

# Minutes

Transportation Committee



**Meeting date:** November 13, 2023

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** Heywood Chambers

## Members present:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, District 12   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 8   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15 |
|   |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present                  |

## Call to order

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

## Agenda approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

## Approval of minutes

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Pacheco to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2023, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.** (Dolkar was absent for the vote.)

## Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

### TPP Workshops

Three workshops were held (two in-person, one virtual), with about 80 people between all workshops. Attendees included multiple state agencies, transit agencies, counties, and cities from the region. Staff shared the content that was developed by the eight policy teams and received comments on the policies and actions. Next the comments will be reviewed internally, before bringing the proposals back to the policy teams in December and to the advisory work group for the TPP in January or February.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Add recap of report.

### Transit Rider Investment Program

Starting last week, Metro Transit started publicly communicating that Community Service Officers will begin to inspect fares and issue administrative citations in December.

### Great Day in Transit

Every third Wednesday of the month, Metro Transit organizes a Great Day in Transit, where staff from across the agency spend a portion of their day on the system thanking front line employees working as well as customers.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

No report.

## Consent business

Consent business adopted.

1. **2023-247:** Metro Freeway Project Approval: Highway 212 and Carver County State Aid Highway 51

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by Carver County to construct a grade separated interchange at Highway 212 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 51, right-turn lanes, and auxiliary lanes for acceleration, as part of a larger corridor expansion project along Highway 212, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

2. **2023-266:** METRO Blue Line Light Rail Extension Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 02 (Contract #23I032B) with Hennepin County for 2023-2024 Staffing Services

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 02 (Contract #23I032B) with Hennepin County in an amount not to exceed \$868,290 for the METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit (BLRT) Extension Project.

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Carter, Toni.

**Motion carried.** (Dolkar was absent for the vote.)

## Non-consent business

1. **2023-210:** 2022 Service Equity Evaluation Report and Title VI Review

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Dolkar, that the Metropolitan Council approve the results of the 2022 Title VI Service Equity Analysis (SEA) for the 2022 Service Equity Evaluation (SEE) Report.

Metro Transit Service Development Senior Planner Victoria Dan and Equity and Inclusion Senior Manager Celina Martina presented this item. Vento asked if because Black/Native Americans had access to more trips, does it correlate to the on-time performance they experience. Martina stated that isn't something we have a calculation to confirm but yes, you could correlate that. Carter, Toni asked for clarification on what is considered a major change and if the FTA ever requires a longer period to be looked at. Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington stated that the Council policy is that if there is a 25% change (negative or positive) in hours on a route or in an area, that would trigger a Major Change classification and that a Title VI service equity analysis would need to be completed. Harrington continued that in 2020, Metro Transit started looking at the whole year due to the level of service changes and that as part of the triennial review that is completed for the FTA, any major changes and reviews are included in that. Martina added that the FTA doesn't provide a specific number of changes that would require a Title VI service equity analysis but the Council itself establishes that. Cameron stated that this report doesn't address or help us understand what systemic barriers are in place for the BIPOC community to accessing transit and asked if there are other tools at our disposal that we should start using to address those questions. Martina answered that we do have data from the Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) that tells us a little more about who travels, how they identify, live, income level, etc. and this is uses for route planning, etc. Dolkar suggested that in the future, a link to the entire study be provide and that Metro Transit thinks about adding a Transit Equity Manager that would work will all departments (scheduling, operations, fare structure, etc.) to ensure the data collected is used to inform operational and other decisions.

**Motion carried.**

## Information

### 1. On Board Survey

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Data Scientist Brandon Whited presented this item. Cameron asked what the sample for this survey was. Whited responded that the scope of the survey is all routes, all directions, and all times of day to be a comprehensive survey for the whole system. Dolkar suggested that in the future, a link to the report be linked to the agenda. Dolkar asked how the income ranges were determined. Whited answered that these are copied from the previous surveys conducted. Dolkar suggested that we look to adjust these to align with other income guidelines (such as Federal income guidelines), so when making policy decisions Council members know exactly what is meant when low-income context is used. Chair Barber asked if there are plans to do sampling or another survey sooner due to all the service changes, ridership, etc. instead of waiting another five years. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson stated that the TBI survey is a very large effort and currently don't have plans for a survey refresh per se but staff will evaluate that suggestion, monitor ridership and plan accordingly.

### 2. Metro Move Service

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Services Program Manager Shelia Holbrook-White presented this item. Vento asked if we are in a position where we should be talking to the portion of regions outside the service boundary and what their intentions are. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson stated that there is a history and status of Metro Mobility/Metro Move which is set by the Legislature. Carlson added that there is work planned on those fronts to determine how to meet the needs for those areas. Chair Barber stated that some of the ideas that came out of the 2018 Metro Mobility Task Force couldn't proceed until laws were changed but we are in a different place now and it is time to have those conversations.

### 3. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Service Changes and Workforce Update

Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington and Deputy General Manager/Chief Operating Officer Brian Funk presented this item. Chamblis asked if we are working with training organizations. Funk stated that we are and that the workforce development department has been bolstering those partnerships and that staff will provide more specific information regarding the organizations. Vento asked how job satisfaction fits into vacancy rate. Funk stated that factor does play in and that the General Manager has hosted a series of town halls to get out and share out vision and get feedback. Carter, Toni asked for information about how we have established partnerships to help recruit and train the incarceration population. Pacheco stated the Council should start to discuss the effects of the local cannabis laws, to which Chair Barber stated conversations have already started. Several Council members stated how great it is to see the increase in service and operator levels.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:09p.m.

## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of November 13, 2023.

Approved this 27 day of November 2023.

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### Council contact:

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