

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

August 12, 2019

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Reva Chamblis

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2019 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Zeran to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2019 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning/Finance Amy Vennewitz reported on behalf of Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson:

TAB Policy Workgroup:

Last meeting of the TAB Policy workgroup has occurred. Over the course of three months, the group developed recommendations on changes to the Regional Solicitation – specifically in categories of Roadway, Trail and Transit applications, equity scoring for all applications and creating a unique project category. Recommendations will be brought forward as an Information Item to TAB next week and to Transportation Committee on August 26th. For about a month after that, staff will be available to meet one-on-one with Council members who have questions. TAB will release the Regional Solicitation application for public comment in mid-September. At the end of the public comment period, any changes would be made, and an online application created in November but not released until February 2020. Cummings asked how the public comment period is solicited. Vennewitz responded that it is an official comment period, so will be 45 days long and there will be an opportunity for public comment in front of TAB along with online and by mail; at the end of the period, a report is created with comments received and responses to each of those.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

August 17 Service Changes

As Metro Transit presented to the Committee of the Whole back on July 17th, quarterly service changes go into effect this Saturday, August 17th. These changes include our usual adjustments as changes due to our ongoing operator shortage and include the change to Green Line service to create a maintenance window each weeknight. This change will allow for Green Line maintenance needs to be completed in a more efficiently and in a timelier manner and allowing more safety to our employees working on the track. Bus service will replace the train service with the same number of trips. As this will affect people, especially those

experiencing homelessness – Metro Transit has invested more resources into the Homeless Action Team (HAT), including partnering with Catholic Charities to expand their capacity. HAT will also be working with numerous service providers to be on train platforms during the service change to help connect people to services.

Electric Bus Chargers

Metro Transit staff continues to work with New Flyer and the charging equipment vendor to resolve temperature issues related to the 8 depot chargers. A prototype unit arrived August 5 and was installed for testing under close supervision by all interested parties. Initial testing has been promising and the work will be ongoing until we have a solution. The temporary charger delivered in July has remained in-service and has allowed us to deploy about two-thirds of our planned electric buses in regular operations on the C Line.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Sterner, seconded by Atlas-Ingebretson and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2019-211:** Onboard Technology Support - Contract Amendment with Vsis, Inc

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 16P036 with Vsis, Inc, for MTS on-board technology installation and maintenance, for an additional \$727,300. The new contract total will be \$2,128,000.

2. **2019-212:** 2019 Small Bus Procurement – Metro Mobility, Transit Link, Maple Grove, Fixed Route

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements, with North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 121155) for up to 20 replacement buses and 11 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,261,000.

3. **2019-223 SW:** 2020-2023 TIP Amendment: Hennepin County CSAH 81 Bridge Replacement

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add to the project scope and cost for Hennepin County's County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 81 bridge replacement project.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2019-180:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Systems Contract Award
Metro Transit Transit System Development Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item. Atlas-Ingebretson asked how we ensure our contractors are meeting our communication standards. Alexander responded that late last week our contractor LMJV distributed fliers regarding upcoming construction they would be performing and unfortunately the fliers had incorrect information and there were issues with delivery. Alexander continued that going forward, the SWLRT Project Office will review all communications and discuss the delivery prior to issuing to the community. Sterner stated that he's heard about disruption to bicyclists because of construction. Alexander stated that yes, there is disruption due to the construction work and the detours are required to get in/out of downtown Minneapolis, but that staff is continually working with local jurisdictions and gathering comments from trail users to refine detours as needed. Cummings asked if there is a consequence for not meeting DBE goals. Alexander said that the contractor is required to meet the DBE goal and the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) continuously reviews the contractor's progress to determine consistency with the DBE commitment. If it is determined by OEO that the contractor has not put forth good faith efforts to meet the commitment, the contractor may be subject to sanctions. Atlas-Ingebretson asked to see segregated data for the DBEs, which Alexander confirmed staff would bring that information back.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract 17P000 for Systems Construction for the Southwest LRT Project (SWLRT) to Aldridge Parsons, a Joint Venture, for \$194,411,000.00, contingent upon receipt of Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) from the Federal Transit Administration and approval of the LONP work from Hennepin County.

Motion carried.

2. **2019-179:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) First Amendment to the Hennepin County and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority Capital Grant Agreement for the LNTP Period

Metro Transit Joan Hollick presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Zeran:

the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the First Amendment to Hennepin County and Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) Capital Grant Agreement for the Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP) Period to add \$118.6 million for a total of \$553.5 million to fund for Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) LNTP Project activities and extend the grant through March 2020.

Motion carried.

3. **2019-183:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Operations and Maintenance Agreement for Southwest Station

Metro Transit Transit System Development Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Operations and Maintenance Agreement with SouthWest Transit (SWT) related to the SouthWest Station.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

4. **2019-186:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) TCWR Flagging Agreement

Metro Transit Transit System Development Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item. Cummings asked for clarification on the \$9.5 million and if it was in the budget. Alexander responded that the \$9.5 million is in the budget. Originally the contractor (LMJV) was responsible for flagging but due to safety concerns, it was decided that TCWR would take over those duties. Alexander continued that there is a \$3 million allowance in LMJV's contract for flagging and a portion of that has been expended. The \$9.5 million is in addition to any money spent of the LMJV work.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an agreement for flagging services related to the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project with Twin Cities and Western Railroad (TCWR) in the amount not to exceed \$9.5 million for the duration of project construction.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

5. **2019-201:** Metro Transit Police Department – Fleet Purchase

Metro Transit Police Department Lieutenant Steve Bakeberg and Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby presented this item. Cummings asked what happens to the vehicles once they reach useful life. Lt Bakeberg responded that the vehicle will be returned to the Non-Revenue Maintenance department and sold at a state auction. Sterner asked if MTPD has looked at using hybrids or electric cars, to which Lt Bakeberg stated one of the vehicles procured will be a hybrid which will serve as a pilot test. Responding to a question from Fredson regarding if the vehicles are America made, Lt Bakeberg stated yes, the vehicles will be Ford Explorers.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the purchase of 11 fleet vehicles, equipment and installation of equipment for an amount not to exceed \$880,000.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

6. **2019-205 JT:** 2019 Special Capital Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item, after Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities Project Manager Robert Rimstad provided background on the New Minneapolis bus garage. Zeran asked how big the future rooftop solar array will be and the timeframe for that to be completed. Rimstad answered that it is projected for 2 megawatts of solar and installation would happen at the very end of the project, 2022 or 2023. Ferguson wanted clarification regarding the capacity graph. Rimstad stated when we open the new garage, we don't anticipate being over capacity but that if Transit received all the funding to implement our Service Improvement plan, over-capacity might be seen. General Manager Wes Kooistra added that Metro Transit has facilities throughout the region, which are viewed over time to ensure we keep up with demand. Gonzalez asked if the 400+ living wage jobs are added right at opening. Rimstad clarified that the 400+ jobs would be a mixture of positions shifted from other garages, as well as new jobs when the expansion of the bus fleet incurs. Atlas-Ingebretson asked if there is a policy or philosophy in regard to green spaces. Rimstad stated that a few years ago there was a landscape program designed that helps guide some decision and that there will be green spaces, with native plantings on the new site. Chair Barber added that Metro Transit did a great job thinking about environmental concerns and sustainability efforts when created the MTPD building, and that the new garage is building into the whole campus design.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2019 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

7. **2019-220:** Master Contracts for Electric Technology Based Projects Design and Construction Support Services – Contract 19P038 Metro Transit TSD SWLRT

Metro Transit Senior Project Administrator Julie Brenny and Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby presented this item. Barber asked for a general explanation as to why we have master contracts. Brenny responded that within the Engineering & Facilities department, there could be 250 projects being worked on at one time. Brenny continued that a master contract is a little nimbler, allowing to keep project workflow moving and not be hung up on a single individual procurement.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute five master contracts 19P038 for five years, each valued at \$250,000 to the following firms:

HDR, Inc.

Alliant Engineering
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
AECOM Technical Services, Inc.

Motion carried.

8. 2019-222 SW: Operator Apprenticeship Grant Amendment

Metro Transit Deputy Director Operations-Bus Brian Funk presented this item. Zeran asked if the graduates receive certificates that are credentialed and if those are transferrable. Funk answered that planning for the program completion details is underway but that it is a registered apprenticeship program and graduates would receive a certificate. Funk continued that Metro Transit is on the leading edge of this and that operators might be the first one in a new organization with this certification but that the program works with a transitional learning model that will start to be seen across the country. Atlas-Ingebretson wanted to know what is being done about retention and how the current class compares to previous ones. Funk responded that Metro Transit is using this apprenticeship program to help new hires get comfortable in the position, in addition to having an enhanced probation period, on the job resources for all operators and using a Red Kite training. Funk stated there is a nice uptick in retention seen, not comparing exactly the same as there is a higher percentage of drivers without previous driving experiences. Cummings asked out of the 120 initial participants, how many are still in the program. Funk answered that out of the 120 a couple self-selected out, 20 or 25 did not complete training and about 15 left voluntary/involuntary. Chair Barber and Cummings commented on how great the program is.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant amendment METRO2018MAI with the State of Minnesota.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. 2020 Operating Budget

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Zeran asked why Wright County isn't a contributor for Northstar. Petrie responded that when the line was built, the funding percentage depended on the amount of trackage through the counties. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra also pointed out that it's the same situation with the taxing districts paying for our park & rides, even though people come from outside that district to use them. Chair Barber wanted to know how the modal allocations are distributed. Petrie answered that for MTPD resources, it is based upon the number of police that patrol the lines but with Grant department that resources funding is allocated based on ridership. Sterner asked for clarification on where the BRT lines and suburban opt out providers budget falls into. Petrie responded BRT lines fall under bus operations and Aagesen-Huebner stated that suburban providers all have their own budget but that some of that budget is monies passed through from the Council. Gonzalez asked if we continue to have Metro Mobility growth, will the state appropriates keep pace. Aagesen-Huebner responded that is a great question as the current appropriation is one-time money. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra added that the significance is that Metro Mobility has its own budget now and that puts pressure on the Legislature will have to look at it separate from Transit as it is federally mandated. Chair Barber added again that this is one-time funding and we want long term money for transit. Atlas-Ingebretson asked if staff looks at how we might better serve communicates where we have an increased number of people using Metro Mobility. Chair Barber responded that it is being look at and also even getting people to a place to use regular route service. Chair Barber continued that this is in the pilot stage and some of the studies should be wrapping up to see what worked and didn't work.

Chair Barber discussed next steps as it relates to the 2020 operating budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:26p.m.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary