

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Tchourumoff, McCarthy, Barber, Munt, Schreiber, Rummel, Elkins, Wulff, Dorfman, Letofsky, Rodriguez, Commers, Kramer

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Tchourumoff called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:00PM on Wednesday, October 3, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Wulff, seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Schreiber, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2018 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Future Transit Investments

Cole Hiniker and Adam Harrington presented on future transit investments. The Council currently has a transit deficit of \$158M over the next four years. Careful planning and the one-time funds provided by the legislature have allowed the Council to delay the deficit until 2020 (SFY 2021). The county-funded projects in the TPP include the following: Orange Line (highway BRT), Green Line Extension (SWLRT), Blue Line Extension (BLRT), Gold Line (BRT), Rush Line (BRT), and Riverview (modern streetcar). The bus service improvement plan (SIP) includes 154 additional buses, improvements on 137 new and existing routes, as well as system growth and connections to BRT and LRT. Other improvements include transit service speed and reliability and transit customer information.

Fare Policy

Nick Eull gave an update on the fare policy. In 2018, Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates were hired to help with information gathering. Six agencies were interviewed as part of the peer fare study and included the following areas of interest: fare policy and fare recovery goals, fare change practices, pricing and ridership, equity and impacts of fare policy, cash and fare media usage, low-income fare programs, and distance-based and reverse commute fares. The study found that peer agencies struggle with linking fare changes to ridership impacts, and ridership impacts are not a primary concern with changes/adjustments. Eull reviewed the staff recommendations, which include fare recovery and fare policy become part of the annual operating budget discussion, that the Council establishes a fare recovery level trigger that starts a formalized fare adjustment conversation, and to continue to grow the TAP program to serve low-income customers.

Unsheltered Homeless Using Transit as Temporary Shelter

Chief John Harrington and Terri Smith presented on the work the MTPD and the Council has been doing with the homeless community. Chief Harrington described the community engagement that the MTPD Homeless Action Team has been doing in conjunction with St. Stephen's Street Outreach, Catholic Charities, Union Gospel Mission, People Incorporated, and Radias Health. The average nightly head count of homeless individuals using Metro Transit for some form of shelter in the winter of 2015-2016 was 193 (the peak count was 362). Challenges include safety for everyone: operators, staff, homeless individuals, and non-homeless passengers. Hygiene has also become a concern and challenge. Smith

is the Council's point person to coordinate efforts with our partners to connect homeless individuals with housing and services. She described a registry she is working to develop that will serve as a record of those using transit as a shelter and work to connect them with housing and services. The Council was awarded 89 housing vouchers to serve homeless persons with disabilities who are using transit as a shelter.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary