

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: March 28, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco, District 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Kris Fredson, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Zeran, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sterner, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Cummings, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Francisco Gonzalez, District 12 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. on the following roll call.

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| Present | 6 | Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner |
| Absent | 2 | Fredson, Zeran |

Agenda Approved

Chair Barber noted that a roll call vote was not needed for approval of the agenda unless a Council Member offered an amendment to the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Cummings to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Aye | 7 | Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner |
| Nay | 0 | |
| Absent | 2 | Fredson, Zeran |

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

- Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced Manager Mike McNamara and Assistant Manager Catrina Boucher who presented awards to Aidarus Mohamed and William Vacura for their quick-thinking to prevent property damage and worse.

Reports

- Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Charles Carlson
Planning

Federal RAISE grants will be due mid-month. The Council is currently evaluating and providing a number of support letters. If you receive requests please feel free to pass them along to me and MTS will assist applicants. TAB Regional Solicitation grants are due April 14 as

well. Some of you may have seen the story in Saturday's Star Tribune about how the pandemic continues to change regional traffic. The story relied on data analysis tools developed by MTS staff, and staff continues to monitor and analyze traffic in close cooperation with MnDOT to understand how changing behavior impacts the system. MTS researchers have found that although most metro-area residents use less than a gallon of gas per day, the cost burden falls heaviest on low-income and suburban residents, where \$4 gas can mean 15% or more of income on fuel costs alone. These findings come from the 2019 Travel Behavior Inventory Household Survey (TBI). The survey tracks all modes of travel - walking, bicycling, transit and driving. TBI participants record the make, model and year of the vehicles they own, which allowed MTS researchers to back-calculate the amount of fuel used by linking distance to detailed EPA fuel efficiency statistics. This is just one example of the kind of detailed travel analysis made possible by the TBI. Results of this analysis are available on the Council website at (search for "metropolitan Council 2019 fuel usage").

Contracted Services

Our service contractors continue to see increased interest from applicants since we increased the starting minimum pay early last month. Reporting some highlights from 3 of our providers (several contracts). Of the over 1,000 drivers needed for our services in these contracts, which has not changed, we went from being 189 below ideal to 106 below; improving our position by 83 drivers since December. Applications have also increased- over 70% overall increase with nearly 900 applications received in March. Helping the overall picture was reduced attrition by about a third since Dec. Hopeful for continued progress going into the spring to close this gap. Maybe most significantly, the operators are appreciative of how the pay increases acknowledge the critical services they provide our customers.

2. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra

Lesley Kandaras reported on the General Manager's behalf. Kandaras reported:

Operator and Service Update

With the start of the March pick on Saturday, we are about "even" in terms of having enough operators to cover our scheduled service. But we remain focused on hiring more operators, so we can increase service in future quarters. With more businesses returning to on-site work and with fewer pandemic restrictions in place, we are seeing an uptick in inquiries about when we can "bring back" service on routes that have seen reduced or suspended. While we can sustain our current service level with the operators we have, we would like to grow our operator force by about 165 more operators to reach the budgeted service level.

Women's NCAA Final Four

Metro Transit is preparing to support the 2022 Women's NCAA Final Four games and related events in downtown Minneapolis between March 28 and April 4 with games at the Target Center April 1 & 3, 2022. The games are currently scheduled for Friday, April 1 and Sunday, April 3. There are also several events in addition to the semi-final and championship games that will take place during this time. We anticipate that most transit-using fans will take light rail. As Metro Transit has done in the past with high-profile events, we are collaborating with Meet Minneapolis and the NCAA in promoting transit as a transportation option for these events. The promotion allows volunteers, NCAA staff, and fans to download a promotion that allows them to purchase transit rides for \$1 to games and events. This also works as an effort to get people to and from the airport as well as around town as they are here, potentially reducing reliance on other forms of transportation.

Council Member Barber voiced appreciation for staff organization of Transit Operator Day.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Peter Dugan

Dugan reported on the two information items that were before the TAB, mobility hubs and the infrastructure investment in jobs act.



Public Comment

ATU President Ryan Timlin and Metro Transit Mechanical Technician Ron Kammueler spoke about item 2022-52 and the ATU concern about outsourcing work outside of Minnesota.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-89:** Signature Authority – MVTA Transportation Facility Projects (Michael Hochhalter 651-602-1961)

It was moved by Gonzalez, seconded by Zeran.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote.

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| Aye | 7 | Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran |
| Nay | 0 | |
| Absent | 1 | Fredson |

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-52:** Purchase of Truck Suspension Leg Rebuild Kits, Contract 21P212 (Chris Royston 612-341-5698)

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the sole source purchase of Motor and Center Truck suspension Leg rebuild kits from Knorr Brake Company for the Siemen S70 (Type 2) Light Rail Vehicles (LRV's) in an amount not to exceed \$1.9 million.

Metro Transit Director LRV Maintenance Ryan McTeague and LRV Overhaul Manager Chris Royston presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion carried on the following roll call vote. Hearing no opposition, Chair Barber said the item could go consent to Council.

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| Aye | 7 | Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran |
| Nay | 0 | |
| Absent | 1 | Fredson |

Information

1. Transit On Board Survey Pilot Results

Metropolitan Transportation Services Data Scientist Ashley Asmus and Metro Transit Analytics and Research Manager Eric Lind presented this item. Pacheco asked if the study was done in Spanish. Asmus said there were Spanish-speaking surveyors on board and call-backs are done as well. Sterner commented on the safety perceptions. Barber said the customer service study by Metro Transit would capture that data. Barber noted that the 2023 results will be interesting to see employment and gender intersection. Chamblis voiced the importance of discerning which changes will be permanent.

2. Metro Transit Strategic Plan Overview

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra, Service Development Director Adam Harrington, Chief of Staff Lesley Kandaras, Engineering and Facilities Director Marilyn Porter, Capital Projects Administration Director Robin Cauffman, Equity and Inclusion Senior Manager Celina Martina, Customer Service and Marketing Director Bruce Howard, Strategic Initiatives Director John Levin, Finance Director Ed Petrie, Strategy and Performance Manager Rachel Dungca presented this item.

Cummings asked for more information how goals and changes can be communicated to the public. Chamblis asked about performance teams. Barber noted that information items coming before the Transportation Committee remain a great way for updates and involvement.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of March 28, 2022.

Council Contact:

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