

## **Minutes of the**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

July 22, 2019

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

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

**Committee Members Absent: Francisco Gonzalez**

**TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:01p.m. on Monday, July 22, 2019 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2019 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### **Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:**

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced the following, who presented recognition awards:

Metro Transit Street Operations Manager Antoinette Brasson who presented to Metro Transit Street Supervisors Daniel Craig and Brian Hanson.

#### **TAB LIAISON REPORT**

Peter Dugan reported the following information from the July 17, 2019 TAB meeting:

TAB approved two TIP amendments, one for MnDOT TH 21 Reconstruct which is on the Transportation consent agenda and one for a project that includes a scope change (the local additional costs is absorbed locally) which will be coming to the next Transportation meeting. TAB heard a presentation on the Regional Bicycle Barrier Study which looks at what the regionally barriers to the continuity of the regional and local bicycle networks are. A report of Session 4 of the Regional Solicitation Policy Work Group was given.

Agency Reports:

MnDOT – I-494 engagement with public is ongoing.

MPCA – As part of the VM Settlement - the truck/bus grants, received 40 applications worth \$7M but only \$3.7M is available to be distributed. Next grant to open for applications will be for heavy duty electric and clean diesel off-road vehicles.

MAC – Summer 2020, April to November there will be reconstruction of Highway 5.

#### **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Regional Solicitation Working Group

This is a subgroup of TAB and Council members that are working on changes for the next Regional Solicitation. Final recommendation will be complete on August 5<sup>th</sup> and will be heard at TAB as an information item in August and then voted on by TAB in September.

Fifth session focused on creating a new category for Innovation. It was recommended to create this category, and have it account for 2.5% of available funds for projects starting two years from now. There was also a continued discussion around Equity to ensure it has more influence on category scoring. Staff presented a proposal that included increasing scoring and training for applicants to help them focus on getting input prior to applying. No conclusion was made on this proposal but staff will share with Council members so they can review.

### TIP

TIP is out for public comment. The information event last weekend was cancelled due to weather. When the public comment period closes, staff will provide a briefing of comments received as part of the approval of the TIP in September.

Atlas-Ingebretson and Chamblis asked if public input events notifications can be shared with Council members allowing them to share on social media and other platforms, allowing the public and agencies to be aware of how they can be engaged in the process.

### Metro Mobility RFP

There is currently an RFP out for Metro Mobility Premium on demand services. This was the number one recommendation that came from the Metro Mobility Task Force. These new services would allow adding things like same-day service.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

### Electric Bus Update

As shared last week, all eight of the electric buses have been temporarily removed from revenue service. This step was taken out of an abundance of caution. C Line service has not been impacted and will not be impacted and are prepared for this scenario by using a blend of electric and diesel. A temporary charger arrived today and could be in use later this week, allowing us to reintroduce electric buses on a limited scale. Permanent charger components are being returned to the manufacturer this week for analysis and testing. Additional updates will be shared as we learn more.

Atlas-Ingebretson asked if Metro Transit can recoup additional costs. Kooistra answered that the contract doesn't allow for that but there was an expectation there would be some problems with new technology at some point in the pilot and that there hasn't been large additional expenses. Kooistra emphasized Metro Transit commitment to electric buses.

### Minneapolis Bus Lanes

Working with the City of Minneapolis bus lanes will be added during peak periods to portions of Hennepin, Chicago and Nicollet avenues this fall. Staff will be talking with customers about this at the Uptown Transit Station from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30, and will continue to work with the city to make sure business owners are well aware of what's happening. The bus lanes are largely being created by restricting street parking. While discussions are ongoing, Metro Transit is eager to continue working with the city to bring bus lanes to other parts of Minneapolis as early as 2020 in an ongoing effort to improve service reliability.

### Gathering Boosts Light Rail Ridership

A gathering of more than 20,000 Lutheran youth had a pretty impressive impact on ridership earlier this month. Between July 10 and July 15, we saw a nearly 20 percent increase in light rail ridership over comparable dates. Over the course of the five-day event, Metro Transit provided more than 493,000 light rail rides – about 81,000 more than usual. To support the event, Metro Transit sold more than

7,000 attendees wristbands that could be used as proof of payment during their time in the Twin Cities – the first time this has ever been done.

Kooistra thanked Council members for attending the Orange Line event on July 17.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

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

1. **2019-161 SW:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: MN Highway 21 Reconstruction and Bridge Replacement

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to change the description and cost of MnDOT's MN 21 bridge replacement and reconstruction project.

### **Non-Consent Items:**

1. **2019-178:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Emergency Declaration for Flagging Metro Transit Transit System Development Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item. Atlas-Ingebretson asked if we were able to determine how the trains made it through and what we are doing to ensure it doesn't happen again. Alexander responded that there was a breakdown in communication between the flagger and railroad operator and that in the future, allowing TC&W to do the flagging there would be a direct link for clear communication. Zeran asks if this shifts the liability form one entity to another. Alexander answered that it would shift liability but have been working with our Risk department and we think there wouldn't be any more exposure than there already is.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council ratify the Emergency Declaration for flagging services for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project to TCWR in the amount of \$500,000.

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

2. **2019-184 SW:** Cubic Software Maintenance Agreement Extension

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Collection Nick Eull presented this item. Chamblis asked why the business item is going SW, to which Eull answered that staff has been waiting on information from Cubic and that the business item could have gone to the July 8th Transportation Committee meeting, but it was cancelled. Atlas-Ingebretson asked how the Thrive Lens Equity comes into play and if we look at the vendor for employment practices, etc. Eull responded that through the Procurement process, the vendor does provide documents that pertain to their equal opportunity practices, etc. Eull added that regarding equity in general, the Cubic system is the mechanisms that allow us to provide the TAP program.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole-source fare collection software support agreement with Cubic Transportation Systems (Cubic) for two years, with two additional one-year options (up to four years total) at a maximum cost of \$2.4M.

Motion carried.

3. **2019-193:** Metro Mobility Demand East Zone - Exercise Optional Year 6  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Manager Metro Mobility Christine Kuennen presented this item. Sterner asked if Lakeville will be included in the current South Zone, to which Kuennen states that yes it would.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise the previously authorized Optional Year 6 in the Metro Mobility Demand East Zone Contract 14P109 with First Transit and increase the maximum contract amount by an amount not to exceed \$24,395,837.

Motion carried.

4. **2019-187 JT:** 2019 Budget Amendment – 2nd Quarter

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Chamblis asked how the decision is made to include the new projects in the budget amendment and which projects didn't make it on the list. Petrie answered that at the beginning of the year, staff coordinates the list of projects and the corresponding timelines. Petrie continued that prior to bringing forward a budget amendment, project managers determine which projects are ready to move forward for funding at that time; projects that are in the 2019 CIP but aren't included in this budget amendment are still in queue. Chair Barber informed Council members that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be voted on towards the end of the year and that all the projects that Transit is doing is fed by what Council members approve. General Manager Wes Kooistra wanted to clarify that the application of funds to specific projects at this time is based on readiness of the project, which is not at the cost of other projects. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson added that some of projects are driven by policy (fleet replacement/expansion), which are in addition to the CIP.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Atlas-Ingebretson:

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

Motion carried.

## **INFORMATION**

1. 2020 Operating Budget

Chair Barber introduced the budget process to Council members. Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented a portion of this item. A high-level overview of the 2020 Operating budget was given before it was agreed upon by Chair Barber and Council members to table the specific detailed presentation of the 2020 operating budget to the next Transportation meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:06p.m.

Becky Davidson  
Recording Secretary