

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, November 26, 2012

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| Members Present | Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair John Đoàn | Jon Commers Roxanne Smith Adam Duinick | Edward Reynoso Jennifer Munt |
| Members Absent | James Brimeyer | | |
| Staff Presiding | Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit | Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services | |
| TAB Liaison | Robert Lilligren | | |

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on November 26, 2012, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Đoàn to approve the agenda for the November 26, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Assistant General Manager Transit Systems Development-Central Corridor Rich Rovang who presented this month's employee recognition to Rick Carey and Steve Sutherland - Green Line/Blue Line Light Rail.

Carey, a Senior Project Manager, has overseen the entire LRV Design, Compliance Audits, First Article Inspections and Factory Acceptance Testing activities for this critical 59 LRV Contract, valued at well over \$200 Million. His thorough oversight has resulted in an exceptional light rail vehicle and has fostered an excellent relationship with Siemens, the LRV manufacturer. He has also provided training and guidance to Metro Transit Staff for both onsite Inspection Services and for Delivery, Testing and Acceptance at our Franklin Maintenance Facility.

Sutherland, a Quality Assurance/Quality Control Inspector, has performed in an excellent manner overseeing and inspecting the production of the Type 2 Light Rail Vehicles at the Siemens manufacturing facility in Sacramento. He is extremely thorough and has provided great attention to detail. His ability to find discrepancies during the build process and report them to Siemens in a professional and courteous manner has resulted in providing Metropolitan Council a reputation of being a professional and credible organization to work with. Sutherland is responsible for approving any modifications, repair procedures, factory tests and shipment of the vehicle. Steve has no direct daily oversight but stays on task and completes all responsibilities of the job exercising excellent judgment.

Both Rick and Steve has proven themselves to be extremely reliable employees, self motivated and driven to do the best job possible. It is a privilege to have Rick and Steve as our employees for this vital activity.

Brian Lamb also introduced Overhaul Base Assistant Director Bus Maintenance Rob Milleson, who presented awards to Bus Mechanic Technicians Terry Hinchcliffe and Mike Prudhomme. Hinchcliffe and Prudhomme had to come up with a new concept for the Twinkle bus. Marketing worked with Body Shop staff when the original Twinkle Bus was retired after the parade season in 2010. They outfitted the new hybrid-electric bus with 300 strands of LED lights, which consume a fraction of the power used by lights in the original Twinkle Bus. More than 20,000 LED lights are attached on the Twinkle Bus on netting held in place by metal frames. At the end of the parade season, the metal frames and equipment inside the Twinkle Bus will be removed, and the bus will be returned to service. Lights are choreographed to move to the beat of three holiday songs: “Sleigh Ride”; “Winter Wonderland”; and “Boughs of Holly.” Committee members were given a chance to see the bus close up prior to the meeting.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit, reported the following:

Northstar Ramsey Station

The seventh station on the Northstar line opened on November 14th in Ramsey. Customers have travelled to and from the station more than 1,700 times since it opened. The free-ride days on 11/14 and 11/15 were popular from Ramsey as was the special train to Holidazzle this past Saturday. We haven’t been able to get a good sense of the ‘typical’ ridership from the station because of the holiday week. However, we’re encouraged that Ramsey Station did average 263 rides on the most typical weekdays so far – Monday and Tuesday of last week.

Flag Ceremonies

In association with Veterans’ Day on November 12th, Metro Transit hosted “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Week”. This consisted of short dedication ceremonies at the flag poles of all office and garage facilities. The ceremonies were led by active duty Army soldiers to honor veterans and employees currently in active service. We also hosted dedication walls at each location where employees shared thanks, tributes and remembrances. Metro Transit employs nearly 200 veterans.

Campaign Seeks 3 Billionth Customer

Sometime by the end of this week, a customer will take the 3 billionth ride on Metro Transit. Since it’s impossible to pinpoint the exact time and which customer will be number 3 billion, the agency has asked customers to submit an essay in 250 words or less on why they ride Metro Transit. The deadline for entering was yesterday – and we received many entries. The winner will receive a Go-To Card with one year’s worth of free rides. We are announcing the winner at an event this Thursday, November 29th at the Uptown Transit Center – Hennepin Avenue and Lake Street. Please come and join us – we’ll have coffee and bagels beginning at 10 and the program will get underway at 10:30.

Lynx Season Success Yields More Rides

The Minnesota Lynx successful season translated to a bump in rides that fans took on light rail through a partnership between the team and Metro Transit. The partnership, which offers fans with a valid game-day ticket a free ride on Metro Transit to and from the game, resulted in nearly 22,000 rides an increase of more than 7 percent. Metro Transit receives an advertising package in exchange.

Union Depot Service/Rice & 36 Park-and-Ride

On 12/08 service to the Union Depot is scheduled to begin, as well as the opening of a new Park-and-Ride at TH 36 and Rice Street.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported the following:

SW Items on Today’s Agenda

McCarthy noted that there are several same week items on today’s agenda, due to the cancellation of the Transportation Committee on Monday November 12.

MVST Collections

MVST receipts for the month of October came in at 96.7% of projected amounts, and for the last three months, actual receipts have averaged 95.4% of projections. Because the actuals in July were so low, receipts for the first four

months of SFY 2013 are at 88.9% of projections. State staff are still researching why July receipts were so low compared to projections and last year actual.

MTS Invoicing Application

MTS is implementing a new invoicing application to facilitate invoice payment for all MTS contracts, complete the consolidated NTD report, and to house all Route Analysis data for the region. The purpose of the application is to provide a single point of entry for data elements necessary to complete each task and data consistency across the tasks. Providers and contractors will enter data directly into this system, which will eliminate much duplicate data entry. For example, invoicing data has been entered into three systems; contractor system, project administrator spreadsheet, and the PeopleSoft accounts payable system, which led to occasional errors from miskeying. Now the data will be entered once with electronic approvals and transfer into PeopleSoft. At this point, the Regular Route and Vanpool invoicing functionality is operational and data is in place from January 2012. The dial-a-ride functionality is in final testing and should be ready to go live for January 2013. NTD data for 2012 will be collected and reported using this system and Route Analysis functionality will follow.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren reported that the TAB has not met since the last Transportation Committee meeting. The TAB will be meeting Wed. 11/28 and will be discussing the "A" Minor Arterial Study, Highway Transitway Corridor Study, and definitions/expansions of the National Highway System under MAP-21.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

A motion was made by Commers, seconded by Schreiber, to approve items 2012-337, 2012-363 and 2012-339 as a consent items. Motion passed.

2012-337: Authorization to Purchase Eight Small Buses

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with Hoglund Bus (contract #40762) for up to eight small buses in an amount not to exceed \$580,000.

2012-363: Authorization to Amend Contract for Cedar Avenue BRT Express Service

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 09P172 with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for Cedar Avenue BRT express transit service and facilities operations and maintenance to extend the term through March 31, 2013, and amend the maximum contract amount by \$225,000, for a total contract amount of \$1,925,000.

2012-339: Southwest Light Rail (Green Line Extension): Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Grant Agreement

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for the state funding share in the amount of \$2,000,000.

Non-Consent Items

2012-332 SW: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 8 with Minnesota Department of Transportation for 2013 Staffing

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the business item. There were no questions or additional comments from committee members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 8 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount of \$1,794,139 for calendar year 2013.

Motion passed.

2012-338 SW: Southwest Light Rail (Green Line Extension): Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 2 with Minnesota Department of Transportation for 2013 Staffing

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the business item. There were no questions or additional comments from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 2 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount of \$734,355 for calendar year 2013.

Motion passed.

2012-344: Blue Line: Authorization to Award Contract for Rail Grinding Services

Metro Transit Director Rail Systems Maintenance Bruce Fenlason presented the business item. He stated that rail grinding is a common maintenance practice to address wear and tear. This is the first that these services are being performed on the LRT line. The bids for the service came in close to the independent estimates. Loram was chosen because of its experience.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Loram Maintenance of Way, Inc. for Rail Grinding Services on the Blue Line Light Rail System in an amount not to exceed \$310,582.00 over a one-year period.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2012-345: Property Acquisition for the I-35E and County Road 14 Park-and-Ride Facility, Lino Lakes

Maurice Roers, Metro Transit Facilities Planning, Engineering and Facilities, presented the business item. Commers questioned what would be the disposition of the three Park-and-Ride locations that are being closed. Roers responded that the locations for these P&Rs are leased and the lease(s) will expire.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Doan:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and purchase a six-acre portion of a property in the northwest quadrant of I35E and County Road 14 in Lino Lakes from Alino LLC for development as a park-and-ride facility at the appraised value and with up to \$250,000 in settlement costs as authorized in the Council's Policy 3-3 – Expenditures.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2012-351: Transit Easement Interagency Agreement, Southdale Mall, City of Edina

Maurice Roers, Metro Transit Facilities Planning, Engineering and Facilities, presented on the easement needed and partnering with Edina and mall owners. George Serumgard, Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator presented on the design of the station. Elkins noted the convenient access for the transit good and Munt complimented on the partnerships formed to reach the agreement.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an interagency agreement with the City of Edina for a lease that would enable the construction and operation of a transit center and park-and-ride at Southdale Mall.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2012-359 SW: 2012 Unified Capital Program Amendments

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented the business item.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2012 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by decreasing spending authority as follows:
Metro Transit-New & Continuing **\$(6,733,462)**
- Amend the 2012 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by decreasing appropriation as follows:
Metro Transit **\$(17,233,462)**

Motion passed.

2012-360: Accept 2012-2016 Regional Service Improvement Plan

Metro Transit Director Service Development John Levin presented the business item. He noted that the RSIP is a requirement by the TPP, and noted the timeline for approval. In answer to a question from Chair Elkins, Levin stated that the Suburban Transit Providers were included and generally agree with the process and the results, with a few tweaks during the analysis process.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council accept the 2012-2016 Regional Service Improvement Plan.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2012-247: Request to Change Target Fund Balance Policy (3-8)

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented the business item and answered question from Councilmember Munt about what a comfortable reserve would be and how much reserve Metro Transit has.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the Council's Target Fund Balance Policy for Metropolitan Transportation Services funds in accordance with the attached revised Target Fund Balance Policy.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2012-336 SW: Authorization to Execute a Purchase Agreement with New Flyer

MTS Asst. Director Contracted Transit Services Gerri Sutton presented this item. Councilmember Munt asked whether these buses are made in Minnesota. Brian Lamb answered that all New Flyer buses are partially (at least 50%) constructed in Minnesota. There were no further questions.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with New Flyer (contract #40763) for three 60-foot articulated buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,130,600.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Report on Gateway Alternatives Analysis (AA) Study Recommended Alternatives

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy introduced Washington County Commissioner and Chair of the Gateway Commission Lisa Weik and Washington County Transit Planner Andy Gitzlaff who presented this item. This project has the support of the business community and local partners. The commission has recently identified a transit corridor line as the preferred alternative for Gateway. Transportation Committee members commended the Gateway Corridor Commission on what has been accomplished in a short time with many partners – Washington, Ramsey and Hennepin Counties, local partners, Wisconsin partners, etc. Reports are available on the Gateway website at www.thegatewaycorridor.com

2. Metro Mobility Budget Management Strategies

MTS Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services Gerri Sutton and Metro Mobility Senior Manager Paul Colton presented this item. Metro Mobility is facing growing demand and demands on the budget. Various budget strategies were presented for reaction and comments from the committee prior to further analysis of specific strategies. Some

Committee members stated their opinion that there is a need to bring the fact that the aging population will continue to bring demands on the budget to the attention of the legislature. Doan asked for a plan for the process (outreach, timeline, etc.).

3. MTS Quarterly Ridership Report

MTS Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services Gerri Sutton presented the third quarter Regional Ridership to the committee.

4. Central Corridor (Green Line) Light Rail Transit: Contingency Status

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item, including contingency projections through 2012, funding for 2013 pre-revenue start-up costs and the proposal to fund those start-up costs. Fuhrmann stated that a 2012 construction season wrap-up presentation will be coming to a future TC meeting.

5. Title VI Policies and Analysis and New Federal Requirements

Metro Transit Director Service Development John Levin presented this item. He stated that Title VI is growing in importance to the FTA. Metro Transit is working with suburban providers to help them comply with Title VI. Director of Equal Opportunity Wanda Kirkpatrick was also present to answer any questions of the committee. Title VI has been expanded to include all committees of the Council, and the FTA has asked for a compilation of the make-up of all of those committees and may want to see changes in 2014 to comply with Title VI.

6. Northstar's Ramsey Station update

Deputy Chief Operating Officer – Rail Ed Byers presented this item. The station opened on November 14, 2012. Reynoso asked a question about Northstar in general: whether there are contingency plans in place to address full trains passing other stations during the Holidazzle Parade crowds. Lamb and Byers replied that there are no free rides to Holidazzle Parade this year; there are family passes available. The train will also be available on Saturdays this year. Lamb feels there is sufficient backup available, if needed.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:35 p.m. November 26, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary