

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 12, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: Lona Schreiber

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 12, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Chair Rodriguez introduced Peter Dugan, who will be representing the TAB at the Transportation Committee. The TAB has not met since the last Transportation Committee, therefore no TAB report.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. Proposed Fare Increase

Public meetings, pop-up events and public hearings continue to be held. The final public hearing will be held on 6/14 following the Council meeting. The public comment period wraps up on 6/26. The fare increase will come back to the Transportation Committee in July. The pop-up events have had more participation than the public meetings/hearings. Several hundred (500+) surveys have been filled out. The schedule for the fare increase is being updated.

2. Transportation Policy Plan

Staff will be meeting at the technical level with counties and cities to review changes to the TPP and TO receive input. A second round of meetings will follow with the policy maker level from the counties and cities. Metro Council members will be invited to attend the policy maker level meetings.

3. Legislature

The legislative session has concluded. A full update will be given by Judd Schetnan at the 6/14 Council meeting.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. LRT Shutdown

Metro Transit is preparing for our longest and most impactful light rail shutdown ever later this month. Light rail service will be suspended at all downtown Minneapolis stations between Thursday, June 22, and Monday, July 3, as two

sections of crossover track are installed and other maintenance and repair work continues. Replacement buses will be available while trains are not operating. We'll also be encouraging people to consider walking and using discounted Nice Ride bike rentals. Efforts to communicate with customers in advance have had a noticeable effect, we received no customer complaints when LRT service was suspended for a few days earlier this month.

The shutdown will impact our regular weekday commuters as well as those attending Twin Cities Pride festivities in downtown Minneapolis next weekend. We're working closely with Pride organizers to mitigate the impact of this disruption, which will be compounded by several other road closures in and around the downtown area.

Council members are invited to join Metro Transit in the Pride parade on Sunday, June 25. A bus will be departing Heywood Garage prior to the 11 a.m. parade.

2. New buses

Metro Transit is receiving ten new buses with a more open seating arrangement this year. The Gillig-made, standard-diesel buses replace three rows of front-facing seats on the passenger side with a single row of inward facing seats that customers can put in the up or down position. The change is intended to make riding a crowded bus more comfortable and to provide additional space for mobility devices, strollers or other large objects. The buses also have an easier to use wheelchair securement system and frameless windows that are easier to maintain and better looking.

3. Renee Stafford retirement

After 41 years of service, Metro Transit's highest-seniority and longest-serving female operator, Renee Stafford, celebrated her retirement last month. Renee was inspired to drive while riding the bus to and from classes at the University of Minnesota and stayed as she grew to love the work and her passengers. She spent the past seven years on Route 9 and was surprised to see many of her regular customers, family and friends wish her well on her final day. KARE was there to document the final ride. The KARE video was shown to the committee.

4. Upcoming conferences

Council members have two upcoming opportunities to learn more about industry trends and connect with peers:

- Metro Transit will be hosting APTA's Sustainability and Multimodal Planning Workshop from Sunday, Aug. 6, through Wednesday, Aug. 9, in downtown Minneapolis. The conference provides a chance to learn more about issues like first- and last-mile connections, service coordination and electric vehicles. There will also be several tours of our system and adjacent development. Up to 300 people are expected to attend the conference. Council members who register by June 20 can take advantage of early-bird pricing.
- Council members may also be interested in attending the Rail~Volution Conference being held in Denver, Colorado, from Sunday, Sept. 17, through Wednesday, Sept. 20. The conference brings leaders in housing, transportation, planning, business and the non-profit industries together to share ideas and best practices. More than 1,500 people are expected to attend. This year's conference will include around 100 workshops on equity, transit oriented development and a variety of other topics. Some reduced-cost registration slots are available through the end of June.

Questions about the Rail~Volution program can be directed to Lucy Galbraith and Cole Hiniker, who are on the National Steering Committee.

5. Transit Center Board Training

Nearly two-dozen transit board members from across the country – including our own Katie Rodriguez and Cara Letofsky – met last week to share ideas that will help them lead the organizations they represent. Several Metro Transit and Council staff presented over the course of the two-day event, which also included tours of our Marq2 express bus corridor, light rail and rapid bus service.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Barber and passed to approve the following consent item:

1. 2017-126: 2017 Small Bus Procurement – Metro Mobility Agency Service

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 121155) for up to 20 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2017-113: Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 4 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Bassett Creek Storm Sewer Utility Relocation

Metro Transit Director Transit Systems Development MarySue Abel presented this item. Elkins questioned how deep this storm sewer is. Metro Transit Assistant General Manager TSD-BLRT Dan Soler answered about 5 +/- feet, and that the storm sewer is quite large and it sits above a very large sanitary sewer. Dorfman questioned how the dollar amount was arrived with MnDOT and Abel answered that it was negotiated and based on what MnDOT would have spent on upgrading the storm sewer but not relocating it.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate an execute a BLRT Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 4 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Bassett Creek Storm Sewer Utility Relocation in an amount not to exceed \$3.25M.

Motion passed.

2. 2017-124 SW: Metro Transit Police Headquarters Construction Contract 17P002

Metro Transit Assistant Director Facilities Engineering Pat Jones introduced Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator Cathy Nordin who presented this item.

Barber asked why the lowest bidder was not chosen. Nordin responded that the bid evaluation by OEO and Procurement found the lowest bidder was not responsive and, therefore that bid is not eligible for consideration. Letofsky asked if Donlar Construction had done any other projects for the Council. Nordin responded, yes, Donlar was the general contractor for the Overhaul Base Addition. Munt asked if Donlar is a union shop. Pat Jones responded yes, they are a union employer. Reynoso asked for clarification about paying Federal prevailing wage rates. Jones responded in the affirmative.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a construction contract with Donlar Construction in the amount of \$16,996,000 for the construction of the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) Headquarters.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. TAAC Chair – Kjensmo Walker

Metro Mobility Customer Services Manager Andy Streasick introduced TAAC Chair Kjensmo Walker. Walker presented on the purpose, make-up, accomplishments, goals and engagement of the TAAC.

2. TMA (Transportation Management Area) Certification Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning Amy Vennewitz presented this item.

Vennewitz answered questions from committee members regarding a comparison of the results of the certification review to the last review and the timeline for acting on recommendations from the certification.

Nick Thompson noted that the findings from the FTA & FHWA will help with the TPP output. The findings are considered an audit and this item will be presented at the Audit Committee as well.

3. BLRT Schedule Update

Metro Transit Assistant General Manager TSD-BLRT Dan Soler presented this item.

Soler answered questions from committee members regarding timelines, federal appropriation amounts, cost of delay.

4. Better Bus Stops – Community Engagement Update

Metro Transit Community Outreach Coordinator Caitlin Schwartz and Senior Planner Berry Farrington presented this item. Schwartz and Farrington answered questions from committee members regarding maintaining relationships with the various organizations and citizens that were instrumental in giving feedback to this project.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.