

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: July 11, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Molly Cummings, District 5

John Pacheco, District 6

Raymond Zeran, District 9

Francisco Gonzalez, District 12

Kris Fredson, District 14

Phillip Sterner, District 15

= present, E = excused

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Zeran to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

TAB

Cancelled its July 20th meeting.

2050 TPP Advisory Work Group

The group had its first meeting on June 29th where they heard an overview of the TPP and the Regional Development guide process. The group then broke into smaller groups and discussed some of the themes that have been heard so far regarding values and other work going into the 2050 plan process.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Blue Line Maintenance & Shutdown

Starting this past Friday evening until August 15th, buses will replace Blue Line trains between Mall of America and Airport Terminal 2 stations in both directions. During the five-week shutdown, nearly half-mile worth of worn track will be replaced. New signal equipment will be installed through the \$15M capital maintenance effort.

Two Car Light Rail Trains

On Saturday, Metro Transit started test running two car light rail trains and will continue

through August 19th. As discussed earlier, this was an idea that emerged from the Safety & Security Action Plan Development. After the test concludes, customer and train operator feedback and other evaluation measures, like on-time performance, will be used to determine next steps.

Green Line Extension Construction Tours

The project office wants to invite Council members to tour activities along the corridor. Individual or group tours can be arranged. Council members can connect with their community relations staff for assistance in scheduling.

2022 State Fair Service

Plans will remain the same as 2021 service. This will offer all-day service, approximately every 30 minutes, on every day of the State Fair from three locations: CoRd 73 Park and Ride (Minnetonka), 30th Avenue Park and Ride (Bloomington) and Cottage Grove Park and Ride. Weekday service operates 9am-midnight and Weekend/Labor Day service operates 8am-midnight. Round trip fares will be \$6 cash, \$5 via mobile or online.

Cummings asked what the criteria was for deciding if the two car light rail train pilot is successful. Kooistra stated there is a list of performance measures and will send that document to Council members.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

At July's meeting, members discussed the pilot on board transit survey. July is disability pride month and July 26th is the 32nd anniversary of the signing of American with Disabilities Act. There will be an event which is currently being planned. Chair Barber asked that event information be provided to Council members.

Consent Business

1. There are no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-180:** Metro Transit Agency Safety Plans

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council adopt Revision 3 of the Bus Transportation Agency Safety Plan and the Light Rail Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Metro Transit as required by 49 CFR Part 673.

Metro Transit Safety Director Andrew Brody presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried. Hearing no objections, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

2. **2022-195:** Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) Agency Safety Plan (ASP)

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council adopt Revision 2 of the Agency Safety Plan for Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) as required by 49 CFR Part 673.

Metro Transit Safety Director Andrew Brody presented this item. Chair Barber asked how often the contractors report back from their safety committees and do the contractors have their own safety agency plans. Brody responded that he meets monthly with the contractors, and that each contractor does have their own safety committee and agency plans but that the Council is required to review those plans, which was recently done through the triennial audit.

Motion carried. Hearing no objections, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as

Consent to Council.

3. **2022-172 SW:** METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Contract Award for Construction Contract Administration and Inspection Services, Contract 22P098

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Zeran, that the Metropolitan Council (“the Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract 22P098 with SRF, Inc., for construction contract administration and inspection services for the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$13,565,256.44.

Metro Transit Acting Gold Line Project Director Alicia Vap presented this item. Cummings asked if two bids were what we expected to receive. Vap responded that two bids was adequate and both were great firms. Cummings asked if we circle back with those firms that expressed interest but didn’t put forth a bid to find out why. Vap stated she would gather and forward that information back to Council members.

Motion carried.

4. **2022-181:** METRO E Line – Engineering and Construction Administration Services, Contract 21P364

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 21P364 with HDR, Inc. for design, engineering, and construction administration for the METRO E Line project in the amount not to exceed \$10,741,845.

Metro Transit Director ABRT Katie Roth introduced Metro Transit Principal Engineer Evan Owens-Ambrogio who presented this item. Cummings asked if this contract is similarly priced to other contracts for past projects (C Line). Owens-Ambrogio responded that the estimated price was based on past projects but as all projects vary (number of stops, length, etc) and staff didn’t think the price of this contract is a significant increase given inflation and number of years since past projects.

Motion carried.

5. **2022-187 SW:** University of Minnesota Universal Pass Agreement

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Enter into an agreement with the University of Minnesota for a Universal Pass Agreement for registered students at the University of Minnesota for the period of August 15, 2022 to August 14, 2026.

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metro Transit Sales Operations Specialist Dustin Crescini presented this item. Fredson asked if this requires regent approval and how the U of M fees compare to those of other colleges. Petrie and Crescini responded that this will be before the Board of Regents for approval on Wednesday and that the U of M has a different ridership usage compared to some of the other colleges but staff will be monitoring the pricing of all schools to try and have more concise/equitable pricing. Sterner asked if other colleges have been approached with this opportunity. Crescini stated staff did outreach in 2019 but will do outreach to schools again. Petrie added that the U of M has approached staff with interest in a universal pass for their employees/faculty. Several Council members expressed excitement for this item.

Motion carried.

Information

1. First Half FTA Semi-Annual DBE Participation Report

Metropolitan Council Equal Opportunity Consultant Trina Bolton presented this item. Several Council members expressed appreciation for the success and increase in numbers. Chair



Barber asked that future reports include the percentage of change from previous years.

2. Three New Metro Transit Marketing and Transit Information Initiatives

Metro Transit Marketing and Transit Information Director Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Sr. Market Development Specialist Adam Mehl and Metro Transit Transit Information Manager Ben Rajkowski presented this item. Cummings asked what the wait time will be for the chat and text feature. Rajkowski stated wait time will be the same as a call, not prioritizing one channel and wait time is average less than a minute; the call feature does indicate to caller what the expected wait time is but that is not enabled yet for text/chat. Sterner asked about TIC staffing levels. Rajkowski responded that currently through natural attrition there are 22 reps but that there had been a 60% decrease in call volume; TIC is budgeted for 32 reps so there is ability to staff up if needed. Chair Barber asked for a report back on the change in volume of customer contacts after a couple of months and what happens if safety issues come in through those channels. Rajkowski stated all issues or items that need immediate attention are transferred directly to the Transfer Control Center. Cummings asked why Metro Transit LRT lines don't appear on Google Maps transit layer. Rajkowski stated that is something that is at Google's discretion, and they've state they usually don't do that for markets our size.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:11p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of July 11, 2022.

Council Contact:

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