

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Monday, April 8, 2013

Committee Members Present: Adam Duininck, Chair Steve Elkins James Brimeyer
Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair Jennifer Munt
Roxanne Smith Jon Commers

Committee Members Absent: John Doan Edward Reynoso

TAB Liaison Present: Robert Lilligren

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Duininck called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. April 8, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Commers to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Commers to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2013 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

TAB LIAISON REPORT – Robert Lilligren

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren reported that the TAB has not met since the last Transportation Committee meeting. He noted that the Regional Solicitation evaluation interviews are underway. MTS Director Arlene McCarthy added that committee members should have received a "save the date" email for the May 6, 2013 Regional Solicitation policymaker workshop.

DIRECTOR AND GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported the following:

1. Items on today's agenda are same week due to the cancellation of the Council meeting on 4/24.
2. A reminder that one week from today (4/15) there will be a joint Community Development/Transportation committee meeting to discuss the Regional Solicitation Evaluation and TOD & Joint Development Policies. There will be a public hearing at 4:30 (Community Development business) and we anticipate the joint meeting to begin shortly thereafter. Members not on the Community Development committee should arrive about 4:45 for the joint meeting.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

1. Hiring Effort Targets New Bus Operators and Rail Positions

Metro Transit has turned up its efforts to attract new part-time bus operators, as well as host a rail information session for employees to learn about current and future positions available preparing for the METRO Green Line opening next year.

On the bus side -- we expects to hire 150 part-time bus operators by the end of July. That means we're looking for about 1,000 applicants by the end of May. Human Resources is working closely with Marketing to get the message out. These are good jobs – starting pay is \$17.27 per hour, 30 hours a week with benefits. Together Rail Transportation and Rail Maintenance hosted an employee informational open house today to provide information about their respective departments and positions that are available. This includes supervisors for rail transportation and vehicle maintenance as well as assistant transportation managers.

2. 30th Annual Operator Awards to be held this Thursday

Metro Transit will salute 59 top bus and train operators who have reached major milestones in their service at our 30th Annual Outstanding Operator Awards. Most of these operators started as part-time employees. They're now creating legacies and setting the tone for the next generation of operators.

Among those honored will be nine operators who each have logged 25 years of accident-free driving. Other operators will be recognized for top-notch customer service, safe driving and attendance over 5-, 10-, 15- 20- and 25-year intervals. Metropolitan Council Regional Administrator Pat Born, myself and Chief of Police John Harrington will deliver remarks. Director of Bus Transportation Christy Bailly will serve as emcee. Do come and join us -- the ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at the Ramada Plaza in Minneapolis.

3. Go-To Cards used to pay fares at record rate in February

The Ridership and Revenue department reports that Go-To Cards were used to pay for 3.43 million rides in February - 54.7 percent of fares paid. This is the highest share of Go-To transactions recorded to date and exceeds the monthly goal by 2.7 percentage points. Usage on express bus service and Northstar is highest – in excess of 80 percent.

4. Northstar to serve more Special Events in 2013

Advance Northstar tickets are now available online for three more large events in downtown Minneapolis. These join the roster of Twins games that are served by special trips on the commuter rail line. This Saturday, the Monster Energy AMA Supercross event is at the Metrodome. July has two events that will draw tens of thousands downtown - the Kenny Chesney concert at Target Field and the Stadium Super Trucks again at the Dome. Our partners at St. Cloud MetroBus are also scheduling connecting express bus service from St. Cloud and Becker to meet trains at Big Lake.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

There were no consent items on this meeting's agenda.

Non-Consent Items

2013-79 SW: Approval of the 2013 Operating Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. There were no questions or comments.

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Smith that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2013 Metro Transit Operating Budget to increase appropriations by \$319,000.

Motion passed.

2013-80 SW: Approval of the 1st Quarter Capital Budget Amendment to the 2013 Unified Capital Budget

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented this item. Brimeyer asked for explanation about the foundation work for the police facility. Commers suggested that the additional platform for Blue Line is a nice communications message and Lamb said that there will be strong TOD projects moving forward as the year goes by, that will be emphasized. It was moved by Commers, seconded by Smith that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2013 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the table attached to the business item.

Motion passed.

2013-109 SW: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment for the 2015-2016 Regional Solicitation Projects and Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Safety Improvement Program Projects

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented this item and answered questions about the status of I-494. Munt commented that she is pleased to see bike, walk and trails projects on the list.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Commers that the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add 74 projects and funding amounts shown on the table attached to the business item, totaling approximately \$159 million in federal funding as the 2015-2016 allocations of federal Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Transportation Enhancements (TE), and Railroad-Highway Grade Crossing Safety Improvement Program funding, and delete the related 12 placeholder projects for this funding.

Motion passed

2013-110 SW: Authorization to Execute a Grant Agreement with Prior Lake and Shakopee for Marschall Road Transit Station

Metropolitan Transportation Services Principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented this item. There were no questions or comments.

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with the Cities of Prior Lake and Shakopee for \$775,000 for the Marschall Road Transit Station.

Motion passed.

2013-111 SW: Procurement of Metro Mobility Buses - 2013

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Project Manager-Fleet Alex Curtiss presented this item and answered a question from Schreiber about the disposal of old buses (they are sold by bids).

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Commers, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with:

1. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 56191) for up to 19 replacement buses and 10 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,885,000.
2. Hogle Bus (MnDOT Contract 56190) for up to 36 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,340,000.
3. Eldorado (MnDOT Contract 56188) for up to 5 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$325,000.

Motion passed.

2013-107 SW: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (GreenLine): Agreement with Metro Park East Property Owner, LLC for Fountain Residential

Metro Transit Deputy CCLRT Project Director Rich Rovang presented this item. After his presentation, Smith asked whether adequate emergency egress could be provided without access from the back of the building. Rovang indicated that the building layout could be adjusted to provide egress on one of the sides of the building. Brimeyer asked the status of the project in obtaining approval from the City of Minneapolis. Rovang reported that City staff have indicated staff support for the project subject to the project obtaining adequate land rights. Councilmember Brimeyer asked about Fire Department access to the back side of the building. Rovang noted the 7' space between the building and the retaining wall at the four corners and access via the transitway for vehicles. Councilmember Duininck noted the strong support from the local Prospect Park community for the project.

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an Agreement with Metro Park East Property Owner, LLC for property rights on Met Council easement areas impacted by the construction of Fountain Residential at Fourth Street and 27th Avenue in the City of Minneapolis and authorize the Regional Administrator to release easements previously obtained by Met Council.

Motion passed.

2013-108 SW: Relocation of Tenant at 677 Transfer Road, St. Paul

Metro Transit Director Engineering & Facilities Marilyn Porter introduced Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator Cathy Nordin, who presented this item. Schreiber asked what is the current tenants use if the building. Nordin responded that business is manufacturing of prototype machinery and it is done undercover and the exact type of machinery is unknown. It is very temperature sensitive machinery that requires a clean environment. Therefore our primary use for Public Facilities is not a good mix. Lamb explained that the tenant's needs have changed and meshing with Metro Transit use of the building would not work; the tenant wants to move into a building that more suits their needs.

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Schreiber, that the Metropolitan Council authorize payments for the relocation of the tenant at 677 Transfer Road, St. Paul, consistent with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Policy Act, and Minnesota Statutes Section 117.52.

Motion passed.

2013-114 SW: Red Line Bus Rapid Transit Grant Agreement Amendments with Dakota County Regional Rail Authority

Metro Transit Project Manager Claudius Toussaint presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

It was moved by Smith, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute two amendments to existing funding agreements with the Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) for the Red Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in the amounts of \$120,000 and \$617,000.

Motion passed.

2013-115 SW: Red Line Bus Rapid Transit Grant Agreement Amendments with Dakota County Regional Rail Authority

Metro Transit Director Engineering & Facilities Marilyn Porter and Deputy Chief Operations Officer – Rail Ed Byers presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Commers, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following agreements for the Anoka Station Ramp Project:

- Parking Ramp Lease between the Council and the City of Anoka.
- Anoka Commuter Rail Transit Village Parking Facility Project Master Cooperation, Funding and Delegation Agreement between the Council, Anoka County Regional Railroad Authority and the City of Anoka.

Motion passed.

After the vote on the item, Schreiber asked for an update on Northstar Wi-Fi, and also asked Byers to relate to the committee: the BNSF project in the Northtown Yard and how BNSF work will help the speeds of Northstar

INFORMATION

1. Transit Police Quarterly Update

Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington presented a quarterly update of the Metro Transit Police mission, goals, activities, staffing, crime statistics, etc. He stated that the next update will most likely be given before the Committee of the Whole or the full Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.