

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, February 13, 2012

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair	Roxanne Smith Adam Duininck	Jon Commers Jennifer Munt
Members Absent	John Doan	James Brimeyer	Edward Reynoso
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	Robert Lilligren		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on February 13, 2012 at Metropolitan Council Chambers St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Smith, seconded by Schreiber to adopt the agenda for the February 13, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Duininck, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

MVST Update

Receipts in January were 108% of the projected amount, based on November 2012 state forecast and historical collections. Actual receipts for the first seven months of SFY 2012 are at 104% of projected.

Rail-Volution

Metro Council is joining Rail-Volution. The annual conference focuses on transit and land use, and is usually held in October. There is interest in this region hosting the conference in 2014. A preliminary application is expected to be submitted in April for the Rail-Volution Steering Committee. 2014 would a fitting time to host the conference, as CCLRT and the Union Depot should be complete.

Surface Transportation Legislation

This week the House and Senate continued work on their respective versions of surface transportation authorization bill. The current extension of SAFETEA-LU expires on March 31. The underlying House and Senate surface transportation authorization bills share many similarities, including annual authorized funding of \$10.5 billion for the federal transit programs. The differences in the two bills include the length of years for which the bill authorizes highway and transit programs, with the House bill authorizing programs for 5 years and the Senate bill authorizing programs for 2 years. The most striking difference, however, is the treatment of public transportation programs. The Senate bill would continue financing public transportation programs through dedicated revenues, while the House bill would eliminate the Mass Transit Account altogether and provide a one-time appropriation leaving public transportation without dedicated revenues for the first time in thirty years. The Senate is to begin consideration of amendments to the surface transportation authorization bill, which will continue at least through the balance of next week.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit, reported the following:

Strong Ridership for 2012

2012 ridership is off to a strong start. In January, customers rode Metro Transit buses and trains 191,000 more times than they did in January 2011. Hiawatha led the charge with 11% higher ridership than last January; Northstar's up 1.6%; bus ridership is up 111,000 rides or 2%.

Black History Month at Metro Transit

Metro Transit will celebrate Black History Month on Friday, February 24th, in the Heywood Garage Drivers' Room. We are inviting you all to the event, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with our popular soul food buffet being served. Keynote speaker will be Bernadeia Johnson, superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools. In that role, she is responsible for overseeing the district's business functions and academic achievement for all students.

This year's event has the theme "Education: Invest in Your Future." The program portion of the event starts at 11:45 a.m. with my welcome address, and Transit Supervisor Demetairs Bell will be emcee.

Featured entertainment will include Sojourner Truth Academy Choir, WISE Charter School Dance Team and vocalist Cameron Wright.

Electrical Outlets Added to Northstar Wheelchair Areas

The Commuter Rail division reports that six Northstar passenger cars have been outfitted with new electrical outlets in the lower level seating areas designated for persons in wheelchairs and with disabilities. Outlets are used by customers for powering laptops and other devices and were added at the request of the Met Council's Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee. Two outlets will be added to each of the remaining twelve additional passenger cabs.

Nextrip Data now Available for Web Developers

NexTrip is Metro Transit's system for delivering real-time predicted bus and train departures via phone, web and signs and monitors. Recently, the data behind NexTrip has been made available to the general public. Now, independent developers can create custom apps for mobile devices and other applications using this popular transit data. NexTrip predicted departures are the most recent addition of many data sources available to developers - stop locations, routes, schedules and many other resources are also available at online websites. The web site is maintained by MetroGIS, a collaborative organization representing the Met Council and over 250 local governments and organizations established to foster sharing of geospatial data in the seven-county metro area.

Five Metro Transit Employees Complete Year-Long Certification Program

Our Project Management Development Program had a graduation last Friday with five of our Transit employees, plus eight from other Met Council agencies. We are pleased that our five high potential employees took their time to complete this comprehensive project management core competency skill training with practical application experience and certification opportunity. It provides them with knowledge, tools and techniques to successfully lead and manage projects on time and within budget.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

A motion was by Duininck, seconded by Commers to approve items 2012-40, 2012-41, 2012-44, 2012-45, and 2012-46 as consent items. Motion passed.

2012-40: That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to execute a joint powers agreement and subsequent amendments to it with the State of Minnesota through its Commissioner of Transportation to allow the Council to transport Transit Link customers to destinations in Minnesota outside the metropolitan area as defined by Minn. Stat. § 473.121.

2012-41: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source agreement with Verint Systems Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 for the purchase of up to 200 camera systems for Metro Mobility and MTS fixed route vehicles.

2012-44: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) #18 in an amount not to exceed \$725,000 under the existing Master Funding Agreement to reimburse the City of Minneapolis for construction inspection related services in 2012 for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Project.

2012-45: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) #01.2 in an amount not to exceed \$481,000 under the existing Master Funding Agreement to reimburse the City of St. Paul for construction inspection related services in 2012 for the Central Corridor LRT Project.

2012-46: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) #5 in an amount not to exceed \$1.95 million under the existing Master Funding Agreement to reimburse the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of St. Paul for inspection and water facility work in 2012 for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Project.

Non-Consent Items

2012-54: Adoption of Regional Transitway Guidelines

MTS Senior Planner Cole Hiniker presented this item and Councilmember Wendy Wulff was present to answer questions, if needed. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the *Regional Transitway Guidelines* dated February 2012 and available here: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/transportation/transitways/RegionalTransitwayGuidelines.pdf>

Motion passed.

2012-56: Acquire Property for the 140th and 147th Street Stations – Cedar Avenue BRT Project

Associate General Counsel Peter Hanf presented this item. He responded to Schreiber's request for clarification on type and number of easements. There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to acquire permanent and temporary easements necessary for the construction of the 140th and 147th Street Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Stations by direct negotiation or by condemnation in accordance with the attached resolution.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-48: Sustainability Policy for Internal Operations and Maintenance

Metro Transit Asst. Dir. Engineering Pat Jones and MCES Finance Director Jason Willett presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Munt:

The Metropolitan Council (Council) approves the attached Sustainability Policy for Internal Operations and Maintenance.

Motion passed.

2012-30: Construction of the Maplewood Mall Park & Ride, Project 62911

Metro Transit Project Manager Lindsay Sheppard presented this item. Commers asked for clarification on agreed-upon DBE goals, and Duinick asked how this facility is funded; both questions were answered by Sheppard.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Sheehy Construction Company, for the construction of the Maplewood Mall Transit Center Parking Structure in Maplewood, MN, at a cost of \$11,152,300.

Motion passed.

2012-47: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Amendment to the subordinate Funding Agreement with the University of Minnesota for Amundson Hall
Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Amendment to Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) #9 in an amount not to exceed \$76,000 for a total amended agreement value in an amount not to exceed \$477,000 to reimburse the University of Minnesota for construction of a wall adjacent to Amundson Hall for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Project.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-43: 2012 Unified Capital Program Amendments

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie, and Metropolitan Transportation Services Principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented their respective division's Capital Program Amendments. Maurice Roers answered a question from Duininck regarding the timing of Park-and-Ride facility construction.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2012 Authorized Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:

Metro Transit Carry Forward	\$ 116,742,372
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 0
- Amend the 2012 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows:

Metro Transit-	\$ 30,012,000
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 1,652,500
- Amend the 2012 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 30,012,000
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 1,652,500
- Approve the carry forward to capital projects as detailed in Attachment 1.
- Approve the changes to capital projects as detailed in Attachment 2.

Motion passed.

2012-50: Authorization to Contract for Design and Construction Support Services for the Overhaul Base Paint Booth and Renovations

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Jim Harwood, and Asst. Dir. Facilities Engineering presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a professional services contract for architectural and engineering design and construction support services for renovations and a paint booth expansion to the Overhaul Base Facility located at 515 N. Cleveland Avenue, St. Paul with Wendel Duchscherer Architects & Engineers, PC (Wendel) at a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$649,967.07.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-55: Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (Green Line Extension): Cooperative Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperation Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-12: Adopt 2012 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Committee Chair Elkins stated that the Council Chair and Regional Administrator have requested that any fare study that is performed will be to evaluate efficiencies in the fare system and not for a fare increase. Commers encouraged the committee to be looking forward to the next top priority on the list. Commers asked about the timeline for the Regional Solicitation. Arlene McCarthy and TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren explained that the TAB is proceeding with project ranking and scoring but will not award specific amounts until available funding is known. McCarthy added that the current structure of funding categories will also change with the new transportation bill. Elkins mentioned that the Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis and the MAC have mentioned that they may request a review of the taxi structure.

Motion by Duininck, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee adopt the attached 2012 Transportation Committee Work Plan dated January 31, 2012.

Motion passed. This item is a Transportation Committee item only, and does not proceed to the full Council.

INFORMATION

1. MnDOT Guideway Status Report

MTS Deputy Director Finance & Planning Amy Vennewitz introduced Bryan Dodds and Lance Brimhall from MnDOT to present this item. The report is available on line – address noted on the meeting agenda.

Schreiber asked if the legislature has seen this presentation. MnDOT sent electronically to committee chairs, but no presentation has been given to the legislature.

2. American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Coach Bus Life Peer Review Report

MTS Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services Gerri Sutton presented this item. The report supports 14-year life for Coach Buses. Any action or change to the fleet policy can be done by the Regional Administrator; no action is required by the full Council. Committee Chair Elkins asked if there has been reaction to the report from the suburban providers. McCarthy stated that the report was sent to providers in early January, with comments requested by the end of January; no comments have been received.

3. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Lessons Learned Summary

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item.

He stated that post 2011 construction season meetings were held with staff, contractors, U of M, Business Resources Collaborative, PAC, etc. to discuss changes/improvements and lessons learned. Three main topics are identified today: vehicle traffic and access; pedestrian access; and outreach.

Vehicle Traffic and Access

Most of the issues were on side streets with the intersection with University Ave., trying to keep access open at all times during construction. Closing the intersection at the cross streets could shorten the duration of the impact to the intersection. This will require good signage and detour maps to give to the businesses. In some cases the work zones were left idle after the pavement was removed due to the lack of workers available. More workers have been added and the contractor is aware that the 2012 construction season will be busier. Construction vehicles were sometimes parked on private property or not where they were designated to be. Staff will monitor more in the upcoming season. Signage – needs to be monitored daily. Amount of signs needs to be cleaned up, too many signs are confusing.

Pedestrian Access

Temporary bus stops were improved with ramps and protective railings, traffic barriers, and trash cans. Platforms and railings can be used in the 2012 construction season. More concentration will be given to ADA accessible entrances to buildings. Some work in congested areas can be performed at night when the businesses are closed, when not able to perform work and provide adequate access during the day. Signage – needs to be monitored daily and be less confusing. ADA field checks are needed, especially at challenging pedestrian crossings.

Outreach

The 24-hour hotline number will be the same. Over 100 signs bearing this number have been posted throughout the corridor. Weekly construction updates have improved from just text to text with maps, activities, community/business events, directions for accesses. Staff will be working with the businesses on access plans prior to the 2012 construction season. New signs - "Open for Business" - are appreciated by the businesses. CCPO is hiring a staff person for both outreach and construction inspection.

Fuhrmann stated that Walsh Construction has also hired an Outreach Liaison that will work closely with CCLRT Outreach personnel.

4. 2011 Annual Park-and-Ride Survey

Metro Transit Manager of Facilities Planning Maurice Roers presented this item. Metro Transit intern Tom Olson and MTS Senior Planner Elaine Koutsoukos also provided input into this survey. The presentation focused on the results of the annual survey which showed park-and-ride usage throughout the region had increased by 5.6% in 2011. There are approximately 18,000 daily users of the park-and-ride network which accounts for 13% of regional transit use. Metro Transit and other regional providers use the results of the annual survey to plan for and adjust service at park-and-ride facilities.

5. Neighborhood Direct Mail Program

Metro Transit Customer Services & Marketing Manager John Siqveland presented this item.

He reported on the success of partnering with specific neighborhood(s) and concentrating direct mail marketing in those neighborhoods. Commers commented that this is a great communication opportunity and successful story to share with others.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:10 p.m. February 13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary