

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

August 28, 2017

LOCATION: Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Steve Elkins, Jennifer Munt, Marie McCarthy, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber

Committee Members Absent: Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00pm on Monday, August 28, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Reynoso to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following, who presented recognition awards to employees:

Metro Transit Assistant Manager Street Operations Demetairs Bell presented to Metro Transit Street Supervisor Max Schollett.

Metro Transit Assistant Director Service Development Kristin Thompson presented to Metro Transit Manager Route Planning Cyndi Harper.

Metro Transit Assistant Manager Rail Operations James Ramstad presented to Metro Transit Rail Supervisor Connie Skinner.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Peter Dugan reported that at the last TAB meeting two streamlined TIP amendments were approved. There was discussion on the public comments received about TIP, which ended up being passed with the exception of removing one item (Minnesota Valley State Trail project). This was due to concerns with the cost overrun; Chair Rodriguez contributed that once people started to dig into the project costs, it was realized the applicant (DNR) made a mistake. This mistake increased the costs from about \$2.4M to 5.7M, which would have affected the scoring and ultimately changing the ranking and the project would have not been funded in Regional Solicitation.

Dugan relayed the agency reports from the meeting:

McBride (MnDOT) – Stillwater lift bridge closed/St. Croix River crossing bridge opened; 35W constructions starts; sign up to MnDOT's e-mail distribution for alerts.

Crimmins (MAC) – new website www.msairport.com

TAB will be having informational sessions on TPP over next several months following meetings.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning/Finance Amy Vennewitz reported on behalf of Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson:

Metro Mobility Task Force

First meeting was held on August 23rd and discussion was around the purpose, logistics and the task force co-chairs (Council member Barber & County Commissioner Bigham). Barber added that the final report is due in February, which means a lot of work in the coming months.

TPP

MTS staff have completed meetings with all counties. When a draft TPP is complete, there will be another round of work sessions with the counties. Council members will be invited to those in which you represent. force co-chairs (Council member Barber & County Commissioner Bigham).

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

State Fair ridership

More than 200,000 rides were provided to the Minnesota State Fair over the first four days, and a favorable forecast has us optimistic that ridership will remain strong through the remainder of the 12-day event. With construction on hold on Snelling Avenue, the A Line has also been a popular option for fairgoers. State Fair ridership on the rapid bus service is up nearly a third compared to last year. On Thursday, we're preparing for what could be a record day as we serve not just fairgoers but fans traveling to Twins, Vikings, Gophers and Saints games, along with our regular weekday customers.

Shelter vandalism

Because our system is regularly policed and well-equipped with security features, instances of vandalism are relatively rare. But glass shelter panes were broken at a number of bus shelters and a light rail platform earlier this month, creating more damage than we've seen in quite a while. While unfortunate, the vandalism showed just how resilient our organization can be: Facilities Technicians immediately made repairs while managing an increased workload related to State Fair activities. Within days, a pair of observant police officers also identified and arrested a suspect who had been caught on camera doing damage at the Franklin Avenue Station.

Student Pass

We're excited to play a part in welcoming students back to the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Public Schools and across the region this month. Transit is especially important for students here in Minneapolis, which began piloting the Student Pass program back in 2009. The program has steadily expanded over the past eight years and today includes more than 40 schools throughout the region. One sign that we'll have another successful year: Summer Student Pass ridership has already exceeded 418,000 rides – up 7 percent compared to 2015, when the pass was introduced. More than 7,100 Summer Student Passes have been sold.

Heywood parking

As you may have noticed, construction on our new garage driveway has now been completed. With that out of the way, we will begin construction later this month on the new Metro Transit Police Headquarters. This construction will lead to additional changes here at our Metro Transit Campus. After Labor Day, most of the parking spaces in our upper lot will be eliminated. When Transportation Committee is held here at Heywood, some of the remaining upper parking lot spaces will be reserved for Council Members. The lower parking lot and a new parking area next to our Transit Control Center are also available. More information will be shared with Council Members as construction progresses.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Barber, seconded by Elkins and passed, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2017-176:** Controlled Access Approval: County Road I to Northbound 35W, Ramsey County
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by Ramsey County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to permanently close the entrance ramp from County Road I onto northbound I-35W with the 2017 construction of a roundabout along County Road I in the cities of Shoreview and Arden Hills, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.
2. **2017-185:** 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: Metro Transit Heywood Bus Garage Modernization
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add funding for Metro Transit's Heywood garage modernization.
3. **2017-186:** 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: MnDOT US 169 Traffic Management System
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to adjust the scope, description, and mileage of MnDOT's US 169 traffic management system project.
4. **2017-188:** CTIB Assignment to Hennepin County of Fully Disbursed Capital Grants for CCLRT, SWLRT, BLRT and Orange Line BRT
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to consent to the assignment and assumption of the following CTIB Capital Grant Agreements to Hennepin County:
 - Capital Grant Agreement #09-2013 for the Bottineau Transitway Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #02-2015-01 for the Bottineau LRT (Blue Line Extension) Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #02-2016-01 for the Bottineau LRT (Blue Line Extension) Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #1-2009-06 for the Central Corridor LRT Project, as amended
 - Capital Grant Agreement #1-2010-04 for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #1-2011-01 for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #01-2012 for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #03-2015-01 for the Orange Line BRT Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #03-2016-01 for the I-35W South BRT (Orange Line) Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #1-2010-07 for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #1-2011-02 for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Transit Project, as amended
 - Capital Grant Agreement #02-2012 for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Transit Project, as amended
 - Capital Grant Agreement #03-2014-01 for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Transit Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #01-2015-01 for the Southwest Corridor LRT (Green Line Extension) Project
 - Capital Grant Agreement #01-2016-01 for the Southwest Corridor LRT (Green Line Extension) Project, as amended
5. **2017-190:** CTIB Assignment to Hennepin County for Loan to Purchase Five Blue Line Light Rail Vehicles
Motion: That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to consent to the assignment of the 2015 CTIB Capital Grant Agreement for five Light Rail Vehicles (LRV) to Hennepin County.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2017-133: Heywood Garage Modernization design contract, Contract #17P031

Metro Transit Project Manager, Engineering & Construction Jim Harwood presented this item. Rimstad answers questions from Council members: is the Federal funding and RTC just pending budget action item (yes); is this expansion flexible, to accommodate our fleet 30 years from now (yes, looked at how we build to allow that flexibility), have we looked any more into national gas fueled vehicles (no, focus is at electric buses for path forward).

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with LHB, Inc. for design and construction support services for the Heywood Garage Modernization for a cost of \$973,136.69.

Motion passed.

2. 2017-191: Final Crystal Airport 2035 Long Term Comprehensive Plan

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Russ Owen and Neil Ralston from MAC presented this item. Ralston and Owen answered questions from Council members: will this increase capacity for take-off/lands (no; demand levels are expected to remain steady, which can be handled by the proposed runway system); years ago City of Crystal wanted to shut down airport, has their opinion changed (yes, City of Crystal have provided letters of support for proposed plans); will there be increased noise for neighbors and have there been complaints regarding this (this will become more clear during the Environmental assessment but didn't hear this complaint from public; noise will essential 'shift' not necessarily increase); with the increase in runway, would that attract different bigger planes (no, the forecast suggests a couple small jets but the runway length won't attract bigger jets); will this affect the planned Blue Line extension project (no). Schreiber provided comment that in the last two years of public hearings, she hasn't heard many issues/concerns and she was impressed with public engagement process.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council determine that the Crystal Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) conforms to the metropolitan aviation system plan and is consistent with Council policy.

Motion passed.

3. 2017-184: Lakeville Cedar Park-and-Ride, Roadway Easement

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Claudius Toussaint presented this item. There were no question or comments from Council members.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the sale of a permanent sixty-foot roadway easement along the easterly boundary of the Lakeville Cedar Park-and-Ride for the appraised value of \$87,737.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

4. 2017-187: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) 2017 CTIB Capital Grant First Amendment

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Southwest LRT (Green Line Extension) 2017 CTIB Capital Grant First Amendment to adjust downward the grant funding available for expenditures pursuant to pre-award authority or a Letter of No Prejudice to \$156,758,569.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

5. 2017-189: Mall of America 2016 CTIB Capital Grant Amendment

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the First Amendment to the 2016 CTIB Capital Grant Agreement for the Mall of America Transit Station Improvement Project.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

INFORMATION

1. I-35W Construction Project

Metro Transit Assistant Director, Field Operations Dave Hanson presented this item. Letofsky asked how we are relaying the message that transit will still be the best option during construction. Hanson replied Metro Transit is looking for additional funds from MnDOT to add service and outreach. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb added that there are resources set aside from buses and budget to add more service but it's imperative to get those transit advantages so resources aren't just used to keep service reliable but increased. Munt spoke to a news article that was missing information about how 35W will look when construction is finished (light at the end of the tunnel). Hanson agreed that message needs to get to commuters and Lamb added that all commuters will benefit but this will allow customers in the South Metro to use transit reliable and conveniently.

2. 2017 Second Quarter Ridership

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item. Metro Transit General Manager added NorthStar was up 15% due to I94 construction and that the reopening of Nicollet Mall will help rebuild the drop in local bus ridership, as the highest performing local routes serve Nicollet Mall. Letofsky asked if there was an increase in ridership due to the new Cedar Grove station opening. Harper responded that the station opened in May and a slight increase in ridership was seen. Lamb contributed that we've seen cost effectiveness on Red Line as well (with the new station opening) and changing from 15 to 20 minutes service.

3. Metro Mobility Driver Wage Increase

Metropolitan Transportation Services Assistant Director Contracted Transit Services Gerri Sutton presented this item. Sutton replied to an earlier question from Munt (why Metro Mobility saw a smaller increase in ridership that projected) stating this could be due to high operator turnover and longer on-board times. Several Council members expressed concerned and asked for clarification regarding the \$2 wage increase and if it'll be evenly spread (e.g. preventing low wage earners getting \$2 increase and high wage earners getting nothing). Sutton responded that the increase would be \$2 overall, with a minimum starting wage at \$16; it would be up to First Transit to negotiate a contract with the union.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:56pm.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary