

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

April 13, 2015

Committee Members Present: Chair Lona Schreiber Jennifer Munt, Steve Elkins, Edward Reynoso, Katie Rodriguez, Marie McCarthy, Cara Letofsky, Gail Dorfman, Deb Barber. Jon Commers

Committee Members Absent: None

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2015 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Rodriguez reported that the TAB did not meet between March 23 and today, there is no report from TAB.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER AND DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORTS

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. Obama Administration re-release of GROW America Bill Text

The 2015 proposal converts the existing Highway Trust Fund into a new Transportation Trust Fund and transfers \$238.4 billion from the general fund to the new trust fund. The cost of this transfer would be offset by a repatriation tax on foreign income of U.S. corporations. Under this proposal, Minnesota would receive:

- \$773 million in highway formula apportionment, a 22% increase over the projected FY 2016 funding level of \$635 million.
- \$154 million in transit formula apportionment, a 54% increase over the projected FY 2016 funding level of \$100 million.

With the budget total set, 2016 appropriations process can now begin. The two FY 2016 budget blueprints passed by the House and Senate share the base amount of total appropriations so hopefully the two chambers can agree on a total budget. Then the House Appropriations Committee can start to divide that total into the twelve appropriations subcommittees and start to develop the 2016 appropriations bills.

The Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) FY 2016 appropriation total appears to be the same as FY 2015. That means that unless a new surface transportation reauthorization bill is passed before an appropriations bill is passed, the THUD funding level for HTF programs will be the same as 2015 levels. Additional money still needs to be found to bailout the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) this summer.

2. Metro Mobility On-Time Performance

Metro Mobility reports exceptional on-time performance in March from their two providers – their highest ridership month ever.

- Transit Team provided 76,909 passenger trips and an on-time performance of 96.08%
- First Transit provided 62,556 passenger trips and an on-time performance of 98.14%

3. EPA Conformity Interagency Agreement Complete

In March, the Environmental Protection Agency signed and approved the interagency agreement on determination of transportation air quality conformity. This document, called the Transportation Conformity State Implementation Plan, addresses federal requirements under the Clean Air Act to develop binding procedures for determining conformity of transportation plans and programs such as the TPP and TIP to state and federal air quality goals. The Council approved and signed this agreement last summer, along with MnDOT, MPCA, FHWA, FTA, and the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council. The agreement is the culmination of nine years of negotiations between the agencies on how best to codify existing practice.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Minnesota Twins

The Target Field Plaza is busy once again with the Twins season. Last year, Metro Transit provided 564,000 rides to Twins games. Many partnerships are proposed for this year: College discount for Wednesday game tickets & transit ride; “selfie” contest – take a pic.-have your pic. flashed on the game screen and ride free on Fridays, and more.

2. Northstar Big Lake Open House

There will be a Northstar Community Open House held on Saturday 4/25/15 9:00-2:00 at the Metro Transit Operating & Maintenance Facility in Big Lake. Tours of the facilities will be provided, along with a free ride from Big Lake to Target Field Station and back (leaving at 10:00 am).

3. Metro Transit Police Awards

Two Metro Transit Police Officers, Daniel Wallace and Matthew Wilkinson, were presented awards for Officer of the Year for their work as beat officers in downtown St. Paul and their work on preparing for the Green Line opener, and expanding officer training and developing partnerships with area homeless agencies.

4. Commuter Choice Awards

Commuter Choice Awards were held at the Union Depot last week. Among the recipients were: Barr Engineering, City of St. Paul, Base Management Co. See the full list of nominees and award winners at metrotransit.org.

5. Green Line recognized

The Green Line was recognized and given an award at Progress Minnesota, presented by Finance and Commerce Newspaper.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt and passed to approve the following consent items.

1. 2015-69: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: Project cost adjustment for Roundabout on CSAH 18 at CR 62 in Columbus

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include an increase in cost for construction of a roundabout on CSAH 18 at CR 62 in Columbus.

2. 2015-70: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: New project to install Bike Lane Pavement Markings in Minneapolis

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to install bike lane pavement markings on Emerson Ave N, 2nd St S, 15th Ave SE, and Como Ave SE.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2015-68: Metro Mobility Demand Service Contracts

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy informed the committee that a formal protest had been filed by one of the unsuccessful proposers. A. McCarthy indicated that after careful initial consideration, staff remain confident in recommending the proposed action. Consistent with the protest procedures in the Request for Proposals (RFP), she will respond to the protest prior to the Council taking action on April 22. The protesting proposer declined an invitation to address the Transportation Committee.

Andrew Krueger, Senior Manager for Metro Mobility presented the item. Jody Jacoby, Manager of Contract and Procurement was available for any procurement-related questions. Krueger noted that six proposals were received, not nine as listed in the business item. This correction will be made for the April 22 Council meeting agenda item.

Barber asked if Anoka and Scott County would no longer be providing ADA Service once this plan was implemented and how they felt about it. Krueger indicated that those counties will no longer be providing service once the plan is implemented. He further stated that although both agencies would prefer to retain the service, they understood why the changes were being made.

Munt asked if the transition would be seamless for Metro Mobility Customers. Krueger indicated that staff were working to ensure that all customers who will have a change in service contractors will be receiving multiple communications from the Council. Efforts are being made to make the transition as seamless as possible. There was no further discussion or question.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Transit Team for Metro Mobility Demand Service in the Metro West Zone from August 30, 2015 to June 30, 2020 with an option for one additional year in an amount not to exceed \$179,265,707.

Motion passed with Reynoso recusing himself from the vote.

2. 2015-62: Approve the Metro Transit Service Improvement Plan

Metro Transit Manager Route Planning Cyndi Harper and Transit Planner Kyle Burrows presented this item.

Rodriguez asked if the total capital costs of the SIP were available. Harper said that they are not specifically calculated, but noted that the SIP report lists separate items (garage, staff, etc.). Dorfman asked Harper to speak to connectivity/and equity to living wage jobs, and Harper explained that measures were used to evaluate: productivity, system connectivity-connections between routes (transfers, access to key destinations & educational institutions), social equity (need to serve those most reliant on transit), and skill sets matching jobs jobs that may be in suburbs. She said that they looked at jobs paying less than \$40 K/yr.

Lamb commented that this report is defining needs and what we want to accomplish and the key is how to make it work in an annual plan. Letofsky asked how the suburban providers will plan to feed into Metro Transit's SIP, and Harper answered that the regional providers are working on their plans; it is up to each service provider to decide how they will provide service and the level of public involvement.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council approves the Metro Transit Service Improvement Plan (SIP).

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

3. 2015-71: Blue Line Extension LRT Project – Master Funding Agreement with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Metro Transit Deputy Project Director Blue Line Extension Project MarySue Abel presented this item.

Munt asked if there will be a comparable agreement with Three Rivers Park Board, and Abel responded that at this time this is the only agreement in place; we are working closely with Three Rivers, Three Rivers has not requested funding at this time.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) for the proposed Blue Line Extension LRT Project (BLRT).

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

4. 2015-75: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Authorization to Award Integrated Public Art Contracts

Metro Transit SWLRT Dir. Design & Engineering Jim Alexander presented this item.

Schreiber reminded the committee that State and Federal law require that art be included in transit investment projects. Dorfman asked if there are opportunities to highlight local artists (students) with "changeable" displays and Alexander explained that the concern is with longevity of the art at the stations to withstand time which makes it difficult to have interchangeability, but can continue to discuss system wide programs with project partners as we move through design.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute seven professional services contracts with the following artists for Integrated Public Art for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) project for a total amount not to exceed \$4.5 million:

- Shin Gray Studio to design, fabricate and install public art at the Downtown Hopkins, Beltline and West Lake Stations, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000
- Craig David LLC to design, fabricate and install public art at the Mitchell, SouthWest and City West Stations, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000
- Seitu Ken Jones to design, fabricate and install public art at the Town Center, Blake and Van White Stations, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000
- Foster Willey Sculptor LLC to design, fabricate and install public art at the Wooddale, 21st Street and Penn Stations, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000
- Volkan Alkanoglu to design, fabricate and install public art Operations and Maintenance Facility, Shady Oak and Louisiana Stations, in an amount not to exceed \$750,000

- Martin & Pitz Associates Inc. to design, fabricate and install public art at the Golden Triangle and Opus Stations, in an amount not to exceed \$500,000
- Gita Patina LLC to design, fabricate and install public art at the Royalston Station, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

5. 2015-76: Authorization to Enter into a Construction and Transit Operations and Maintenance Interface Agreement with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and the Minnesota Vikings Metro Transit Project Manager Engineering & Construction Jim Harwood presented this item.

In response to Dorfman, Harwood said that there has been no position taken as yet by Minneapolis regarding game day street closures. Schreiber asked what the term is for the \$300,000 annual promotional support from Vikings and MSFA and Harwood and Lamb stated that there is no term set, it is considered to be the life of the agreement, either party can cancel, the operating plans will be looked at annually. Discussed projected number of events planned at the stadium – Lamb said SFA is planning 300 events/year. Commers suggested exploring public art for the bridge; Harwood said opportunities to include art have been discussed with SFA, but are not in the initial budget. The architecture includes design, but not a separate art budget.

Munt stated that this project is much needed but she will vote against the item because she cannot justify spending \$6M of money much needed for other projects, for a project that primarily benefits the Vikings – and she thinks the Vikings should be paying for this. Reynoso agreed with Munt and questioned why this was not in the entire funding package for the stadium; the need for transit infrastructure should have been no surprise to the Vikings. Harwood did not have the answer why this was not included in the legislation, but stated that the Vikings have invested \$17M to the plaza for transit purposes.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a Construction and Transit Operations and Maintenance Interface Agreement with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and the Minnesota Vikings related to the Downtown East Light Rail Station area, surrounding block and proposed pedestrian bridge.

Motion passed (6 yes, 4 no).

6. 2015-77: Interagency Agreement with MnDOT to fund A-Line Bus Rapid Transit construction Metro Transit Senior Manager Transitway Development Charles Carlson presented this item.

Charles Carlson presented. Commers commented for the benefit of committee members that the agreement will include discussion about how we partner effectively with MnDOT in terms of the impact of the project on the rest of Metro Transit's operations and making sure that interruptions of the existing bus routes will be managed and coordinated. Rodriguez asked about when this will be open/start date and Carlson responded the focus is on getting the project into construction. Once a contractor is on board the actual start date can be evaluated. The date could be the very end of 2015, but more likely early 2016 to be operational.

Motion by M. McCarthy, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Interagency Agreement 14I075 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for funding construction of A Line bus rapid Transit (BRT).

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

7. 2015-65: Authorization to Amend the 2015 Unified Budget: First Quarter Amendment Metro Transit Director Finance Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented their respective division's budget amendments. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2015 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the Capital – Attachment #1 (Program Level), *attached to the business item*.

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2015 Unified Budget – Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with the Operating – Attachment #2, *attached to the business item*.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Highway 169 Managed Lane Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Cole Hiniker introduced Shawn Walding-MnDOT who presented this item. Consultant proposals to the RFP are expected the end of this month.

Walding presented on the background, objectives, studies and plans that are being used as sources for input to this study, other groups involved in the study and key partners and stakeholders, and schedule. Barber urged MnDOT to reach out to businesses and look at reverse commutes. Schreiber noted that Scott County Commissioner Jon Ulrich had intended to address the committee to speak in support of the study, but was not able to be present.

2. Travel Behavior Over Time: Accessibility and Time Allocation and Transit Use

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Technical Planning Support Mark Filipi introduced David Levinson and Yingling Fan-U of M who presented this item.

3. Metro Mobility Safety Net Program Change

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger presented this item.

4. Electric Bus Demo

Metro Transit Maintenance Director Rob Milleson and Public Relations Manager Howie Padilla presented this item. Elkins asked if Metro Transit is looking at Compressed Natural Gas buses. Lamb responded that indoor fueling of CNG buses requires expensive retrofits to garages (example: explosion-proof walls) and at this time Metro Transit is looking at a family of buses to fit the needs. Padilla noted the schedule of demonstrations to elected officials and stakeholders. Commers asked that Metro Transit staff keep the council members informed as to who responds and the nature of their opinion of the Electric Bus demonstration.

5. Customer Satisfaction Survey Results

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.