

# **Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

January 12, 2015

**Committee Members Present: Chair Adam Duininck, Jennifer Munt, Steve Elkins, Jon Commers, James Brimeyer, Edward Reynoso, Katie Rodriguez, Marie McCarthy**

**Committee Members Absent: Lona Schreiber.**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Duininck called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2015 in Metropolitan Council Room LLA, 390 North Robert St, St. Paul.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

It was moved by Commers, seconded by M. McCarthy to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Reynoso to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2014 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services**

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy recognized the following:

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg, and Planning Analyst Steve Peterson for their work on the Regional Solicitation Evaluation.

TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos (absent), MTS Senior Planners David Vessel and Joe Barbeau, MTS Planner Bob Paddock, and IS employees Matt McGuire, Jim Gonsoski (absent), Jon Hoekenga (absent), Chi-yi Chou for their work on the on-line application program for the Regional Solicitation. Duininck also thanked the group for their efforts.

## **TAB LIAISON REPORT**

Robert Lilligren reported that the TAB met on 12/17 and gave final approval of the TPP with a split vote. The TAB also asked that their comments be forwarded to the Council with the TPP when the Council is scheduled to approve the TPP (1/14/15).

TAB members recognized outgoing members and voted to make a recommendation to the Metro Council to appoint either Robert Lilligren or Randy Maluchnik to chair the TAB. The Council makes the final appointment of TAB Chair.

A. McCarthy responded to Brimeyer's question stating the deadline for the Regional Solicitation applications was 12/01; the evaluation committees have been formed and are meeting. Recommendations on initial scoring of the projects should come to the TAB in March or April 2015.

## **DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported

1. McCarthy shared a human interest picture of Santa riding a Metro Mobility bus to get to his destination during the holiday season.

2. Additional edits to TPP.

McCarthy noted that the Transportation Committee recommended the 2040 TPP for approval at its December 22, 2014 meeting. She provided additional minor edits to the TPP since the December meeting, which will be incorporated prior to 1/14/15 Council action. These edits are being provided as information as they clarify language in the TPP, but do not change the content.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Retirements at Metro Transit.

Five employees with a total combined 190 years of service (three of them more than 30 years) are planning on retiring from Metro Transit in a short period of time. In 2015 Lamb hopes to be able to ride the last bus ride operated by retiring bus operators. Last week, Lamb had the opportunity to ride with one of the operators who gave his last ride after 40 years of service to MTC and Metro Transit. Paul Liddicoat is one of more than 40 employees who have called it a career after more than three decades of service to our riders. The ride gave a chance to look at how far we've come as an organization.

2. New Years Eve ridership program with MillerCoors.

This year we had a lot of media attention surrounding our partnership with MillerCoors for rides on New Years Eve. This year, we estimate that we gave 45,761 rides, which is more than 4,000 additional rides compared to last year.

3. End of year ridership figures.

We are working to fully examine our final 2014 ridership numbers and expect news about that to come out very soon. We know that in all we exceeded 84 million rides. We also know that we are looking past some of the challenges we had last year as we look to build upon that figure for 2015. Among the reasons to be optimistic are the impending opening of the A Line Bus Rapid Transit project along Snelling Avenue and Ford Parkway in Saint Paul and the overcoming of many challenges we faced last year during maintenance work along the Northstar Commuter Line.

4. Northstar Service Guarantee program.

To date we've had more than 600 people sign up for our Northstar Service Guarantee program and we can report that so far we've had only one day in which we had delays. We're continuing our push to get people signed up, as we still have around 140 rides this month that will qualify for the program.

5. Metro Transit Police learning Spanish.

Last week about 20 Metro Transit Police officers started taking part in a Spanish course being offered as they continually strive to work better with all of our communities. The course runs weekly for two hours on Wednesday nights for eight weeks. We expect that this week media organizations will be covering the course and what it will mean for our officers. If the program proves to be as successful as we expect, we will continue to offer it and explore other courses where officers taking the course now can build upon what they have already learned.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

## Non-Consent Items:

1. 2015-2: Execute agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and SouthWest Transit for Supplemental Operating Funding  
MTS Transportation Grants Coordinator Heather Johnson presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements in amounts not to exceed \$4,831,000 with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and \$1,851,000 with SouthWest Transit (SWT) to provide supplemental transit operating funding during CY2015.

Motion carried. This item will go to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2015-3: Review of Metropolitan Airports Commission 2015-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

MTS Senior Planner (Aviation) Russ Owen presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council find:

1. That the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has an adequate public participation process for the development and review of its 2015-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP, including preparation of an assessment of environmental affects (AOEE) for 2015 projects with potential environmental effects.

2. That there are no projects that need to be approved in the CIP, since no projects meet both the funding level and “significant effects” criteria.

3. That the 2015 CIP projects are in conformance with the region’s Aviation System Plan and consistent with Council Policy.

Motion carried. This item will go to the full Council as a consent item.

3. 2015-1: Selection of Advertising Sales Vendor

Metro Transit Director Customer Service & Marketing Bruce Howard presented this item. Howard responded to Brimeyer’s request for clarification of the minimum revenue guarantee & revenue share. Munt noted her satisfaction dealing with Titan Outdoor LLC in the past.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with Titan Outdoor LLC for the purpose of selling advertising on Metro Transit buses, trains, shelters, LRT platform kiosks and other properties for a term of five years with a minimum revenue guarantee to the Council of \$23,450,000 and with two optional one-year extensions for a total minimum revenue guarantee of \$33,850,000.

Motion carried. This item will go to the full Council as a consent item.

4. 2015-Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) – Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 2 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the City of St. Louis Park for a Locally Requested Capital Investment: Beltline Boulevard Underpass.

Metro Transit SWLRT Assistant Director Nani Jacobson presented this item. Duininck asked what would happen if local governments. were to back out of the Beltline Blvd. underpass during the course of the project. Jacobson said that two designs will be brought forward (base project design/design including the Beltline underpass). If the City backs out, it will be billed for the expense of design and other expenses incurred and the project would proceed with the base design. Rodriguez asked if there

is cost savings partnering with the City for the underpass and Jacobson said more will be known as the design advances.

Motion by Brimeyer, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute SFA No. 2 to the MFA with the City of St. Louis Park (City) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project (Project) in an amount funded by the City not to exceed \$1,156,000.

Motion carried. This item will go to the full Council as a consent item.

## **INFORMATION**

### **1. Metropolitan Area 5310 Grant Awards.**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services Gerri Sutton presented this item. Sutton stated that she is working to clarify the MOU with MnDOT to specify that this item goes to the Transportation Committee and the Council before adding projects to the TIP.

### **2. Transportation Committee 2014 Work Plan Review and 2015 Work Plan Input**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy and Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb presented this item and asked for input from the committee members for items to include in the 2015 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Elkins asked for 1) Regional Solicitation “post mortem” after completion of current process, 2) get a head start on bike/ped corridor planning approvals in advance of comp plan reviews as some cities are already working on this, and 3) report on revision of the TOD Development Guide.

Rodriguez asked for an update/review of the regionally allocated MVST funds, and an overview of how federal/state/local funding flows through the state.

Munt stated there is shared value in meeting jointly with the Community Development Committee and would like to see continuation of that, perhaps as a brainstorming format rather than a formal business meeting. Lamb said that the plan is to have two joint CD/TC meetings during the year, and the “brainstorming” session may be a suggestion for the Committee of the Whole (Duininck also agreed that Committee of the Whole may be the preferred format). Munt also suggested meeting at other entities’ locations (cities) could be beneficial. Lamb said there are plans at staff level (regarding the external advisory committee that came out of the PRO process) to have quarterly meetings to look at projects and invite the public & private sector to be part of that process.

Duininck requested 1) federal & state level reports on transportation funding issues and how they will affect Metro Council work, 2) periodic updates on the 2040 TPP Work Plan items, 3) periodic off-site meetings at Metro Council facilities, 4) mobile workshop-type meeting settings, 5) opening TAB communication periodically by expanding the TAB Liaison report to include inviting Metro Council-appointed TAB members to join/speak.

Members were asked to convey their ideas to A. McCarthy or Lamb with ample time to prepare the work plan item for the 2/09 meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.