

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 13, 2016

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: Deb Barber

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2016 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins to approve the June 13, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Dorfman to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Arlene McCarthy reported the TAB has not met since the 5/23/16 Transportation Committee meeting.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. Monthly MVST report

In May 2016, Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) revenues were at 96.85% of the state November 2015 forecast. The year to date MVST is at 100.57% of projection.

2. Metro Mobility launches Supplemental Service

A new pilot program, called Supplemental Service, is being launched to help the Council meet the increased demand for Metro Mobility while still delivering high-quality service. Metro Mobility is partnering with licensed Special Transportation Service (STS) providers for this new program. It replaces the Peak Demand Overflow service previously provided by taxi contractors which was discontinued in 2015 due to service quality concerns. How the Supplemental Service works is that if Metro Mobility is unable to provide a ride, the customer will call one of our STS-certified partners to book a ride with them instead. Only trips that are outside the federally-mandated ADA service area will be considered for Supplemental Service. All trips within the federally mandated ADA service area will always be provided by Metro Mobility. Supplemental Service drivers will escort passengers just as Metro Mobility drivers do. The cost of a one-way Supplemental Service ride is \$3 (same as the former Peak Demand Overflow service). While the rides referred to the STS providers are not guaranteed, Metro Mobility and its partners will work to provide the ride whenever possible (also the same as the former Peak Demand Overflow service). Staff will monitor the ability of the current two STS providers to accommodate trip requests and determine if additional STS partners are needed. Of the 19,000 certified riders, it is anticipated that less than 100 customers will be referred to Supplemental Service in the initial couple months.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. A Line opening

Thank you to all of you who joined us over the weekend to celebrate the opening of our new rapid bus line, the A Line. We had a fantastic turn-out as we kicked off service at 10 a.m. and buses were full throughout the weekend as customers came to experience the A Line for the first time. The weekend's success came from a lot of behind-the-scenes work leading up to the opening and through the beginning of service. Staff will continue to provide assistance at select stations along the corridor through at least Wednesday of this week as we welcome new and returning customers and answer any questions they may have.

The A Line will be busy again this coming weekend as the Back to the 50's car show comes to the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. More than 100,000 people are expected to attend the event, so this will be a good opportunity to test our special event operations ahead of the State Fair later this summer. To better serve those traveling to the car show, northbound A Line buses will drop customers off directly across from the Snelling Avenue fairgrounds entrance, instead of at the Como Avenue station. To encourage ridership, eventgoers can take the A Line free with an event pass on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

2. Service Changes

Two other notable service changes include:

Overnight trips were added to routes 10 and 18, expanding our network of buses with "Night Owl" service. On Route 10, trips between downtown Minneapolis and the Columbia Heights Transit Center were added at 2 a.m., 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. On Route 18, trips between downtown Minneapolis and 48th Street and Nicollet Avenue were added at 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. With the added trips, each route will provide service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Earlier this year, late night/early morning service was added on routes 3, 54, 64 and 74. Routes 5 and 19, and the METRO Green Line, also provide overnight service. Expanding overnight and early-morning service was a theme of our Service Improvement Plan and benefits commuters who work in the service industry or at the airport. Additional overnight/early-morning service is planned. Saturday and Sunday service was also added to Route 30, introduced nearly two years ago to provide a direct crosstown route between north and northeast Minneapolis. Trips will operate hourly from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., every half hour from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and every hour from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on the weekends. Route 30's weekday ridership has exceeded expectations and the addition of weekend service respond to customer requests.

3. Green Line Anniversary

Tuesday marks the second anniversary of the METRO Green Line, which continues to see strong and growing ridership. More than 5.1 million Green Line rides have been taken through the end of May, up 10 percent over the same time last year, and nearly 24 million rides have been taken since service began in June 2014. Average weekday ridership regularly exceeds 40,000, a number we didn't expect to reach for at least another decade (in May it was 37,632). Ridership in the Green Line corridor, including routes 16 and 94, is about twice what it was when service was provided by buses alone.

4. Summer Student Passes on Sale

Summer Student Pass sales are off to a strong start. To date, more than 100 schools have enrolled in the Summer Student Pass program so their students can purchase a pass on their own or have made bulk purchases on behalf of their students. More than 5,100 Summer Student Passes have been sold to date, about 2,000 more than this same time last year. Eligible high school students can buy a Summer Student Pass for \$30. The passes can be used for unlimited bus and train fares up \$3, daily from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m., through Sept. 6. Passes will remain on sale throughout the summer through Metro Transit's website and at our Service Centers.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-103: Authorization to Amend the 2016 Unified Budget – Second Quarter Amendment
Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Administration Manager Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented the budget amendments for their respective divisions and answered questions about DBE goals for projects that are defederalized, whether Metro Council is at risk of losing funds because the FTA has said that too many projects do not spend the funds timely, bus life and what happens to a bus after “retirement”.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2016 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the Capital Program – Attachment #1 (Program Level).

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2016 Unified Budget – Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with the spreadsheet in Operating Budget – Attachment #2.

Motion carried.

2. 2016-114: Metro Mobility Agency Contract Amendment

Metropolitan Transportation Services Project Administrator Dana Rude presented this item.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 11P199 with First Transit Inc. to extend the term by one year from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2018 an increase the maximum contract amount by \$3,900,000 to an amount not to exceed \$31,733,940.

Motion passed.

3. 2016-115: East Bush Lake Road to Westbound I-494 Ramp Controlled Access Approval
Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steve Peterson presented this item.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the City of Bloomington, Hennepin County, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to construct a new westbound on-ramp to I-494 from East Bush Lake road in the City of Bloomington, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

Motion passed.

4. 2016-119: Authorization to Execute a Capital Grant Agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority for Debt Service for the Eagan Bus Garage Expansion

Metropolitan Transportation Services Grants Coordinator Heather Johnson presented this item.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for \$1,507,200 for payment of principal and interest on 2015 and 2016 debt service for the Eagan Bus Garage Expansion.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

5. 2016-102: Authorization to award Contract for Advertising Agency Services

Metro Transit Manager Market Development Maria Cone presented this item and answered questions pertaining to the annual marketing budget and what portion is spent on media buy expenses.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with Clarity Coverdale Fury to provide advertising agency services for Metro Transit and other Metropolitan Council work units on an as-needed basis over a five-year term in an amount not to exceed \$9 million.
Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Metro Mobility – Behind the Scenes

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger presented this item. Krueger shared a video showing the steps involved in providing a Metro Mobility ride. The video will also be shown at the Metro Mobility public meeting on 6/14/16.

2. YWCA Training Partnership

Metro Transit Manager Instruction Dan Stoffer and Assistant Director Field Operations Lisa Johnson presented this item. The YWCA partnership is a good example of strong relationships being formed between Metro Transit and organizations. Reynoso suggested that the Equity Advisory Committee might be interested in hearing about these partnerships.

3. Mall of America Transit Center Update

Metro Transit Assistant Director Facilities Engineering Pat Jones introduced Principal Contract Administrator Derek Berube who presented this item. Committee members had positive comments about the improvements to the transit center in the way of wayfinding, lighting, etc. In response to a question from Letofsky about the Mall of America contributions, Jones stated that some examples of MoA contributions are in land rights (easements) and operations and maintenance support.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.