

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 8, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman, Edward Reynoso, Marie McCarthy

Committee Members Absent: Lona Schreiber, Jennifer Munt, Steve Elkins

TAB Liaison Present: none present

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, May 8, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Rodriguez reported that the TAB has not met since the last Transportation Committee. There was no report.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. Legislative Session

Staff continues to monitor the Legislative Session and updates are provided through the Transit at the Capital website. The House released their bonding bill last week that did not contain funding for the Gold or Orange Line. It is a much smaller bonding bill than the Senate or the Governor propose. RTC continues to move forward in the tax bill. This is important for capital funding not only for bus, but for suburban transit providers and contracted services.

2. CTIB

CTIB met in early May. They approved some changes to the grant timelines for the Gold Line as requested by Washington County, and approved the Green Line Extension request to enter into an agreement for the acquisition of right-of-way. CTIB discussed impacts of the legislative bill that would dissolve CTIB, and received a presentation from their bond counsel about the impact of the that. There appeared to be uncertainty about some of the numbers in the bill and uncertainty about the impacts of the state to step in and dissolve a Jt. Powers agreement. There are many unresolved issues. CTIB will operate as normal until there are changes.

3. MVST

The April MVST report was received. The first few months of 2018 were above the forecast, but the month of April was much lower. For the year, we are operating at 98.6% of the projection.

4. Fare Discussions

The information sessions and public process regarding fare increases begins this week. The schedule has been posted on the website. Contact Michelle Fure – MC Communications for a schedule of Pop-Up sessions at Transit locations.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. App Update

Responding to customer feedback, Metro Transit’s app has been updated to provide more fare choices. Customers who use the app’s mobile ticketing feature can now choose between non-rush and rush hour fares and purchase weekend All-Day Passes, in addition to weekday All-Day Passes. The minimum purchase amount was also lifted, allowing customers to buy single fares (the minimum purchase had previously been set at \$4.50).

Fares purchased through the free app can be used on any local bus, light rail and the A Line. The app has been downloaded more than 20,000 times since it was introduced last November. In addition to mobile ticketing, the app can be used to plan trips and access predicted real-time departure information.

2. MTPD Chief Harrington Award

Police Chief John Harrington was honored as one of the state’s top law enforcement leaders by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association. Harrington received the association’s Richard W. Schaller Award, which honors service to the community and the profession. Harrington accepted the award last month at the association’s Executive Training Institute in St. Cloud. Association leaders applauded Harrington’s efforts to encourage diversity in law enforcement, improve police-community relations and “shine an analytical light on daily practices.”

3. Bike Indicators

Sidewalk clings that let customers know which train doors they should enter to easily access on-board bike racks were recently installed at the Blue Line’s 38th and 46th Street stations. Customers are being asked to provide feedback on the signage as we consider placing permanent indicators at all light rail stations. An online survey is available through our website.

4. Minnesota Boychoir

The Minnesota Boychoir put an interesting twist on their annual spring concert series, using the Green Line to travel to performances throughout the corridor. The choir performed at the St. Paul Farmer’s Market, CHS Field and Minneapolis Central Library, among other venues. The group filmed a thank you to Metro Transit at U.S. Bank Station.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2017-102: RALF Loan to City of Ramsey for Parcel at US 10 an Sunfish Lake Blvd.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer presented this item. He answered a question from Dorfman, that the loan would not proceed without MnDOT’s satisfaction of the Environmental Site Assessment. Reynoso noted that he is glad to see this project going forward because of the congestion on Highway 10.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a Right of Way acquisition (RALF) loan of up to \$905,500 to the City of Ramsey to purchase a 1.6 acre parcel at 6401 US Highway 10, which is a parcel of land needed for construction of a grade separated interchange and an associated frontage road at US 10 and Sunfish Lake Blvd.

Motion passed.

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

2. 2017-97: Agreement with Cubic Transportation Systems for Fare Collection Software Support Services

Metro Transit Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull presented this item.

Letofsky asked him to explain how we know we aren't paying too much when we award a sole source contract. Nick explained that we compare/benchmark to other agencies like ours to see what they are paying for similar equipment and services, and what the industry norms are.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a fare collection software support agreement with Cubic Transportation Systems (Cubic) for one year at a maximum cost of \$585k, with an option to extend one additional year at a maximum cost of \$615k, for a value up to \$1,200,000.

Motion passed.

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

3. 2017-100: 38th Street Transit Oriented Development

Metro Transit TOD Development Analyst Michael Krantz presented this item. There were no questions from committee members. Letofsky noted that she is pleased to see this development happening, and would like to get developers interested in the Franklin Station area as well.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator or his delegate to negotiate and execute a ground lease with the Lander Group, and supplemental agreements, including a site development agreement, an operations and maintenance agreement, and an intergovernmental agreement, for the property located at the 38th Street transit Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, such agreements to contain the provisions stated below in the Funding paragraph, and in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Regional Truck Highway Corridor Study – Final Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steven Elmer presented this item. Barber commended staff for working collaboratively with counties. Dorfman questioned whether crash data included the number of injuries, or identified areas that are high risk in terms of safety to others (other vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists). Elmer replied that this would require further analysis.

2. Onboard Customer Survey Highlights

Metro Transit Director Marketing Bruce Howard, Market Development Specialist Jessica Cross, and Manager-Analytics Research Joel Huting presented this item.

In response to committee members' questions, Howard will look into: whether there are ways to identify and target influencers that are skeptical and potential users; whether there can be incentives provided for people to ride; whether/how employer subsidies have changed since the last survey; and if there is more information about the change in ridership between the age groups. The full report will be posted on MetNet, when available.

3. Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station and Schedule Update

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Claudius Toussaint and Market Development Specialist Jessica Cross presented this item which included information about the festivities for the Opening Weekend (5/20-22) and Opening Celebration (6/01).

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.