

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, June 11, 2012**

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair	Roxanne Smith Edward Reynoso Jon Commers	James Brimeyer Jennifer Munt
Members Absent	Adam Duininck	John Đoàn	
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 special meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on June 11 2012 at Metropolitan Council Chambers St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Arlene McCarthy stated that Information Item 4: Metro Mobility MESB Update, will be deferred to a later meeting date. Motion by Smith, seconded by Brimeyer to adopt the amended agenda for the June 11, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt, to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, Reported the following:

Program of Projects (PoP)

A Program of Projects (PoP) workshop will be held on 6/20. Amy Vennewitz and Mary Richardson will provide background later in this meeting. McCarthy reminded members to respond to the appointment that was sent for this meeting.

Rail-Volution

Metro Council's application to host Rail-Volution was approved. We will host Rail-Volution in the fall of 2014 (September or October timeframe).

MVST

MVST revenues for May 2012 were at 96.26% of the February 2012 forecast. The 10-month cumulative revenues are at 99.377%.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

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

Southwest Light Rail Transit Engineering Services Contract

The City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County have received a report on the Sabo Bridge. Metro Transit has re-engaged its special Counsel to address the report, and to contact URS and the City Consultant for discussions. A final report is due to the City of Minneapolis on 6/28.

Ramsey Station for Northstar Commuter Rail

Construction activities at Ramsey Station are on track to meet substantial completion in late October for revenue service to begin on November 16, 2012. Much of the utility and grading work is complete, and the contractor is beginning to pour concrete for both the inbound and outbound elevator/stair tower footings. Structural steel for these towers will be placed in about two weeks and the facility will start to take form. Lamb provided photos of the progress.

Special Olympics Torch Escorted Via Blue Line Light Rail

Next week on Friday, June 22nd, the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics will pass through Minneapolis. Out AJ Olson, Acting Chief of Police, has been asked to pick up the unlit torch from Bloomington Police runners at the Mall of America and deliver it to the Minneapolis Police Chief at City Hall at noon via the light rail train. It is the largest support of Special Olympics and coordinates many fundraisers, like the Polar Bear Plunge, to help kids with disabilities to participate in the Special Olympics. Law Enforcement officers carry the torch while running or cycling across the country.

Ridership Increased in First Quarter

Nation-wide, the first quarter 2012 report stated that customers of public transportation rode an increase of 5 percent over the same period last year. Light-rail ridership saw the highest gains at 6.7 percent. Locally, ridership on the Hiawatha light-rail line was up 6.3 percent. Comparatively, Metro Transit bus ridership was up 1.1 percent in the first quarter. However, in 2011, Metro Transit bus ridership was up 4.34 percent compared to 0.3 percent for other large bus systems.

Emergency Preparedness

Metro Transit, along with BNSF and Anoka County Emergency Management, will conduct an emergency preparedness exercise at the Federal Cartage Facility on June 23.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items

2012-185: Transportation Planning and Programming Guide (TAB Action 2012-25)

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Ann Braden presented this item.

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren stated that it was a priority of TAB to make relationships between the Metro Council and others transparent. There was discussion at the TAB regarding the definition of the MPO and the language used in the guide. This item was approved unanimously at the May meeting of the TAB. Arlene McCarthy added that the guide is a “living” document, and also stated that the Metro Council Communications Department will be adding photos and making format changes to the guide to make it more appealing to the public after it is approved by the Council. The final document will be on the Council’s website.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Transportation Planning and Programming Guide for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Cedar Avenue Transitway Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Cole Hiniker gave an update on the Cedar Avenue Transitway including funding, construction schedule, technology, marketing, etc., in preparation for the next two business items regarding Cedar Avenue Transitway. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy stated that it is unusual to have the County as the lead, Dakota County wanted to be the lead, in part, because the roadway belongs to the County. This MOU (BI 2012-158) will address the roles and responsibilities of the parties involved.

2012-158: Cedar Avenue Transitway State 1 Memorandum or Understanding

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item. She stated that the DCRRA is scheduled to approve this at its 6/19 meeting and MVTA is scheduled to do the same on 6/27. Brimeyer asked for clarification about the design of the 140th / 147th stations. McCarthy stated that Metro Council will own these stations and is working with Apple Valley on the design. The stations are fully enclosed and the 147th Street Station design will be "skyway-ready" in order to be ready if and when expansion is necessary. Munt questioned whether the roles in the MOU are complicating the process more than necessary. McCarthy stated that the Transitway Guidelines read that the Council is the preferable lead in implementing a project after the locally preferred alternative (LPA) is selected, but in this case, the County owns the roadway where the transitway is located.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) regarding the development and implementation of Cedar Avenue Transitway Stage 1.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2012-159: Designate DCRRA as the Cedar Avenue Transitway Stage 1 Lead Agency

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Principal Financial Analyst Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item. There were no further questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council designate the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) as the lead agency responsible for the development and implementation of Cedar Avenue Transitway Stage 1.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2012-187: Authorization to Amend Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Washington County Regional Railroad Authority

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Steven Elmer presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend an existing subrecipient agreement with Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA) to increase the council's contribution to the Gateway Corridor Alternatives Analysis Study by \$60,000 to a total not to exceed \$260,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2012-179: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Memoranda of Understanding with Canadian Pacific and BNSF Railways

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann introduced Metro Transit SWLRT Assistant Director Nani Jacobson who presented this item.

Brimeyer stated that TC&W should be a larger player and be in the discussion and Fuhrmann said they are part of the discussion.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) and BNSF Railway Cl. For the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project.

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-182: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Project Management Software
Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann introduced Metro Transit SWLRT Assistant Director Melanie Steinborn who presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members

Motion by Smith, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional/technical services contract with e-Builder for Project Management Software for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project in an amount not to exceed \$681,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2012-180: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Additional Change Order Authority for the Civil East Construction Contract

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. Brimeyer questioned whether this utility-type work should be included in the initial bidding documents and charged back to the City. Fuhrmann stated that there have been some lessons learned here and he may recommend public utility relocation be included in the SWLRT scope in order to get the best price.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize an additional 1% (\$2,051,112) above the currently authorized construction contract change order authority of \$15,555,561 to a revised change order authority of \$17,606,672 for the Central Corridor (Green Line) Civil East (CE) Contract.

2012-181: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Additional Change Order Authority for the Civil West Construction Contract

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. Brimeyer questioned whether the Council can say “No” to any of the City requests for additional money. Fuhrmann explained that we are trying to maintain a relationship with the city and SWLRT will include a lot of dealings with the city as well.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize an additional 2.5% (\$2,845,100) above the standard 5% (\$5,690,200) construction contract change order authority to a revised change order authority of \$8,535,300 for the Central Corridor (Green Line) Civil West (CW) Contract.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2012-186: Northstar Commuter Rail Fare and Tokens: Temporary Fare Change

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Operations Tom Randall and Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented this item. Reynoso questioned whether the temporary change should be for a full year instead of 9 months, Lamb explained that there could be an option to extend from 9 mos. To a year if desired when closer to the 9-month date. Reynoso asked how the information about reduced fares will be relayed to the public- not just current riders. Brian Lamb described the marketing program for the temporary fares.

Schreiber asked what other parts of the country have been doing to address low ridership. Ed Byers explained other transit agencies and how they were adjusting fares to address low ridership.

Reynoso asked whether the temporary fare change to the tokens is for the same time period of 9 months and Petrie responded yes it was for the consistent time period of August 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013. The temporary fare change time period for the tokens will be clarified in revised business item 2012-186 and has been clarified in the committee report for the business item going to the Council.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Approve a Temporary Fare Change for Northstar Commuter Rail as set forth in the tables below, effective for the period of August 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013.

Current Fare Structure

Northstar Fares	Weekday	Weekend	
	(Rush Hour)	(Non-Rush Hours)	
One-way fares to/from downtown Minneapolis	All customers except persons with disabilities	Adults	Seniors (65+), Youth (6-12) and Medicare card holders. <i>Valid at all times for persons with disabilities.</i>
Big Lake	\$7.00	\$5.25	\$1.75
Elk River	\$5.50	\$4.00	\$1.25
Anoka	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Coon Rapids-Riverdale	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Fridley	\$3.25	\$2.50	\$0.75
Station-to-Station	\$3.25	\$2.50	\$0.75

Proposed Temporary Fare Change: August 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013

Northstar Fares	Weekday	Weekend	
	(Rush Hour)	(Non-Rush Hours)	
One-way fares to/from	All customers except persons		Seniors (65+), Youth (6-12) and Medicare card holders. <i>Valid at all times for persons with disabilities.</i>

downtown Minneapolis	with disabilities	Adults	
Big Lake	\$6.00	\$5.25	\$1.75
Elk River	\$4.50	\$4.00	\$1.25
Ramsey	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$1.00
Anoka	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Coon Rapids-Riverdale	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$1.00
Fridley	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$0.75
Station-to-Station	\$3.00	\$2.50	\$0.75

The \$1.00 value of a bus issued transfers towards Northstar fares will not apply during this temporary fare change period.

- 2) Approve a Temporary Fare Change for Tokens where a single token will be valid for both local peak and off-peak fares for up to a value of \$2.25 with the token price set at \$1.75.
- 3)

Motion passed unanimously.

2012-188 SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Authorization to Apply for Funds under the Business Development Capital Grants Program Administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item and explained the need for a same week item (the DEED application deadline and the Council meeting schedule). Council member Schreiber asked how much we would be requesting. Fuhrmann stated the Council will include a range of amounts in its funding request.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt 2012-10 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for funds under the Business Development Capital Grants Program administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

1. MTS Quarterly Ridership (1st Quarter 2012)

MTS Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper gave a presentation on the Regional Ridership for the first quarter of 2012.

2. Program of Projects

MTS Deputy Director Finance & Planning Amy Vennewitz, and Mary Richardson – CTIB/Richardson Richter

presented this item as a refresher of the work performed to date and as preparation for the workshop scheduled for 6/20/12.

3. Urbanized Area Update

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Systems Planning Connie Kozlak presented this item. She stated that an “urban” area is defined by population density by the FTA. Staff is working with Chair Haigh and the Regional Administrator gathering information and working through options, and will also be working through the TAC/TAB process in the next 6 months.

Kozlak will send a link to the FTA website to Transportation Committee members so they can obtain more information.

4. Metro Mobility MESB Update

This item was deferred to a future Transportation Committee meeting.

5. Regional Fare Polity Initiative

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Operations Tom Randall presented this item. He stated that this item concerns fare structure policy – not fare changes. It is a study to explore equity considerations in regard to fare policy, stressing equity and balance. McCarthy stated that this was one of the top three priorities of the Transportation Committee on their work plan for 2012.

OTHER BUSINESS

Reynoso suggested looking into providing wireless internet capabilities on busses and trains. Lamb stated that Metro Transit has begun discussions with Chief Information Officer Dave Hinrichs and Metro Transit Facilities staff about this and will come before the Transportation Committee, possibly in the 3rd quarter 2012, to report.

Chair Elkins reported on his participation in the National Transportation Alliance last week. Discussion included the transportation funding bill; MnDOT grant criteria – looking for partnerships, readiness, benefits of projects; trust fund solvency.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 7:05 p.m. June 11 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary