable transportation option. Metro Transit has purchased about 71,000 kilowatt-hours of wind-generated electricity – about a day's worth of the power required to operate the light-rail line in cooperation with Xcel Energy's wind source program. Light rail trains are always emissions-free since they operate using electricity –

today 100% of the fuel source to generate electricity is wind power. Typically, renewable fuel sources account for about 20 percent of the total energy needs in a day.

Transit Police New Part-Time Officers

Our Transit Police Department has added 22 new part-time officers to its ranks at a swearing-in ceremony last Friday by Chief John Harrington. This new group of part-time officers will fill a key role for our region's growing transit system with their diverse backgrounds to support our everyday operations and provide us with extra resources for special events – such as Twins games and conventions. These officers will also support our commitment to increase our presence in partnership with local public safety programs like SafeZone in downtown Minneapolis. Their diverse community backgrounds including African-American, Asian, Latino, Somali and Native American with nearly half bilingual. Our Transit customers represent many different cultural backgrounds and these officers will provide opportunities to connect with our ridership and their communities in eight metro counties in new ways.

Safety Telecommunicators Recognized, Honored Last Week

Last week was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. The annual event honors the thousands of men and women who receive and respond to emergency calls, dispatch emergency personnel and equipment and render life saving assistance to the citizens of their communities. The tragedy in Boston is a somber reminder of the critical importance of these professionals - such as Metro Transit staff who work in the Transit Control Center and Rail Control Center. Employees were encouraged to join in recognizing TCC and RCC staff for the hard work they do every day to serve and support Metro Transit. National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials International.

Correction of Inaccurate Bus Transfer Charge – RE: 50 cent Express Upcharge on GFI

We recently discovered and corrected an obscure technical issue with our farebox system. This only affected those transferring from a peak local trip to an off-peak express trip who also paid with cash or a magnetic-stripe card. The farebox would indicate that an additional \$0.50 was due for this trip when in fact it was not. We estimated this has inadvertently existed within the farebox program for at least 15 years, but has affected relatively few transactions in practice. As part of our ongoing Fare Policy review, we are reconfirming that all other fares and transfers were working in compliance with regional fare policies. Our Customer Relations department is aware of the issue and – as always – will work with customers who contact us with concerns.

Recent news reports regarding HLRT OMF

Lamb stated that the characterizations of overtime abuse and trading for guns and prescriptions in the media are inaccurate in many areas. The investigations have been concluded; due to data privacy laws, Lamb could not speak about the case at the Transportation Committee. Transportation Committee members can contact Lamb with questions. Committee Chair Duinick reminded committee members to refer any Metro Transit data requests to John Siqveland, Manager of Metro Transit Public Relations.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported the following:

1. Called attention to a letter to the editor in the Star Tribune today praising transit drivers.
2. The first three items from today's agenda will be heard at a special May 1, 2013 Council meeting preceding the Committee of the Whole due to time sensitivity. The other items will be heard at the May 8, 2013 Council meeting.
3. MVST update: March figures are down at 92.54% of the forecast. Some previous months' have been at 104% and 110%. State fiscal year to date total is 96.5% of forecast; the Council's budget amount assumes 95%.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

2013-123: Red Line Bus Rapid Transit - Joint Powers Agreements

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Commers that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the following Joint Powers Agreements (JPA) related to the operations of the Red Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project:

- “Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County and The City of Apple Valley and the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and The Metropolitan Council for Development of Fiber Optic Network”,
- “Joint Powers Agreement between the County of Dakota and The Metropolitan Council for Fiber Optic Network”,
- “Joint Powers Agreement between the County of Dakota and the Metropolitan Council for Operation and Maintenance of Transit Signal Priority Systems”.

Motion passed

Non-Consent Items

2013-121: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment for 2013 Local Federal Program Reallocation
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented this item.

Ted Schoenecker, MnDOT Metro State Aid Engineer, was also present and gave a presentation explaining the funding and project program changes. There were no questions following the presentation

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Schreiber that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add 12 projects on the attached list using a total of \$17,568,279 in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding in 2013.

Motion passed.

2013-119: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
Consultant Contract Award

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Reynoso that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with CH2M HILL for the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the SWLRT Project through March 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$3,385,670.

Motion passed with Council member Elkins recusing himself from the vote.

2013-122: Adoption of 2030 Transportation Policy Plan amendment for Bottineau Transitway Locally Preferred Alternative and Additional Potential Arterial Bus Rapid Transit Routes

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Mary Karlsson and Metro Transit Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented this item and answered questions with assistance from Mark Fuhrmann. The committee had no questions or comments on the Public Comment Report, fiscal constraint, or air quality conformity. Smith expressed regret that the current Metropolitan Council was not involved earlier in the Bottineau Alternatives Analysis to more thoroughly evaluate LRT on West Broadway Avenue through North Minneapolis, including potential economic development and land use benefits. Brimeyer clarified the BNSF alignment alternative (D1) is preferable to the Penn Avenue North alignment alternative (D2) and Smith agreed. Commers asked for a comparison of most recent forecast daily 2030 ridership for Bottineau LRT (27,000), Central Corridor LRT (nearly 41,000), and Southwest LRT (30,000). Duinick asked staff to summarize land use planning efforts and the next steps to ensure Bottineau LRT is being well positioned for land use planning and economic development. Karlsson emphasized station locations are not part of the proposed action and will be finalized later in the project development process. Karlsson reported that Hennepin County used Corridors of Opportunity funding and completed initial, local planning for four station areas: 63rd Avenue (Brooklyn Park), Bass Lake Road (Crystal), Robbinsdale, and Van White Boulevard (Minneapolis). Karlsson reported that Hennepin County is funding a continuation of the contract to complete the initial, local planning for the five remaining stations: 97th Avenue, 93rd Avenue, Brooklyn Boulevard (Brooklyn Park), Golden Valley Road or Plymouth Avenue (Golden Valley), and the Penn Avenue North (Minneapolis). Karlsson finished by reporting that Hennepin County and Metropolitan Council staff are working

together to identify and implement best practices for the integration of land use planning and transitway engineering.

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council:

- Accept the attached Public Comment Report,
- Adopt the attached amendment to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan that:
 - Selects light rail transit (LRT) on the West Broadway in Brooklyn Park-Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corridor-Olson Memorial Highway alignment (Alternative B-C-D1) as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the Bottineau Transitway, and
 - Identifies additions to the 2030 potential Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (Arterial BRT) routes based on results of the Arterial Transitway Corridors Study.
- Affirm the amendment maintains the fiscal constraint and air quality conformity of the plan.

Motion passed.

2013-120: Metro Mobility Transit Assistance Agreements FY2013-2015 with DARTS
Metro Mobility Senior Manager Paul Colton presented this item and responded to requests from Brimeyer as to clarification of the timing of the various Metro Mobility contracts, and from Duinick as to clarification of the budget projections and forecasts.

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Commers, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract with DARTS, to deliver Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service, in an amount not to exceed \$8,376,120 for the term July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2015.

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

INFORMATION

1. I-35W Quarterly Update re: Corridor Project Plan Overview

Metro Transit Senior Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson and Metro Transit Senior Planner BRT/Small Starts Christina Morrison presented this item. Carlson and Morrison replied to Brimeyer's request for clarification about the status of I-35W/494 project and also clarification of what projects the BRT/Small Starts Project Office is working on.

2. 2012 Customer Service Survey Results

Metro Transit Director Marketing Bruce Howard presented this item. The survey findings tie into future Metro Transit capital and operating plans. The full report will be published on MetNet by the end of April.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.