

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

July 28, 2014

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Adam Duinck, Vice-Chair Lona Schreiber, Katie Rodriguez, Jennifer Munt, Marie McCarthy, Steve Elkins, Edward Reynoso, James Brimeyer

**Committee Members Absent:** Jon Commers

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Duinck called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. on Monday, July 28, 2014.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Schreiber to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Rodriguez, seconded by McCarthy to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2014 Joint Meeting of the Transportation and Community Development Committees. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION, METRO TRANSIT

Chief of Police John Harrington recognized Officer Joe Dotseth, who responded to an incident on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Heywood Garage where a staff was assaulted by a mentally unstable individual. Sgt. Dotseth was able to locate the hiding suspect (who was armed with a shovel) and arrest him without injury to himself or others.

Chris Haefner, Manager, Materials Management, introduced Kent Hardy, Lead Stockkeeper at the Overhaul Base. In the last year Mr. Hardy issued 1.2 million units of merchandise involving 85,000 transactions, and received a perfect score on the annual internal inventory audit, the first time this has ever happened at Metro Transit.

Rob Milleson, Director of Bus Maintenance, introduced Jeremiah Riter, the Overhaul Base Shop Supervisor who was assaulted by the mentally unstable individual on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The suspect hit him with a piece from an extractor, causing cuts to his head, but in spite of his injury Mr. Riter made sure the TCC was called for help and gathered all the employees working with him into a safe room until the suspect could be apprehended. Rob commended him on his leadership and presence of mind during this traumatic experience.

## TAB LIAISON REPORT – Robert Lilligren

TAB met on July 16<sup>th</sup> but did not approve the TIP Amendment (Seventh Street B-Line Transit project, which was approved at the July 14<sup>th</sup> Transportation Committee meeting) due to strong concerns expressed by the Ramsey County Commissioner and the St. Paul City Council. The other item of note was the Regional Solicitation evaluation and preparation for approval. Considerable discussion centered on prioritizing criteria percentages, freight and equity measures, requirements and scoring. Brimeyer questioned Lilligren further on the failure of TAB to approve the TIP Amendment, and discussion followed regarding the concerns of the local agencies.

## **METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER AND MTS DIRECTOR REPORTS** – Brian Lamb and Arlene McCarthy

Metro Transit's Chief Operating Officer Vince Pellegrin presented the Metro Transit General Manager report in Brian Lamb's absence. Mr. Pellegrin commented on the following topics:

### **The All Star Service was a Success!**

Nearly 45,000 additional light-rail and Northstar rides were generated by events during All-Star Week. Approximately 6,000 people took light rail to the All-Star Game and 4,500 people took the Green Line to the All-Star Concert at TCF Bank Stadium, our first major event at that site. Despite large crowds and multiple road closings in downtown Minneapolis, operations went very smoothly.

### **Big weekend ahead for Transit**

Major events at TCF Bank Stadium and Target Field will attract a large number of light-rail rides on Saturday (August 1st). There will be two soccer games at TCF Bank Stadium (2 p.m. and 4 p.m.) and fans can ride LRT or buses free to the games with a downloadable pass. Saturday evening is the Paul McCartney concert at Target Field. Extra light-rail trains will also be running as needed.

### **State Fair tickets on sale Friday**

This year's State Fair will be held Aug. 21 through Sept. 1. Buses will pick-up and drop off customers at a new transit hub on the west side of the fairgrounds, using a bus-only transitway instead of Snelling Avenue.

Customers can purchase discounted Bus Bargain Tickets for the State Fair beginning Friday. Single round-trip tickets are \$4.50, two tickets cost \$9 and four tickets cost \$15. Bus Bargain Tickets can be purchased online at [metrotransit.org/StateFair](http://metrotransit.org/StateFair) or at Metro Transit Service Centers. Customers can print the tickets or have them sent to their mobile device to be scanned at boarding.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy shared the following:

### **I-35W Accident Involving Metro Mobility Vehicle**

The very bad accident on I-35W last Friday morning involved a semi truck and a Metro Mobility vehicle. Fortunately, there were no Metro Mobility passengers involved. The driver, a First Transit employee, did sustain serious, but not life threatening, injuries requiring surgery; she is in stable condition.

### **FTA Procurement System Review**

The FTA is conducting a procurement federal compliance audit this week. 44 procurements were pulled for review. The FTA, who works with a consultant team, will be here all week with an exit conference on Friday. In the entrance conference Monday morning, FTA Region 5 Administrator Marisol Simon noted that she believes the Minneapolis/St. Paul region is now the largest federal recipient in Region 5. She also noted that procurement represents one of the highest federal compliance risk areas from the federal perspective.

### **Federal Transportation Bill**

MAP-21 expires at the end of September and the Highway Trust Fund is anticipated to run out of funding in the highway account before that date; the transit account is in slightly better shape. With this being an election year, there is pressure to pass at least an extension with associated funding

before the August recess. Last Wednesday the Senate reached a unanimous-consent agreement on legislation to address the short-term insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund. The House passed its version of the HTF bill the previous week, which would provide approximately \$10.8 billion in revenue to the HTF and extend the authorizations through the end of May, 2015. It appears likely that the Senate will take up the HTF legislation on Tuesday of next week. There are four amendments which must first be considered including one which would end the extension in December, rather than in May 2015, with the intent to force Congress to develop a long-term revenue solution in the Congressional lame duck session following the November elections. Another amendment would reduce the federal motor fuels taxes and devolve most of the Federal role in transit and highway programs and projects to the states.

## **MVST Revenue Update**

June revenues were at 106% of forecast which is very strong. For year to date through June, which is the end of state fiscal year 2014, MVST is at 100.26% of forecast. There will be some clean-up adjustments in early July to final 2014 numbers.

## **BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

There were no consent items.

### **NON-CONSENT ITEMS:**

2014-157: Approval of the Third Quarter Budget Amendment to the 2014 Unified Budget. Metro Transit's Director of Finance, Ed Petrie, and Sean Pfeiffer, MTS Principal Financial Analyst, presented this amendment, which requests that the Council amend the 2014 Unified Budget Capital Program (both the annual appropriation and the multi-year authorization) and that the Council amend the 2014 operating portion of the Unified Budget.

Ed Petrie explained that the main Transit portion of this amendment involves closing projects and reauthorizing funding, citing projects that would be reallocated (one example would be police radios, formerly charged to capital budget which will now be charged to the operating budget). In this amendment Transit would bring in 17 projects, including new state funding, to the Cedar Grove, Snelling A-Line, Bottineau LRT, Gateway Corridor, and I-35W BRT Orange Line, and an engineering and facility shelter project on the West Seventh B-Line. The total amount of state funds involved is \$15 million in state GO bonds, \$2.5 million in state supplemental appropriations and \$11 million in Chapter 152 funds. A major adjustment would be a reduction of RTC funds in the Minneapolis layover project, which will be reinvested into the capital program. Overall the change for Metro Transit is that we are increasing our federal funds by \$3,324,000, the state funds by \$28.5 million and the reduction in RTC by \$2,839,000, for a total change in the Transit budget of \$28.9 million.

Metro Transit Assistant Director, Engineering & Facilities Pat Jones addressed questions from Council members regarding bus shelter projects funding.

Sean Pfeiffer explained that the MTS portion of the amendment would increase 2014 Authorized Capital Program by \$19,955,257 and would decrease the annual appropriation by \$151,200. This amendment would include four expansion projects which will be used to purchase expansion vehicles for the Cities of Maple Grove, Plymouth, Shakopee and the Metro Mobility program. It further brings in seven replacement projects to replace buses for the Metro Mobility and Transit Link programs, the Cities of Maple Grove and Shakopee, and the MVTA. It also provides regional funding for Maple Grove for customer facilities and maintenance improvements.

The Operating portion of the amendment asks for three distinct actions: additional funds for the Transportation Planning Program for new and existing consulting activities; additional state general fund appropriations that were designated by the 2014 legislature; and to authorize additional funding and expenditures for Maple Grove through the MTS budget.

It was moved by Munt, seconded by Elkins, that that this item be approved. **Motion carried.**

2014-188: Authorization to negotiate and execute a Sale of Property and Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Bloomington. Presented by Jeff Freeman, Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities Project Manager. Negotiate and authorize an Agreement with the City of Bloomington to compensate the Council for acquiring access to and use of property at the 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park and Ride. The City is seeking to do this for the extension of Lindau Lane as part of their South Loop development project. This will involve temporary and permanent easements and O&M agreements in place for the shared areas. Both review appraisals have been forwarded to the FTA for concurrence, and the FTA has granted approval on our review appraisal on the value of \$1,783,000. These negotiations predated the establishment of the Council's Transit Oriented Development office.

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt, that this item be approved. **Motion carried.**

2014-190: Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Release for Public Comment. Presented by Connie Kozlak, Manager, Transportation Planning and Programs. This business item requests that the draft TPP be released for public comment and review between August 15<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, including a public hearing to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. during the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Other than the two items marked for change at the last Transportation Committee, Gateway being included contingent on the LPA process and the inclusion of the CTIB program of projects, the only update is the identification of the Chicago-Emerson-Fremont Corridor as the fourth arterial BRT.

Kozlak responded to Munt's question about whether the TFAC proposal will be shown at the open houses. She stated that the "increased revenue scenario", which will be shown at the open houses, is based on TFAC's recommendations.

Elkins made a motion to approve the draft for public comment, seconded by Munt. **Motion carried.**

Chair Duininck stated that the second business item, the authorization to negotiate and execute a sale of property and operations and maintenance agreement with the City of Bloomington be consent, and the other two business items remain non-consent to the Council.

## INFORMATION

1. The Rail Control Center (RCC) Transition into the Green Line and Northstar. Presented by Transit Director of Light Rail Operations Brian Funk. Discussion regarding the RCC upgrade in preparation for Green Line as well as moving the oversight of Northstar into that facility, a general overview of the operations are like, and how Green Line has changed things and how we are communicating with customers, in particular for Northstar, and enhancements with our emergency telephone system and CCTV systems on the platforms.
2. Regional Solicitation Criteria Weightings. Presented by MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg. Overview of Regional Solicitation Applications weighting of points criteria by roadway projects, by multimodal elements, transit and transportation demand management projects, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. The approval process for the Regional Solicitation criteria will begin at the Funding and Programming Committee in August, to be presented to TAB in September (TAB approves, and the

Council concurs). It will return to this Committee in early September, providing an information item on the overall solicitation and will bring the item before full Council by the end of September.

Brimeyer had questions regarding the point system; discussion followed regarding the equity proposal. Libby Starling, Manager of Regional Policy and Research, addressed making the closer connection between the Regional Solicitation and encouraging communities to both create, preserve and make efforts toward preserving affordable housing.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Linda Thayer  
Recording Secretary