

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

May 14, 2018

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

**Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman, Cara Letofsky, Marie McCarthy, Jennifer Munt, Lona Schreiber**

**Committee Members Absent: Steve Elkins, Deb Barber, Edward Reynoso**

**TAB Liaison Present:**

#### **PUBLIC INVITATION**

Chair Rodriguez invited members of the public to address the Transportation Committee on matters not on the agenda. Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 President Ryan Timlin and members addressed the Transportation Committee on driver safety.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was not present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2018 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN. The committee began with the non-business item of Employee Recognition while waiting for a quorum. A quorum was reached prior to acting on any business of the committee.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2018 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 Transit Information Manager John Howley, who presented to:

Metro Transit Transit Information Assistant Manager Ben Rajkowski

Metro Transit Transit Information Services Coordinator Barrett Clausen

Metro Transit Transit Information Business Systems Analyst Kenny Knoll

Metro Transit Transit Information Services Installer Dan Kelehan

#### **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

##### Corridors of Commerce

Since we last met MnDOT has announced the results of the Corridors of Commerce program. Four projects were funded, including adding MnPASS on 494 and improving the 494/35W interchanges for the Metro Area. For Greater MN, adding an auxiliary lane to I-94 between St. Michael and Albertville and removing signals on Hwy 169 in Elk River. These four projects will receive \$400 Million in state funding. Over \$5.4 Billion worth of projects were submitted and evaluated. Because the Greater MN projects are within our planning area, all four projects will be recognized in the TPP. All four projects represent projects either submitted by or supported by the Council. We will be coming to the full Council on May 23, 2018 to provide an update on Mobility projects in the TPP with info on Corridors of Commerce, on the \$150 M in new

mobility funding for the region, and any changes that will be the result of this legislative session.

### Regional Solicitation

Regional Solicitation Applications are now live for applicants to start creating and submitting applications. They are due by July 13, 2018. We are offering training on how to use the web grant system and answer questions starting this week.

### HSIP

MnDOT administered Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP) application goes live on June 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018. This is the other solicitation of federal funds approved by TAB and Council. HSIP projects are smaller safety projects, awards up to \$1.8 M federal funds, that work to improve locations where safety issues are documented or are proactive solutions that are built to prevent crashes.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

### Bus-only Lanes to be Tested on Hennepin Avenue

As part of our continued effort to improve speed and reliability across our bus network we'll test bus-only lanes on a portion of Hennepin Avenue this week. Bus-only lanes will be created by restricting street parking during the morning and afternoon peak periods tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday. The bus-only lanes will be roughly situated between the Uptown Transit Station and Franklin Avenue.

There are around 400 bus trips and 3,300 boardings between Lake Street and Franklin Avenue each weekday. During rush hour, buses on Hennepin travel an average of six miles per hour (the systemwide average for local buses is about 11mph).

Metro Transit is also planning for future rapid bus improvements on Hennepin Avenue. Planning for the E Line will begin with a corridor study in 2018 and could potentially include bus-only lanes as explored by this project. Pending full project funding, E Line construction could begin as soon as 2022, in coordination with other street construction projects in the corridor.

### Northstar ridership continues to grow

We'll hear more about first-quarter ridership in a little bit but I wanted to quickly highlight continued growth on the Northstar Commuter Line. After setting an annual record last year, ridership on the commuter rail line is up 12 percent through the end of April. Nearly 255,000 rides have been taken through the end of last month.

The continued rise builds on momentum from 2017, when construction on Interstate 94 led many commuters to being riding Northstar. Nearly 794,00 Northstar rides were taken last year, the strongest annual ridership since service began in late 2009. Northstar was one of just two U.S. commuter rail lines that saw a double-digit ridership increase last year, according to the American Public Transportation Association.

### Summer Student Passes on sale this week

Our popular Summer Student Passes go on sale beginning this Wednesday, May 16, 2018. Summer Student Passes can be purchased by any current ninth to twelfth grade student attending a participating school. The passes allow students to take unlimited bus and train rides between Friday, June 1, 2018 and Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2018 (the pass can only be used between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. and on fares up to \$3.25.).

This will be the fourth year we've offered Summer Student Passes. In 2017, 7,300 students at 138 area schools took almost 515,000 rides using these passes.

In most cases, students purchase the passes through Metro Transit's website or at a Metro Transit Service Center. Some schools also purchase the passes and distribute them to students. In either case, the passes cost \$29 per student.

### Spring cleaning

Finally, I wanted to recognize our facilities staff who have been taking advantage of our warmer weather to get out and thoroughly clean our light rail stations. Earlier this month, crews were out beginning at 2 a.m. power-washing our stations. Our extra spring cleaning efforts will continue over the coming weeks, along with the regular maintenance and cleaning we do all year.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

### **Non-Consent Items:**

1. **2018-121 JT:** 2018 Budget Amendment – Special Amendment  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance & Administration Director Heather Agesen-Huebner presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2018 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

2. **2018-125:** Contract 12P248 Amendment with Trapeze Software Group, Inc.  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an amendment with Trapeze Software Group Inc. for 31 additional software licenses in an amount not to exceed \$62,781, for a new contract total of \$1,332,791, contingent on the approval of Business Item 2018-121 Special Capital Budget Amendment.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

3. **2018-120:** Purchase Agreement with Apollo Video Technology  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented this item.

Munt asked what is being videotaped and what is the reason for videotaping. Colton answered that in the past there had been difficulty resolving issues when there were conflicts between customers or between customers and drivers, especially when there was an assault or other law broken. Colton shared that the videotape also helps ensure contract compliance: drivers escorting customers to and from their door as required in the contract. Dorfman asked if this is the same technology that is on the

buses and light rail, and if the use of video surveillance is advertised to customers. Colton answered that it is virtually the same as what is used for buses and light rail, and that there is a notification printed with pictures showing that recording is taking place. McCarthy asked for clarification on audio being recorded as well as video. Colton answered that Metropolitan Transportation Services vehicles do have audio, but sometimes with outside noise it is harder to pick up. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb shared that on each Metro Transit bus there are at least 5 cameras and a notification informing passengers of recording. Lamb stated that the cameras are not hidden, and that Metro Transit is experimenting with real-time video being shown above the driver as well.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a sole source agreement with Apollo Video Technology in an amount not to exceed \$740,000 to purchase up to 101 DVR/Camera systems. This recommendation is contingent on the approval of Business Item 2018-121 Special Capital Budget Amendment.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

#### 4. **2018-124:** MCI Low Floor Sole Source Bus Purchase

Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented this item.

Commerz asked for ridership data to be exchanged so that time-savings impacts can be analyzed. McCarthy asked how Southwest was chosen as the pilot and if any current Metro Transit buses have this product. Colton answered that this is a new product and Southwest has two coaches due for replacement so the timing has worked out for Southwest to pilot. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson added that the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) had asked to be involved in accessibility decision making, so TAAC members were invited to compare in person both the existing and new coach. The new coach was also brought to a TAAC meeting for members to share further input. Thompson shared that some concerns were expressed but on the whole, it was seen as an improvement. Munt asked how soon the low-floor coach would be in operation. Colton answered that it would be in operation sometime in the fourth quarter of 2018. Munt voiced her appreciation for this pilot, and shared that her broken ankle has given her a greater regard for improved accessibility of vehicles and communities.

Motion by Commerz, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to purchase two low floor coach buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,340,000.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

#### 5. **2018-82:** Work Order Software Purchase

Metro Transit Special Projects Manager Michael Guse presented this item.

Dorfman asked for an example of what this technology will allow that current software does not. Guse said that currently if power is lost, multiple alarms will go off and staff has to discern which alarm was the root cause. With this new software, that information can be captured in a report form and sent automatically.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Commerz:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to purchase work order software, in the amount of \$650,700, from ARINC, Inc. d/b/a Rockwell Collins IMS to enhance and improve the Supervisor Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) program used by Light Rail Operations.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

**6. 2018-106:** Northstar VMF Drop Table and Track, Contract No. 17P395

Metro Transit Facilities Engineering Assistant Director Pat Jones and Metro Transit Principal Engineer Kim Zlimen presented this item.

Schreiber stated that there have been bills introduced to fund service up to Saint Cloud, she asked if this proposal would accommodate any future extensions. Zlimen answered that this would service the current fleet, but could service the fleet if extended. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb added that theoretically with the same number of locomotives and cars it could service an extension but at an additional operating cost. Lamb said the improvements contemplated would be even more necessary if the fleet size was increased, but there would also need to be additional storage areas.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes award and execution of a construction contract with Sheehy Construction in the amount of \$3,347,300 for the construction of a drop table and outdoor track at the Northstar vehicle maintenance facility in Big Lake.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

**7. 2018-107 SW:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Decision Regarding Need for Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Metro Transit Environmental Project Manager Kelcie Campbell presented this item.

Dorfman asked how residents can view in more detail the rationale, mitigation recommendations, etc. Campbell answered that the information is currently available on the Southwest LRT project website. Campbell added that once state and federal decisions have been reached the information will be published and anyone who commented will be notified.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council determines the Project changes reviewed in the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) do not have the potential for significant environmental effects and authorizes its Chair to sign the Findings of Fact and Conclusions on behalf of the Council in support of the decision that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Motion carried.

**8. 2018-122:** Southwest LRT Project: Assignment Agreement with Houston METRORail and Siemens Industry, Inc. for 14 LRV Contract Options

Metro Transit Transit Systems Development Senior Project Manager Anne Taylor presented this item.

Commers asked if all the specifications are articulated at this point. Taylor answered that it has already been determined that Houston's design is closely compatible with Metro Transit's specifications. Munt

asked for clarification that this is not a retreat on the Southwest Light Rail. Taylor said Munt is correct, this is very much business as usual.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an assignment agreement with Houston METRORail and Siemens Industry, Inc. (Siemens) to assign 14 LRV contract options to Houston METRORail.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

**9. 2018-110:** Diesel Fuel Contract 17P248 with Mansfield Oil Company

Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Assistant Director Mike Joyce and Metro Transit Fleet Service Supervisor Steve Kaari presented this item.

Dorfman asked to what extent diesel fuel prices have fluctuated over time and if Metro Transit is locking into a price. Joyce answered that prices do fluctuate and that is the reason behind a contract: to attempt to bring stability. Kaari added that the price of diesel has fluctuated greatly, it can double over the course of a few years or remain the same. Kaari stated that the first two years are locked in, but the second two years are optional and if prices moved up, more money might be required. Dorfman asked for clarification that it is unlikely we would spend more than we needed to, Kaari responded in the affirmative. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb that there are two ways that Metro Transit tries to manage the controlled spend: the first is to lock in a contracted base price, the second is to buy futures based on today's price and then sell in eighteen months.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to exercise contract 17P248 with Mansfield Oil to supply bus diesel fuel to the Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit for a two-year period with options to extend for years three and four. A contract extension requires agreement between Metro Transit and Mansfield Oil. The contract will be in an amount not to exceed \$64,960,204.00.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

**10. 2018-111:** Amendment of Armored Transport Services Contract (Contract No. 14P245A)

Metro Transit Revenue Processing Manager Dennis Dworshak and Metro Transit Revenue Collections Supervisor Abdul Ahmed presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council approves amending the contract for Armored Transport Services with Star Security by increasing the total amount from \$675,000 to \$825,000 with a revised contract expiration date January 15, 2019, maintaining all other aspects of the current contract.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

11. **2018-123:** Amend Orange Line Design and Construction Support Services Contract  
Metro Transit Engineering and Construction Project Manager Jim Harwood presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract amendment to contract 15P138 with HNTB Corporation in the amount of \$932,675 for design and construction support services for the Orange Line project.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Rodriguez stated this item could proceed as consent to Council.

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. Metro Transit Workforce Development – Addressing Critical Workforce Challenges

Metropolitan Council Human Resources Director Marcy Syman and Metropolitan Council Equal Opportunity Acting Director Aaron Koski presented this item.

Munt asked if a survey has ever been done to ask bus drivers and mechanics if they would refer a child or neighbor to work for Metro Transit. Munt also shared that she had heard Metro Transit is an employer of choice for LGBT individuals and she is interested in how our employees talk about working for Metro Transit. Munt added that only 25% of employees are women and she believes our ads should reflect women in various roles. Syman shared that an annual employee engagement survey is done that asks if employees would recommend Metropolitan Council employment to friends and family. Rodriguez asked that Syman share results with Transportation Committee members. Dorfman stated her appreciation for the intent to provide opportunities to ex-offenders.

### 2. 2018 1st Quarter Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper presented this item.

McCarthy asked what caused the 13% drop in Transit Link. Harper answered that Transit Link ridership decreased as a result of the fare increase. Munt asked if there is a time period during which the Metropolitan Council hopes to regain the riders loss due to the fare increase. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb shared that for this fare increase it was projected that it would take 18-24 months to regain riders.

Rodriguez stated that there will be a special joint Transportation Committee and Management Committee meeting on May 23, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. because there is no meeting on May 28, 2018 due to Memorial Day. Rodriguez added that there is also a Shared Mobility Collaborative meeting on May 31, 2018.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Jenna Ernst  
Recording Secretary