

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, October 22, 2012

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair John Đoàn	Jon Commers Roxanne Smith Adam Duinick	James Brimeyer Jennifer Munt
Members Absent	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 4:01 p.m. on October 22, 2012, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Elkins proposed in the interest of time that information item #3 be deferred to a future meeting. There were no objections. A motion was then made by Commers, seconded by Munt to adopt the amended agenda for the October 22, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Brian Lamb introduced Metro Transit Director of Maintenance Jan Homan, who had recently received the Transportation Professional of the Year award from Minnesota Public Transit Association (MPTA). As stated at the last Committee meeting, under Jan's leadership Metro Transit bus reliability has had remarkable improvement, plus an ongoing focus on preventive maintenance, great relationships with suppliers, and his driving force behind the Go-Greener campaign to "right-size" the number of hybrid buses in the fleet.

Metro Transit Chief Operating Officer Vince Pellegrin introduced Rail Operator Linda Brown and Hiawatha LRT Rail Supervisor Marrio Leon for recognition. On a post-Viking game Sunday evening, the rear door emergency was activated on the three-car train holding approximately 550-600 passengers that Brown was operating, thus halting the train on the Lake Street flyover. Upon receiving permission, Linda exited the cab and found the problem. Leon responded quickly as well, and together they kept the passengers on the packed train safe and got the train moving again.

Lamb introduced F.T. Heywood Garage Bus Operations Manager Jeff Wostrel, who introduced Operator Duane Lundgren, the winner of this year's Rodeo competition. Duane is a 27-½ year operator and has achieved a Safe Driving Award 27 times, plus Outstanding Operator status 16 times.

Pelligren recognized Michael Erickson, Manager Traction Power, and Dale Howe and Jorge Otanez, Electro Mechanic Technicians, for their paint and body work on Bombardier Car 201, to apply the new white/blue/yellow color scheme. Pellegrin noted that the appearance of our equipment says a lot about how the system is managed and the public investment in the system. Lamb will have a picture of the car forwarded to committee members.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

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

The M.J. Ruter Garage reported an accident-free week (the second report for a garage in 2012). Between October 2nd and October 8th, there were no accidents at Ruter – regardless of fault, there were no collisions or other accidents arising from on-street operations, in-service road tests, pull-ins or pullouts. Ruter bus operators covered about 95,000 miles in that time.

Target Field has a new signal system that helps Northstar conductors to know when light rail trains are approaching, so that they can wait for passengers from the Blue Line. This new signaling system is providing better connections for customers due to added beacons to the Northstar station platform that indicate the arrival of Hiawatha trains on the bridge level above.

Metro Transit is partnering with the Minnesota Timberwolves again this season offering free rides by having patrons showing their game-day ticket to the bus operator or Transit Police officer two hours before the game starts until two hours after the last buzzer sounds. In return, Metro Transit receives extensive marketing and advertising to promote taking transit to Target Center for home games. In addition, promotions are planned for half time at several games, highlighting the Go-To Card.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported on the Rail-Volution conference that was held in Los Angeles.

Councilmember Commers attended; he stated that it was a great opportunity and attended by a large delegation from the region. He attended a mobile BRT workshop (on Wilshire Blvd). This gave a sense of scale of resources necessary to build these facilities. He got a sense that the LA area may not be making the connection between land use and transit as much as this region is doing. McCarthy said that she will try to bring to the next meeting an advertising jingle (video) that was created by a non-profit group, and that promotes the transportation system. Next year's Rail-Volution will be held in Seattle, and 2014 Rail-Volution will be held here.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Robert Lilligren was not present at the last TAB meeting but reported that the TAB has decided to try a new format for the next 6 months. The TAB Programming and Policy Committees will meet together with the TAB as one large committee once a month. At the last meeting, the TAB heard information items regarding: "A" Minor Arterial Study, MAP-21, Roadmap 2040 (from Transportation Alliance), and Thrive 2040. Councilmember Brimeyer asked for the report from Transportation Alliance that listed other funding sources. Lilligren will talk to Transportation Coordinator Kevin Roggenbuck about providing this to committee members.

INFORMATION – follow up of the "A" Minor Arterial Study

MTS Senior Planner Mary Karlsson gave a recap of the comments received from council members regarding the "A" Minor Arterial Study, and the upcoming schedule. A final report on the "A" Minor Arterial study will come to the Transportation Committee on 12/10.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

A motion was made by Munt, seconded by Doãn, to approve item 2012-331 as a consent item. Motion passed.

2012-331: Authorization to Execute a Capital Grant Agreement with SouthWest Transit

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with SouthWest Transit (SWT) for \$1,600,000 to provide funding for design, construction management and construction costs of the Chanhassen and East Creek Transit Stations.

Non-Consent Items

2012-322: Northstar Corridor Commuter Rail Supplemental Subordinate Funding Agreement with Sherburne County Regional Railroad Authority

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie, presented the business item. There were no questions or discussion by committee members

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Supplemental Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Sherburne County Regional Railroad Authority for commuter rail operating costs for the period from July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 for an amount up to \$1,781,902.

Motion passed.

This item will proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-323: Central Corridor Transit Service Study Recommended Plan

Scott Thompson, Senior Transit Planner, Metro Transit presented the business item.

Council Member Commers congratulated staff on the Central Corridor Transit Service Study Recommended Plan. He said that it has been an outstanding process and highlighted three points about the Central Corridor Transit Service Study:

1. This is a public process that is thorough and accessible.
2. The recommendations are based on both data analysis and also on public input.
3. Because of those first two things, this process has shown itself to be transparent to the public and has built goodwill and trust.

Council Member Commers also noted that at a meeting he attended on the east side of Saint Paul, someone made reference to this plan. The person stated that depending on what happens with the Gateway Corridor, "we have to make sure that we do what Metro Transit is doing along University Avenue." This comment says something very positive about this project.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council approves the Central Corridor Transit Service Study Recommended Plan.

Motion passed.

2012-324: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line); AECOM Engineering Services Amendment and 2013 Authorization

Richard Rovang, Assistant General Manager of Transitway Systems Development for Central Corridor, presented the item. Councilmember Doan asked about the DBE participation. Mr. Rovang reported that the goal is 17% for AECOM's contract and that AECOM is reporting 17.9% DBE participation. Councilmember Duinick asked whether the funding would come from the unused Contingency. Mr. Rovang said yes, and that after the use of this Contingency there would be approximately \$60 million remaining and available to the Project. Councilmember Commers asked why the amendment amount wasn't included in the original Contract. Mr. Rovang indicated that the original contract was executed in mid-2007, prior to beginning preliminary engineering, and at that time there were many items that could not be accurately estimated. Therefore, the amounts were not included in the Contract for unanticipated design changes identified after the contract was executed, support for design submittals and change orders, specialty construction inspection, light rail vehicle oversight and inspection, and integrated testing of the system that will result from the multiple contracts.

Motion by Duinick, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute an amendment to the professional services contract with AECOM to increase the contract amount by \$7.0 million to a not-to-exceed amount of \$112.2 million for additional design activities, continuation of design support during construction, construction support services, light rail vehicle support services and to provide system integration testing support services; and
- To issue Work Orders to AECOM for additional design activities, continuation of design support during construction, construction support services, light rail vehicle support services and to provide system integration testing support services during calendar year 2013 for an increase of \$7.8 million and a total spending authority not to exceed \$111.7 million.

Motion passed.

2012-325: Amend Interagency Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation fo fund Highway 36 and Rice Street Park & Ride Construction, Change Order Authorization.

Robert Rimstad, Metro Transit Project Manager and Pat Jones, Metro Transit Assistant Director Engineering & Facilities presented the business item. Councilmember Brimeyer asked what the contamination in the soil was and the source of the contamination. Robert Rimstad explained that the contamination was some volatile organic compounds/spilled diesel fuel and smaller chunks of asphalt. There were no further questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Doan:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to:

- Increase the Contract Price for contract number 11P166, for the construction of Highway 36 and Rice Street Park and Ride, up to 17.3% of the original Contract Price.
- Amend an Interagency Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the construction of the Highway 36 and Rice Street Park and Ride to increase available funding of \$250,000.00.

Motion passed.

This item will proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-328: Authorization to Award Contract for Transit Vehicle Tire Lease and Service

Metro Council Director Contracts & Procurement Micky Gutzmann presented the business item. Council member Duinick asked if there is a DBE component to this procurement. Gutzmann answered that there is not because this procurement is for providing predominately goods with a smaller service component with no subcontracting. There was no further discussion by committee members.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Duinick:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Michelin North America, Inc. for tire lease and service for a five-year term in accordance with the Council's specification and Michelin's proposal dated July 30, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$13,113,373.

Motion passed.

This item will proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-292: 2012 Unified Capital Program Amendments

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie and MTS Principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented the business item and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Doan, seconded by Duinick:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2012 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows:

Metro Transit-New & Continuing	\$ 11,033,409
Projects Removed From Capital Program	(\$74,050,036)
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 4,888,606
- Amend the 2012 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 14,056,111
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 1,956,940

Motion passed.

2012-291: 2012 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

MTS Principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented the business item and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Council amend the 2012 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table attached and made part of the business item.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. SWLRT Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Nani Jacobson, Assistant Director of Environment & Agreements for the Southwest LRT Project, provided a presentation on the Southwest Transitway DEIS recently published by FTA, in coordination with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) as the Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) and the Metropolitan Council as the Project Sponsor. Jacobson provided an overview of the purpose and content of the DEIS, alternatives considered, and the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Jacobson also highlighted the public comment period open from October 12, 2012 to December 11, 2012, including information on three public hearings being held by HCRRA. Craig Lamothe, Deputy Project Director for the Southwest LRT Project, provided a summary of the New Starts project development process under SAFETEA-LU and MAP-21, the selection of the SWLRT project to the President's "We Can't Wait" initiative as a nationally and regionally significant transit project, and an overview of the SWLRT project timeline.

2. Minneapolis Public Schools Student Pass Program and Supplemental Service Update

Metro Transit Director of Service Development John Levin presented information on the expanded Student Pass program with the Minneapolis Public Schools. The presentation summarized the results of the first several weeks of the program including service adjustments that have been made to accommodate increased ridership.

3. Highway Transitway Corridor Study

MTS Senior Planner Cole Hiniker presented this information item and gave background leading to the need for this study. A Transit Master Study done in 2008 evaluated potential transit investments. Corridors were studied for intensive transit investments, but did not evaluate Highway BRT. The master study made recommendations of what transitway corridors should be incorporated into the TPP and identified future corridors for study. In 2010, a TPP was adopted that incorporated the concept of Managed Lanes in addition to the transitway component. This Highway Transitway Corridor Study will look at highway corridors that have a strong market, the demand and type of market, and look at the demand for Highway BRT, which is a different investment than express bus. The study will also act as a model for future corridor alternatives studies.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:25 p.m. October 22, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnne Major, Substitute Recording Secretary