

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: July 25, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Molly Cummings, District 5

John Pacheco, District 6

Raymond Zeran, District 9

Francisco Gonzalez, District 12

Kris Fredson, District 14

Phillip Sterner, District 15

= present

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Fredson to approve the agenda. Chair Barber stated that Public Comment would be heard after Employee Recognition. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Cummings to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Mason Rounds and Clair Pardubsky with Minnesota 350 – Transit Justice Team provided comments related to the 2023 budget.

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit Chief of Staff Lesley Kandaras introduced Commuter Programs Manager Theresa Cain who presented an award to Senior Commuter Programs Specialist Tenille Warren and Acting MTPD Chief Rick Grates who presented an award to MTPD Lieutenant Jason Lindner.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Regional Solicitation

A record number of applications (155) were received this year. Scoring committees comprised of transportation professionals from around the region applied technical scores to the projects. These scores were released last Thursday, and applicants have the chance to appeal a score. These scores then become finalized and become the basis of funding scenarios on how to distribute the \$230M. TAB will develop these scenarios and will send a list of projects to the Council for consideration of concurrence around the end of the year or

early next year.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit Chief of Staff Lesley Kandaras reported on the General Manager's behalf.

August Quarterly Service Changes

Changes will go into effect on August 20th. Last week we began previewing the upcoming changes on our website and in the coming weeks we are going to be providing more detailed schedule information. We will continue to communicate those changes to customers through the August edition of our Connect newsletter, social media, rider alerts and other channels. August service changes do include some additional service reductions due to our ongoing operator shortage. These include reducing frequencies on light rail and some bus routes from the current 12 minute frequency to 15 minute frequency. We are currently about 29 operators short of our ideal level for our current service level and nearly 300 operators short of our 2022 service level.

Consent Business

1. There are no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-205:** Blue Line State of Good Repair Phase 3 Design Contract

It was moved by Gonzalez, seconded by Cummings, that Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 22P075 with WSP USA, Inc., for design and construction support services related to Blue Line State of Good Repair Phase 3, in an amount not to exceed \$10,532,569.

Metro Transit Project Coordinator Michael Wnek presented this item. Cummings asked if receiving one bid was what was expected and if we circled back with interested parties to see if there is something we might do differently. Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby responded that there are several reasons why interested parties didn't bid including several large public works projects happening right now. Jacoby continued that staff took a significant initiative to push out the information to consultants and contractors, even extending process to 58 days (38 days is standard) and after contacting interested parties determined there was no specifications that would have been restrictive. Jacoby added that staff are meeting with ACEC to have more of a strategic approach and getting the word out well in advance for future big projects; also, staff worked with the proposer for a best and final offer that is a significant cost savings. Gonzalez asked how long the improvements will last and if 18 years is a typical life span. Metro Transit Engineer Ryan Heath answered that we have gotten some shortened life span out of certain components but that this is the first light rail system to be built in such a harsh environment like we have which has led to more wear over time. Heath continued that the last 18 years have provided some lessons learned that are being incorporated but also that technology has changed significantly the last 20 years. Pacheco stated going forward we might look at breaking up major projects so smaller companies have an opportunity to compete.

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

2. **2022-146 JT:** 2022 Budget Amendment – 2nd Quarter

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2022 Unified Budget amendment as indicated, and in accordance with, the attached tables.

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Cummings asked what we do with our retiring buses. Metro Transit Chief Operating Officer Brian Funk responded that buses we



retire have met their useful life and been run to the point there isn't a large market, but they are sold through the state auction site. Funk continued that Metro Transit retains parts we need or that might be in short supply. Chamblis asked that the Blue Line station renovations were. Metro Transit Facilities & Engineering Assistant Director Jim Harwood answered that the money specific in the amendment is for design; starting to scoop what the actual changes will be but the changes will be to improve customer service, public safety, etc. Cummings asked if the fire suppression components will be standard equipment on Metro Mobility buses going forward. Aagesen-Huebner responded that yes, this is for new bus purchases, we won't be retro fitting any existing buses.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Preliminary 2023 Operating Budget

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. Cummings asked if all counties must agree on the new terms negotiated. Petrie clarified that all parties would come to the table and meet in good faith but that all parties must agree. Chair Barber asked if this process would affect the 2022 or 2023 budget. Petrie stated the 5 year agreement is through 2022 and will automatically renew at the current terms; so, re-opening the contract would affect 2023. Gonzalez asked if we could track if the safety and security measures we are taking have an impact on ridership. Metro Transit Chief of Staff Lesley Kandaras stated that this will be shared with the researchers to prepare to talk about the ridership factors during the next quarterly ridership report and Chair Barber added the next Transit on board survey might help connect those dots also. Cummings asked about the funds provided back to Metro Transit from BNSF. Petrie explained the process and added that both a refund and a bill would be dispersed between all funding partners depending on their allocation.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:52p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of July 25, 2022.

Council Contact:

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