

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

October 9, 2017

LOCATION: Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Jennifer Munt, Marie McCarthy, Lona Schreiber, Jon Commers, Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Absent: Gail Dorfman, Steve Elkins

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05pm on Monday, October 9, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by McCarthy to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Metro Mobility Fall Meeting

This was held in Bloomington on October 6, with Council members Barber and Letofsky in attendance. There was good input from the full house and staff will be compiling a report in the next two weeks.

CTIB

Handout that was provided, summarizes what CTIB did in the region in terms of development.

TPP

The work on TPP updates continues. Today a meeting was held with the Mdewakanton Tribe and cities of Shakopee and Prior Lake. Received good feedback and input about how they'd like to be involved in the TPP process.

Omaha/Council Bluffs

Hosted a group from Omaha/Council Bluffs – made up of developers, MPO and transit providers who were interested in seeing how transit is changing development and how nonprofits and institutions could be leading that. The group has been talking with developers and hearing about investments we are doing as a region which is spurring development and attracting young people to this area. The group is hoping to use the information for development in their region.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann reported on behalf of Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb:

Kare 11 Eyes Up: Metro Transit bus operator Scott Jester, a 27-year veteran operator with 25 years of safe driving, was featured on KARE 11's Eyes Up campaign against distracted driving. Scott was able to talk about what he sees on the road from an operator's eye view. A video was shown.

New Light Rail Vehicles: The first of five new light rail vehicles being added to Metro Transit’s fleet arrived last month. The vehicles will help expand passenger capacity when there’s high demand and give rail vehicle maintenance more flexibility to schedule repairs. Body repairs can keep a train out of service for weeks or even months. Remaining vehicles will be delivered over the next two months. The new vehicles were made by Siemens and are essentially the same as the 59 vehicles the Sacramento, Calif.-based company delivered before the Green Line opened in 2014. A photo was shown of the new LRV.

Dorothy’s Last Ride: At Metro Transit, we are concentrating harder on keeping an eye out for our own stories and the stories of our riders and telling those stories when we get the chance. As such, on our *Rider’s Almanac* blog, we published this wonderful piece written by our Digital Communications Specialist, Kathy Graul. I bring it forward today in case you haven’t seen it as it does a wonderful job of pointing out how important our transit system is to our community members’ lives. Dorothy Carter depended on transit all her life. When she died, her son, William Carter III, took an urn of her remains on “One last ride.” The sign he made to mark the occasion reads this way, in part: “For all 94 years of her life, she believed in the importance of public transit and the fine people of Twin City Lines and Metro Transit. These were the people and vehicles that provided her autonomy and self-reliance. They took her to shop, friends, volunteer, meetings, work, doctors, lunches and many other places including, as a young woman, on dates. “In these words written by William, each and every one of us who works to better our transit system can find a nugget of inspiration for why we do what we do.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2017-220:** Approval of Metropolitan Area 5310 Grant Awards
Metropolitan Transportation Services Assistant Director Contracted Transit Services Gerri Sutton presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the following Metropolitan Area Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (FTA 5310) grant awards for 2018:

Organization	Project	Federal Award Amount
Dakota County	Mobility Management	\$235,200
Newtrax, Inc	Mobility Management	\$152,000
Scott County	Mobility Management	\$320,000
Washington County	New - Mobility Management	\$80,000
Achieve Services	1 Replacement Bus & Bus Equip	\$113,600
North East Contemporary Services	3 Replacement Buses & Bus Equip	\$194,400
TSE, Inc	2 New Buses and Bus Equip	\$129,600
Lifeworks Services, Inc.	2 Replacement Buses & Bus Equip	\$129,600
East Side Neighborhood Services, Inc.	1 Replacement Bus & Bus Equip	\$64,800
Midwest Special Services, Inc.	2 Replacement Buses and Bus Equip	\$129,600
Newtrax, Inc.	6 Replacement Buses and Bus Equip	\$362,400
ProAct, Inc.- Eagan	3 Replacement Buses and Bus Equip	\$283,200
Rise, Inc.	6 Replacement Buses and Bus Equip	\$388,800
TOTAL		\$2,583,200

Motion passed. Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

2. 2017-2017-218 Revised: Revised Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Travel Behavior Inventory Household Survey
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into negotiations and to execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to fund the Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Household Surveys for an amount not to exceed \$3,900,000, and to adopt the attached resolution approving the agreement.

Motion passed.

3. 2017-216: Knorr Sole Source for Service and Parts

Metro Transit Acting Director Rail Vehicle Maintenance Chris Royston presented this item. There were questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to approve the Knorr Brake Company (KBC) Sole Source purchase order in the amount not to exceed \$2,400,000 for the purchase of Knorr parts and turnkey service for brake caliper and EHU overhaul.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. MnPASS III Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer introduced Brad Larson from MnDOT who presented this item. Munt asked how much it would cost in order to do all of Tier 2 and Tier 3 projects. Larson responded that Tier 3 projects cost about \$1.4b so estimates right now would be around \$1.6 to \$1.7b for Tier 3 and the remaining Tier 2 projects. In regard to the I-494/Hwy 62 Congestion Relief and Hwy 169 Mobility studies, Barber stated that it's been a very positive discussion about MnPASS and how it could be phased in in different areas. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson added that this Fall MnDOT will be announcing the *Corridors of Commerce* program – which makes roughly \$400m available dollars for projects. MnDOT would not submit for projects. We would consider as a Council submitting some of the top tier MnPASS projects or other regional projects that meet the criteria and we think would score well.

2. Feedback on Regional Solicitation Application

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. Munt asked if there was a spot in the ranges that we would want to land. Barbeau answered that no (last time fell right in the middle) but direction from TAC/TAB could come in different ways and the large ranges allow for flexibility. Chair Rodriguez added that TAB picks where we fall in the ranges (looking in each mode at the difference application categories and how dollars will be spent) and historically have fallen in mid-point. Chair Rodriguez also suggested that before TAB decides, this subject can be brought back to Transportation Committee for feedback on the decision. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson added that the large range allows flexibility as you are beholden to who applies. In regard to the decision to continue forgoing project inflation, Commers asked if there has been any progress in ensuring the project budgets submitted with applications are accurate. Barbeau responded that it has been a problem to nail down a cost that will be 4 – 5 years out. But at the staff level, there are modal specific people looking at the applications in detail to help catch any potential errors.

3. 2018-2023 Capital Improvement Plan

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented for their respective divisions. Rodriguez expressed thanks to the staff of the project office, finance, procurement and other departments for their work on SWLRT. There were no questions from Council members.

4. Workforce Development Update

Metropolitan Council Director Equal Opportunity Wanda Kirkpatrick introduced Metropolitan Council Assistant Director OEO Aaron Koski, Metropolitan Council EO Consultant Gary Courtney and Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Technical Support Mike Joyce who presented this item. Munt asked how we recruit people, especially women. Courtney responded that there is opportunity around women and the intent is to have more deliberate efforts for that and in tandem with the union. Staff will work with organizations that support women, particularly women with nontraditional careers. Koski added that our first philosophy is boots on the ground mentality, while also relying on our partners to use their connections in the communities, radio spots, etc. Munt also wanted to know what the soft skills are that the students get, with Courtney stating those consist of communication, self-awareness and identification and effective communication. Several Council members expressed thanks to the staff for their work on these workforce programs and efforts.

5. Fare Increase Week 1 Update

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Collection Nick Eull presented this item. Reynoso asked how long it takes to process a TAP application. Eull explained that if customers come to the Transit Service center with their documents in hand, we can quickly look in the system to confirm they are currently receiving benefits, and they can leave within 5 minutes with a TAP card. Munt wanted to confirm that additional partners are needed and if any were to contact her directly about TAP, she can have them reach out to Mary Capistrant. Eull confirmed we will take as partners we can get and Mary would be the point of contact. Eull also added that if there has been a slow piece to the program, it's been these partners getting the TAP applications through their own system and then returning the documents back to Metro Transit.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:16pm.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary