

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TAAC COMMITTEE

Wednesday, (February 4), 2015

Committee Members Present: Acting Chair Nichole Villavicencio, Rozanne Severence, Kjensmo Walker, Bob Anderson, Robert Platz, Heidi Myhre, Darrell Paulsen and John Lund.

Committee Members Absent: Mark Hoisser and David Fenley.

Committee Members Excused: Margot Imdieke Cross and Patty Thorsen.

Council Staff Present: Robin Caufman, Pam Steffen, Andy Streasick, Andrew Krueger and Alison Coleman.

Public Present: Guthrie Byard.

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Acting Committee Chair Villavicencio called the regular meeting of the Council's TAAC Committee to order at 12:40 p.m. on Wednesday, February 04, 2015.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Lund, seconded by Severence to approve the agenda. **Motion carried.**

It was moved by Lund, seconded by Walker to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2014 regular meeting of the TAAC Committee. **Motion carried.**

INFORMATION & BUSINESS

1. Green Line LRT Extension

Robin Caufman spoke to the TAAC committee. She is the Assistant Director of Administration, Public Outreach and Communication. She gave a brief project update.

Walker moved to officially recommend that the Metropolitan Council Transitway Guidelines be amended to include the proposed language on light rail vehicles with the exception that the language be amended to require seating for a companion adjacent to "each" wheelchair dedicated space. Paulsen seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

Caufman listed the 2014 accomplishments. They established the project scope and budget at \$1.65 billion. They achieved municipal consent from Hennepin County and the five cities. They received commitments for 85% of the local funding for a total of \$705 million (\$165 million from Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, \$496 million from the Counties Transit Improvement Board and \$44 million from the State of Minnesota.)

The Southwest LRT Alignment will be 16 miles long. It will have 17 new stations. There will be 34,000 average boardings per week day by 2030.

The Southwest LRT development timeline:

- 2013 - Project Development
- 2014 – Municipal Consent
- 2014-2015 – Engineering, SDEIS, Final EIS
- 2016 – Full Funding Grant Agreement
- 2016-2018 – Heavy Construction
- 2019 – Passenger Operations

Advance Design Plans: Moving from 30% to 60% Engineering. Corridor Wide:

- Station architecture/integrated public art
- Streetscape/landscape design
- LRT track features
- Roadway and trail details
- Bridges and tunnels
- Systems elements
- Freight rail features
- ADA features
- Incorporate changes developed through environmental review process

Unique elements:

- Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) in Hopkins
- Park and ride facilities

Activities with Community Engagement

Activity	Timeframe
Station Design	Winter 2014/2015 – Fall 2015
Kenilworth Landscaping Design	Spring 2015 – Summer 2015
Integrated Public Art	Spring 2015 – Fall 2015

LRV Type III Procurement

Additional vehicles will be needed for Green Line Extension and Blue Line Extension. New vehicles will meet ADA requirements and Council LRV standards. SPO will engage TAAC to review draft LRV floor plan layouts if they change from the existing LRV floor plans.

They will amend Regional Transitway Guidelines to update standards for Light Rail Vehicles. LRV Guidelines – Background: 2012 Metropolitan Council adopted its Transitway Guidelines that include standards for vehicles including light rail. 2014 Legislation passed requires Metropolitan Council to amend its standards to include two dedicated spaces for wheelchairs and companion seating. Review the standards with the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee before adopting.

LRV Guidelines – Current: Vehicles for LRT and Commuter Rail must be compatible with the existing rail and infrastructure systems. All vehicles should be ADA compliant.

LRV Guidelines - Proposed: Vehicles for LRT and Commuter Rail must be compatible with the existing rail and infrastructure systems. All vehicles must meet or exceed the standards established in the Americans with Disabilities Act. All vehicles must also include two dedicated spaces for wheelchair users in each car. Seating for a companion adjacent to at least two wheelchair-dedicated spaces.

Some of the TAAC members toured the modified Type II vehicle on January 20, 2015. They liked the changes. There was added space for two wheelchairs. The companion seating was close enough to both of the designated areas.

LRV Guidelines – Next Steps

- 2/04 TAAC reviews proposed amendments.
- 2/09 Transportation Committee considers recommendation to amend Transitway Guidelines.
- 2/25 Metropolitan Council acts on recommendation to amend the Transitway Guidelines.

2. Update on LRV Type III Vehicle Retrofit and Q'POD System

Pam Steffen spoke to the TAAC committee. TAAC gave an O.K. to move on with the retrofit and gave approval for the new Q'POD System.

Steffen also talked about the NexTrip information. Metro Transit recently set up a contract with Mobile Marketing to provide NexTrip information by text message. Mobile Marketing provides this service for several other transit agencies around the country. The cost of sending and receiving text messages is offset by a short advertisement included in the text message response. Texting to get NexTrip information is quick, doesn't require a smart phone or use a phone's data plan, and helps make this information available to customers in a way many riders have requested.

To access NexTrip information, send a text message to the short-code 27299. The message should be the letters "mt" followed immediately by a stop number. For instance, your message could say mt1897 to get the times for the northbound stop at Nicollet and 25th Street. To find your stop number, visit metrotransit.org and select "Stops and Stations".

If you only want results for only one route that serves a stop, you can filter by putting a space and then the route number after the mt+Stop Number. For instance, if you want only the Route 17 times for the southbound stop at Nicollet Mall and 7th Street, your text message would be: mt17980 17.

Times may be off from what is reported online by a minute or so, depending on when the data are refreshed. Metro Transit is testing the service with a goal of launching by the end of February.

3. Metro Mobility Service Update

Andy Streasick spoke to the TAAC committee. He gave the committee a handout of the TAAC stats. The total system ridership stats included all completed demand and agency trips. The numbers did not show cancel at door or now shows. The stats were for 2013 and 2014.

The total system revenue hours included all demand and agency revenue hours. The stats were for 2013 and 2014.

He showed the on time performance stats. It included all completed demand and agency trips compared to 95 percent goal. The chart showed 2013 and 2014 stats. He also showed the on time performance for appointment times. It was the average of appointment times on demand compared to the 90 percent goal for 2013 and 2014.

The complaints per 1,000 rides included all complaints submitted to the Metro Mobility Service Center for 2013 and 2014.

He showed the average trips per revenue hour for demand and agency for 2013 and 2014.

He also showed the accidents per 50,000 miles. It included all reported accidents including non-preventable for 2014.

MEMBER COMMENT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Alison Coleman
Recording Secretary