

# Minutes

Transportation Committee



**Meeting Date:** February 27, 2023

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** Robert St 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, E = excused

## Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

## Agenda Approved

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Pacheco 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 February 13, 2023 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

## Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit Interim General Manager Lesley Kandaras

Kandaras introduced Director of Marketing and Transit Information Bruce Howard who presented an award to Supervisor of Market Development Kelci Stones; Transit Control Center Supervisor Kerry Sampson who introduced TCC Supervisor Jack Butke who presented an award to TCC Supervisor Joe Kalina; Ruter Garage Manager Kim Fleming presented an award to Instruction Coordinator Jerry Langer.

## Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Carlson reported that RAISE grant applications are due tomorrow and the Metropolitan Council has submitted several letters of support for projects. ReConnect Rondo was selected for a planning grant from USDOT and the options for a land bridge will be explored. \$17 billion surplus has been maintained and the new MVST forecast is a \$40 million reduction for transit funding. Carlson shared the work to transport people during the winter storm last week. Barber voiced appreciation for the support to local projects and the necessity of talking about the MVST issue.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Storm

Before I provide a few updates, I first want to acknowledge all the work of many Metro Transit

departments and employees during the snowstorm last week. While snowstorms are nothing new for us, that doesn't diminish how much hard work it takes to maintain service and provide safe facilities for our employees and customers. And while it wasn't perhaps as epic as we were bracing for, even preparing for a potential major storm takes a lot of effort. So, I did want to recognize all the Transit employees who really went above and beyond last week.

### Network Now

As you heard at your January 23 meeting, Network Now is Metro Transit's process for developing a plan for the next five years that continues to invest in improving our service as more resources, such as additional operators, are available. This week we will begin to seek feedback from the community and by stakeholders by asking about their values as it relates to transit service. One of the first steps is to begin to share a survey. The survey will be shared through a variety of electronic means beginning this week, and outreach coordinators will be going out onto a system and into the community. Versions of the survey will also be shared with municipal partners and Metro Transit employees. In addition to the survey, there will be in-person engagement opportunities in April and May. And also staff are presenting at Metropolitan Council Advisory Committees, including the Equity Advisory Committee and Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee, so these committees also have an opportunity to engage in this. We will be gathering feedback from stakeholders for this first phase into mid-May. The feedback we receive will be used to create decision making framework to guide the next steps of the project.

### MTPD Updates

Ernest Morales III started at Metro Transit today as the Director of Security and Police Services. As is standard and required when someone relocates from another state, Mr. Morales will be in this administrative role until he is a licensed officer in the State of Minnesota. He is going through the required licensure process now. These steps must be completed before Mr. Morales can serve as the Metro Transit Police Department chief. Interim Chief Rick Grates will continue to serve as interim chief until this transition is complete. We know Council Members are eager to meet with Mr. Morales, so I want to assure you that we know that and will create opportunities for that. We are developing plans to ensure he is out on the system and meeting with Council Members, Metro Transit employees, customers, and other stakeholders. We are planning for Director Morales to attend this week's Committee of the Whole meeting, so he can be introduced to the Council. And, finally, in addition to Mr. Morales joining the department, I wanted you to know that we have a refreshed Community Service Officer or CSO posting live now. Back in July, the Council increased CSO wages to \$25/hour. And now we are also able to advertise an up-to-\$18,000 tuition reimbursement benefit. As I mentioned previously, in one of tonight's information items, you will hear more about operator hiring and retention efforts, but I wanted to mention the MTPD continues to employ several tactics to build our police workforce as well.

### 3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Dugan reported on the Transportation Policy Plan Update listening sessions and the Regional Solicitation progress. Sterner shared the discussion around destination areas and the development of state roads. Carlson shared that the listening sessions have been an important step of the process.

## Consent Business

### Consent Business Adopted

1. 2023-55: 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: Three New Projects (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
2. 2023-56: 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: Three Scope/Cost Changes (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
3. 2023-53: Signature Authority for MVTA Transportation Facility Projects (Nicole Clapp 651-602-1723)

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Pacheco.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion carried.

## Non-Consent Business

1. 2023-17: METRO B Line – Ramsey County Cooperative Construction Agreement (Frank Alarcon 612-349-7692)

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 221053 with Ramsey County to receive approximately \$900,000 of funds for County-requested improvements along the METRO B Line corridor.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

**Motion carried. Hearing no objection Chair Barber sent the item Consent to Council.**

2. 2023-50: METRO B Line – Amendment 1 to Engineering and Construction Administration Contract 20P322 (Frank Alarcon 612-349-7692)

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Amendment 1 to contract 20P322 with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. for engineering and construction administration services for the METRO B Line BRT project, to increase the contract value by \$1,649,389, for a revised contract not to exceed amount of \$11,407,899.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

**Motion carried. Hearing no objection Chair Barber sent the item Consent to Council.**

3. 2023-52: Procurement of 18 Accessible Mini-Vans-Metro Mobility (Paul Colton 651-602-1668)

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 23P030 with Creative Bus Sales for up to 18 accessible minivans in an amount not to exceed \$1,350,000. This action is contingent upon Council approval of the authorized capital program amendment on March 8 through business item 2023-35 JT March 8.

Cummings asked about future potential. Sterner asked about the manufacturer information.

**Motion carried. Hearing no objection Chair Barber sent the item Consent to Council.**

4. 2023-42: Procurement of Four Electric Coaches for SWT (Paul Colton 651-602-1668)

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Pacheco, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 23P032 with Motor Coach Industries for up to four replacement electric motor coach buses in an amount not to exceed \$5,395,968 This action is contingent upon Council approval of the authorized capital program amendment on March 8 through business item 2023-35 JT.

Cummings asked about the approval process.

**Motion carried. Hearing no objection Chair Barber sent the item Consent to Council.**

## Information

1. Quarterly Service and Workforce Update including NLG Update (Adam Harrington 612-349-7797, Brian Funk 612-349-7514)

Cummings asked about future implementation.

2. Metro Transit Micro Performance Update (Adam Harrington 612-349-7797, Sheila Holbrook-White 651-602-1618, Victoria Dan 612-349-7648)



Cummings asked how this ridership compares with expectations from development. Pacheco asked about payment options. Carlson brought up the cost of the service. Fredson asked for data on capacity. Sterner asked about the location of groceries and other food destinations.

3. Updated Draft 2023 Transportation Committee Work Plan (Lesley Kandaras 612-349-7513, Charles Carlson 651-602-1754)

There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

## **Adjournment**

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

## **Certification**

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of February 27, 2023.

---

### **Council Contact:**

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary  
[Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us)

