

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 27, 2016

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

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

**TAB Liaison Present: Randy Maluchnik**

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, June 27, 2016 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN. Chair Schreiber noted that this is the last Transportation Committee for Arlene McCarthy, who is retiring in July. Schreiber and council members expressed their appreciation to Arlene for her work.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Commers, seconded by Letofsky to approve the June 27, 2016 agenda with the revision to remove employee recognition from the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

There was no Employee Recognition at this meeting.

## TAB LIAISON REPORT:

TAB Liaison Randy Maluchnik stated that he was not present at the last TAB meeting as he was travelling for transportation issues, but he did have a report from the TAB. The TAB Chair discussed holding a meeting off-site in the fall, perhaps at MAC and in conjunction with a tour of the Fed Ex facilities at the airport. MnDOT reported that they, along with Ramsey and Hennepin Counties and the Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, have applied to the FHWA for a grant for "Every Place Counts". The grant is for placemaking workshops. The TAC Chair gave a report on defederalization. The TAB took action on two items and also heard presentations on the Principal Arterial Conversion Study and I-35W MnPASS.

Katie Rodriguez added that some TAB members expressed concern about losing federal funding if SWLRT if not funded by the state. The committee discussed whether TAB should formulate an opinion, or pass a resolution to forward to the legislature regarding important projects for funding including SWLRT, and the possibility of losing federal funds to other projects around the country if our local projects are not funded. After discussion the group decided that it would be more effective to reach out to the legislature individually, not as the TAB.

## METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER and METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

### 1. Every Place Counts Grants

As noted above in the TAB Liaison report, MnDOT – along with other government agencies – has applied for a grant from the FHWA for placemaking workshops. Recipients of the grants are to be announced on June 29.

2. Metro Mobility Newsletter

McCarthy noted the latest Metro Mobility Newsletter that was placed in each councilmember mailslot.

3. USDOT's "Smart City" challenge

Columbus, Ohio was chosen as the recipient of \$40M from USDOT for the Smart City Challenge.

4. Transportation Committees at Heywood

McCarthy reminded the committee that the Transportation Committee will meet at FT Heywood in Minneapolis beginning with the July 11 meeting.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. A Line opening week

When the A Line opened on June 11, it felt like we were having a great deal of community support. There was a great deal of community involvement, great celebrations and the buses seemed full of people who had eagerly awaited the line's opening. On the Saturday of the A Line opening, the new buses carried 4,751 riders, which is up more than 1,000 riders from the average Saturday along the corridor. And while one week is admittedly not a large sample size, the line had an extremely successful first week. In all, A Line and the Route 84 riders combined to take 36,205 rides along the Snelling Avenue corridor in the A Line's first week of service. That is a 36 percent jump from when the corridor was served by the Route 84 alone.

2. A busy weekend in the Twin Cities and a busy weekend for Metro Transit riders

The Twin Cities Metro Area was a busy place to be all weekend and many people chose to take advantage of our partnerships to get to and from various events. Partnerships included promotion and advertising helping to get the word out about Metro Transit options with

- a. Twin Cities Jazz Festival in Saint Paul
- b. The Pride Parade in Minneapolis
- c. The Pride Beer Dabbler
- d. Minnesota Lynx game at the Target Center
- e. The Minnesota United soccer game at Target Field

In all, these events helped to bring more than 18,000 rides from downloadable passes alone. Without a doubt, there were people experiencing our services for the first time, including the A Line, our METRO rail lines and our local bus service. It is these kinds of partnerships that go a long way to showing our communities just how easy it is to take Metro Transit, especially during special events. This is especially important as we gear up for events later this year including opening events at the Minnesota Vikings' new home, U.S. Bank Stadium and the State Fair, which is just around the corner.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Letofsky and carried to approve the following consent item:

2016-130: Approval of an administrative amendment to the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council approves an administrative amendment to the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to include the Transportation System Performance Evaluation under the "Product" list on the bottom of page 11.

### **Non-Consent Items:**

- 1. 2016-104: Authorization for the Execution for SWLRT Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement

Metro Transit Assistant Director Environment & Agreements Nani Jacobson presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the Southwest LRT Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), developed jointly between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office (MnHPO), and the Council pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Schrieber said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2016-117: Authorization to Award a Sole Source Contract for Replacing Rail Station Go-To Card Readers, Contract 16P148

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Collections Nick Eull and Manager Revenue Processing Dennis Dworshak presented this item and answered questions from Elkins about the percentage of fare collections that come from Go-To cards and whether the validators will accommodate chip readers. Eull also gave a presentation on the Fare Collection System Overview.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract award to Cubic Transportation Systems for the purchase of approximately 101 rail smartcard validators in an amount not to exceed \$1 million.

Motion carried.

3. 2016-118: Authorization to Award Contract for Interactive Voice Response Software Upgrade  
Metro Transit Manager Transit Information John Howley presented this item. There were no questions from committee members

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with Contact Solutions to provide a software upgrade for the Transit Information department's Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system in an amount not to exceed \$675,000.

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

4. 2016-127: Authorization for Staff to Bring West End and Route 9 Transit Study Concept Plan out for Public Review

Metro Transit Senior Planner Steve Mahowald presented this item and in response to Commers, explained service to the Greenbriar area in Minnetonka. This is a concentrated area of poverty and transit-dependent riders. In response to Letofsky, Mahowald also explained service to Hopkins Middle and High schools. Schreiber stated that it is good that staff board buses to explain the changes because community meetings do not always draw the riders to attend.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the West End and Route 9 Transit Study Concept Plan for public review.

Motion carried.

5. 2016-128: Authorization to Approve the Purchase of one 40' Option Bus and BRT Options  
Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Tom Humphrey presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options on contract 12P227 with Gillig Corporation to purchase one option bus with bus rapid transit (BRT) styling options in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 contingent on satisfactory results of the Pre-Award Buy America Audit.

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

6. 2016-131: TAB Bylaws Revisions

TAB Coordinator Elaine Koutsoukos presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the TAB Bylaws as shown on the attached document.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

1. I-35W North MnPASS Project

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz introduced Jerome Adams-MnDOT who presented this item. He reported on innovative public involvement that MnDOT performed. MnDOT identified nine under represented areas and went to those locations, i.e. parks, common areas at apartment complexes, mobile home parks, to meet with the citizens to get their reactions about MnPASS and transit. Adams and Pat Bursaw-MnDOT answered questions from Rodriguez about the Fast Act applications – how many applications and how much funding available. Adams and Amy Vennewitz also answered questions from Commers about the reasons for the difference in the estimated project cost between what is shown in the TPP (2009) and what the project cost estimate is today. The project is a new MnPASS lane (mobility improvement in the TPP) combined with a large preservation project to minimize disruption to the traveling public.

2. Regional Bicycle Barriers Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steven Elmer presented this item, and answered questions from Elkins concerning a railroad crossing across the Mississippi River between Minneapolis & St. Paul and a connection between Bloomington & Fort Snelling.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.