

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Monday, January 27, 2014

Committee Members Present:

Adam Duininck, Chair
Jennifer Munt
Marie McCarthy

Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair
Steve Elkins
Jon Commers

Katie Rodriguez
James Brimeyer

Committee Members Absent:

Edward Reynoso

Committee Members Excused:

None

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. on Monday, January 27, 2014.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

TAB LIASON REPORT

Chair Duininck reported for the TAB. The TAB Executive Committee is scheduled to meet 1/30 prior to the Regional Solicitation Evaluation Study Steering Committee. The TAB Executive Committee members will be appointed at this meeting.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER AND METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported the following:

Many places are closed today, but the buses and trains are running. Rail lines are not typically affected by weather, but Metro Transit did have challenges with the extreme conditions this morning. Service for some customers was disrupted both on the Blue Line and Northstar due to effects from this historic cold. Support buses were deployed to get our customers to their destinations as quickly as possible. Although this is an inconvenience and we regret the delays, not all regions have the ability to support busy rail corridors with bus service when something unexpected occurs. Having both rail and bus operations in the same organization, we provide day-to-day rail service in the most heavily-travelled corridors, but also have the ability to overcome scheduled and unscheduled disruptions with support buses. During this prolonged cold snap, demand has grown for rescue buses, too. So far in 2014, Metro Transit has provided buses for shelter and warmth for displaced victims and first responders to about 20 fires, gas leaks and other hazardous situations throughout the metro. In 2013, we dispatched buses to 70 events in total.

Ridership Nearly 81.4 Million in 2013

Metro Transit ridership grew for the fourth consecutive year in 2013. Customers boarded Metro Transit buses and trains nearly 81.4 million times last year, an increase of more than 300,000 rides over 2012. The Northstar Commuter Rail line had an especially strong year, with ridership up more than 12 percent thanks to a fare adjustment and a new station in Ramsey. Urban local bus service also grew significantly and



METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL

express ridership was up as well. METRO Blue Line ridership was down more than 3 percent compared to last year's record 10.5 million rides. This is mostly due to construction and maintenance projects that disrupted weekend service, but this short-term work will provide long-term improvements for comfort and connectivity on the METRO system.

Metro Green Line launch date has been set and Metro Transit is excited to provide rides and get people used to taking transit.

A Line Open House

Our BRT/Small Starts office hosted an open house in Roseville last week about the A Line. This is the Snelling Ave BRT service planned between Rosedale and the 46th Street Station on the METRO Blue Line. The open house was well-attended with about 30 attendees. They had good questions and there was an increasing level of excitement about plans for the region's first arterial BRT Line. Governor Dayton included \$10 million for the A Line in his bonding proposal. The requested bonds would fill the project's remaining funding gap and leverage \$15 million of other secured funds. We anticipate that the new station construction, corridor technology, and BRT vehicles will create more than 320 jobs. With this funding, we will remain on track to open the line in late 2015.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning & Finance did not have anything to report at this meeting.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Brian Lamb introduced the following people who presented the employee recognitions to their staff members:

Transportation Manager Jeff Wostrel presented to Operator Darin Pavek for exemplar customer service.

Metro Transit Supervisor Creative Service Sharon Feiner presented to Leah Janz for outstanding graphic design accomplishments.

Metro Transit Director Bus Transportation Christy Bailly presented to three staff: Asst. Dir. Bus Operations Steve McLaird, Asst. Manager Training Dan Stoffer, Instructor Denny Johnson – all for their work in the training and operating instruction area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2014 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Schreiber, to approve the following consent items.

Motion carried.

2014-29: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for Section 5307 Funding for Target Field Station/Interchange Construction in Minneapolis

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Target Field Station (Interchange) project for construction in 2014 using \$10,000,000 in federal Section 5307 funds and \$2,500,000 in local funds from Hennepin County for a total of \$12,500,000.

2014-30: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for Western Avenue Streetscaping in Saint Paul

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) modifying the project budget for Western Avenue Streetscaping in Saint Paul by increasing the local amount by \$825,000 to a new local

total of \$1,210,000 and a project total of \$2,250,000. The project number will also be corrected to SO# 164-2140016.

Non-Consent Items

2014-2: Authorization to Execute Contract No. 13P183, Procurement of 83 60-ft. Articulated Transit Buses

Metro Transit Asst. Dir. Bus Maintenance Chuck Wurzinger presented this item and answered a question from Elkins that, yes, these buses are replacing New Flyers and that they are similar but new models with improved elements (quieter, dashboard changes, driver ergonomics).

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract No. 13P183 with New Flyer of America for the Purchase of 83 replacement sixty-foot articulated transit buses. This contract will include provisions for 88 option buses as well. The award is contingent on satisfactory results from the Pre-Award Buy America Audit.

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

2014-13: Approve Title VI Service and Facility Standards Monitoring Study

Metro Transit Manager Route Planning Cyndi Harper presented this item and answered questions from CM Duininck about what information was used for the data to determine minority & low income areas. It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Commers, that the Metropolitan Council approve the results of the 2012 Title VI Service and Facility Standards Monitoring Study. **Motion carried.** Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2014-17: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Additional Change Order Authority for the Systems Contract

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. Brimeyer asked if the FTA required level of contingency reserved for this project is typical. Fuhrmann responded that it is typical to hold this level of contingency. The percentage typically starts at 30% during the preliminary design phase, but the FTA targets a 20% contingency at the start of final design. The Central Corridor project started final design with \$155MM, or 19.6% contingency.

Elkins commented that the contingency balance indicates we are well below budget and it doesn't appear we will need the entire budget. Fuhrmann responded that to date we have committed \$117.4MM of the \$155MM contingency available, but there are still remaining requirements that will use much of the available remaining contingency. For example, there are 20 right of way parcels that remain open and the cost to finalize these parcels is a big variable.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council authorize an additional 2.5% (\$2,196,259) above the currently authorized construction contract change order authority of \$6,149,525 to a revised change order authority of \$8,345,784 for the Central Corridor (Green Line) Systems Contract. **Motion carried.** Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2014-28: Adoption of an amendment to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan adding MnDOT Corridors of Commerce projects and funding for public comment.

MTS Planning Analyst Mary Karlsson and MnDOT Metro District Engineer Scott McBride presented this item. McBride described the Corridors of Commerce program and the three Metro district projects selected for the program: completion of TH610, I-694 dynamic shoulder lanes from Lexington to Rice avenues in Shoreview and the I-94 auxiliary lane from TH 101 in Rogers to TH 242 in Wright County. McBride reported that the local Federal Highway Administration office has stated that the I-694 lanes should be full general purpose lanes, not dynamic shoulder lanes, because the I-694 project includes full pavement reconstruction. McBride noted this design change would add \$15M to the \$42M project and set a controversial precedent potentially affecting the \$70M I-494 dynamic shoulder lane project in Plymouth, which members noted would require an additional \$25 million if converted to general

purpose lanes. MnDOT is in discussions with FHWA on the I-694 design. Members expressed concern about potential changes to the design and cost of the dynamic shoulder lanes on I-694 between Lexington Avenue and Rice Street.

Members expressed a desire that the Corridors of Commerce selection criteria consider consistency with the Transportation Policy Plan in any future programs. Members emphasized the importance of preserving opportunity for future MnPASS lanes, that the I-94 and I-694 projects should not preclude MnPass in any way, and that MnDOT should begin working with local communities to assure their support of MnPass should these corridors advance through the I-494/94 MnPass study. Members emphasized that the I-94 project is a priority for Greater Minnesota and will be paid for through Greater Minnesota's share of the Corridors of Commerce funding. Members also noted that the TAB passed the recommendation even though support was not unanimous.

Commers suggested a wording change in the first bullet of the action to use the word "release" instead of "adopt". MTS Dep. Dir. Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz explained that the item is being adopted for the purpose of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment and that once the public comments have been received, the item will come back for approval with final language based on the comments received.

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins, that, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council:

Adopt the proposed amendment (attached) to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan which adds funding received through the Corridors of Commerce program for Trunk Highway 610, the improvements and funding to Interstate 694 in Shoreview, and the improvements and funding to Interstate 94 between Rogers and St. Michael, and

Authorize a public comment period from February 17 through April 4, 2014, including a public hearing on the proposed amendment to be held on March 24, 2014 at 5 pm.

Motion carried with Munt voting against.

2014-31: Adopt METRO Red Line Cedar Grove Station Access Improvement Concept G and support recommendation of the Trunk Highway (TH) 77 managed lane option

MTS Manager Technical Planning Support Mark Filipi and Metro Transit Asst. Dir. Facilities Engineering Pat Jones presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council adopt the METRO Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station Access Improvement Concept G and support recommendation of the Trunk Highway 77 (TH 77) managed lane option. **Motion carried.** Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2014-32: Approval of Permanent Change to Premium Same Day Taxi Service

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Munt, that the Metropolitan Council approve the following permanent changes to the Premium Same Day (PSD) Ride program:

1. Expand the scope of the PSD contract to include all same-day trip requests between 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and
2. Reduce the customer's share of the initial cost of the PSD service from \$7 to \$5 and increase the Council's maximum payment per trip from \$13 to \$15. The customer continues to pay for costs in excess of \$20 per trip. **Motion carried.** Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

INFORMATION

1. Red Rock Corridor Alternatives Analysis

Washington County Commissioner Autumn Lehrke and Washington County representative Lyssa Leitner presented this item.

2. Good Neighbor Community Outreach Program

Metro Transit Community Outreach Coordinator Jill Hentjes and Metro Transit Planner Julie Quinn presented this item.

3. 2014-33: 2014 Transportation Committee Work Plan

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb and MTS Dep. Dir. Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz presented this item and welcomed comments/additions from committee members. Elkins suggested adding regular updates on the TPP and Regional Solicitation Evaluation projects. Lamb said the two attachments will be merged prior to coming to the TC as an action on 2/10.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.