

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

January 26, 2015

**Committee Members Present:** Acting Chair Lona Schreiber Jennifer Munt, Steve Elkins, Jon Commers, James Brimeyer, Edward Reynoso, Katie Rodriguez, Marie McCarthy

**Committee Members Absent:** Chair Adam Duininck

**TAB Liaison Present:** Randy Maluchnik

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Acting Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2015 in Metropolitan Council Room LLA, 390 North Robert St, St. Paul. New Metro Council Chair – and outgoing Transportation Committee Chair – Adam Duininck briefly attended the beginning of the meeting to express his thanks to committee members. He stated that Schreiber has agreed to serve as interim Chair of the Transportation Committee until new committee appointments are made. He asked that members share with him their preferences for committees on which they wish to serve; the committee structures will be named after the governor makes Council member appointments.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Assistant Transportation Manager East Metro Garage Sam Caron presented recognition awards to Mechanic Frank Hernandez and Bus Operator Erick Bratberg from the East Metro Garage for their quick thinking and response during a bus fire at the East Metro Garage.

Engineering & Facilities Manager Mike Maddio presented recognition awards to Principal Contract Administrator Stan Owens and Project Manager James Harwood for their work in reducing our energy footprint relating to the 610 & Noble ramp.

## TAB LIAISON REPORT

In the absence of a TAB Liaison in the beginning of the meeting, Rodriguez stated that the TAB acted on the TIP amendments that are on the TC agenda today. When TAB Liaison Randy Maluchnik arrived, he reported from the 1/21 TAB meeting. He stated that the TAB welcomed a new representative from the City of Chanhassen – Denny Laufenburger. New TAC Chair Steve Albrecht was introduced and presented items from the TAC. Paul Oehme is Vice Chair of TAC, Tim Mayasich is the Funding & Programming Chair, and Lisa Freese is the TAC Planning Chair. TAB acted favorably on an item concerning TIP amendment public comment periods as noted in MTS Director McCarthy's comments below. The TAB was informed by Robert Lilligren that Chair Duininck proposed the 2015 Transportation Committee Work Plan include inviting more TAB members to the committee.

In response to Schreiber regarding the timing of naming a new TAB Chair, Maluchnik opined that the appointment of a TAB Chair should probably occur after new Metro Council members are named, as the Council is the body that appoints the TAB chair.

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

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

### 1. Retirees recognized by peers, customers

A dozen employees with more than 30 years of service have celebrated their retirements this month, generating some much-deserved recognition from their peers and customers. Among those who have said goodbye in recent weeks is operator Mark Uzpen, who spent 42 years driving in and around St. Paul. Mark's story is even more remarkable when you consider that his brother retired with more than 40 years of service and his father, who began as a streetcar operator, retired with 46 years of service. Also among the recent retirees was Tony Taylor, who was named the Minnesota Bus Operator of the Year in 2013. Several former colleagues surprised Tony by boarding one of his final trips. The surprise was captured by the Star Tribune and WCCO (video shown to the Transportation Committee). These and other retirements have given us a great opportunity to highlight the work being done by our dedicated operators and other staff. They are also a reminder that this is the kind of place where people can build lasting careers. Nearly 200 of the 3,000 employees working alongside us have been here at least three decades and will retire in the coming years.

### 2. NexTrip information now available for LRT

Customers began seeing predicted real-time train departures along the METRO Blue and Green lines earlier this month as NexTrip testing began at all light-rail stations. The real-time information is displayed on overhead displays at stations and is also available through Metro Transit's desktop and mobile websites. Third-party apps can also share predicted real-time departure information using publicly-available GPS data. The system has proven reliable so far, but customers are still being invited to provide feedback about the new service through Customer Relations. NexTrip has been available for buses since 2008 and is also available for the METRO Red Line and Northstar. Customers requested NexTrip information through metrotransit.org more than 87.5 million times last year, a 78 percent increase from 2013. A formal presentation on NexTrip will be provided at a meeting soon.

### 3. Free ride promotions showcase transit

Metro Transit offered free rides to several large events over the weekend, including Red Bull Crashed Ice, the Winter Carnival Parade, the Beer Dabblers and Twins Fest at Target Field. Combined, 14,843 free ride passes were downloaded for the events. Metro Transit receives event advertising in exchange for the free rides and uses these opportunities to showcase transit to new or inexperienced riders.

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

### 1. Governor's Transportation package.

The Governor announced his Transportation package today. Materials were sent to council members. Please feel free to request more information; information will be shared as it becomes available.

### 2. Metro Mobility

McCarthy noted Metro Mobility action items on the agenda today. She shared the publication "Metro Mobility News" which is one of the ways that Metro Mobility communicates with its customers. Periodic

meetings are also held with Metro Mobility riders throughout the region, along with regular electronic communications.

3. TIP amendment public comment periods.

The timelines for the TIP and regionally-significant TIP amendment public comment periods had not been officially established. While the full TIP has traditionally undergone a 45-day comment period, regionally-significant TIP amendments have not been consistent in that respect. Staff explored other large urban area MPOs and found public involvement periods ranging from 14 to 30 days. Staff recommended a 21-day period will suffice in providing ample time for public review without building in an unnecessarily long delay. TAB approved the policy at its meeting on January 21.

4. MVST Update

December MVST numbers were strong at 111% of the November 2014 forecast. The first 6 months of the State Fiscal Year is at an average of 101.44%.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Commers to approve the following Consent items. Motion carried.

1. 2015-18 SW: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: Shoulder reconstruction on US Highway 61 just south of CSAH 9 in White Bear Lake

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reconstruct bituminous outside shoulders on US Highway 61 south of CSAH 9 in White Bear Lake.

2. 2015-19 SW: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: Expand the scope and cost of Safe Routes to School project in Jordan

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the cost and scope of the City of Jordan Safe Routes to School project to improve bicycle and pedestrian access on Sunset Drive.

3. 2015-20: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: CSAH 24 Funding Increase

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to advance construction and increase the cost for CSAH 24 reconstruction and intersection improvement project in Anoka County.

4. 2015-21 SW: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: Change in project length for mill and overlay on I-394 in Golden Valley and Minneapolis

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to extend a mill and overlay project on I-394 in Golden Valley and Minneapolis (SP# 2789-136).

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

1. 2015-22 SW: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) CH2M Hill Contract Amendment No. 2

Metro Transit SWLRT Assistant Director Nani Jacobson presented this item and explained the proposed schedule for the SDEIS (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2015) and FEIS (End 2015 or early 2016) and that the contract extension dates back to 2014, incorporating project adjustments into the environmental review process, in response to questions from Brimeyer & Munt.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to existing contract 12P255 with CH2M Hill, Inc. to extend the contract period through December 31, 2016 and increase the contract value by \$1,789,087 for a total contract value of \$7,034,757 for additional consulting services for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (METRO Green Line Extension) Project.

Motion carried with Elkins recusing himself from the vote.

2. 2015-25: Metro Mobility Demand Service Contracts

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger and Director of Purchasing Micky Gutzmann presented this item. Commers questioned the criteria and whether there is language to evaluate throughout the 5-year contract. Krueger replied that there is performance criteria built into contracts. Munt commented about how good it is that Metro West is being re-released, as customers tell her that the continuity of drivers is important and maintenance of vehicles is important.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts with First Transit Inc., for:

1. Metro Mobility Demand Service in the Metro South zone from June 28, 2015 to June 30, 2020 with an option for one additional year in an amount not to exceed \$60,467,441; and
2. Metro Mobility Demand Service in the Metro East zone from August 30, 2015 to August 30, 2020 with an option for one additional year in an amount not to exceed \$85,945,267.

Motion carried with Reynoso recusing himself from the vote.

## INFORMATION

1. Transit Operations Winter Weather Preparation.

Metro Transit: Brian Funk, Michael Maddio, Lisa Johnson, John Paul Zanaska and Mark Benedict presented this item. The presentation included information on the bus, LRT, Rail, facilities, operations and maintenance preparation for a weather event. Also included were the post event activities for clean-up and maintenance and debriefing/lessons learned. Various staff and public communications procedures were also noted.

2. Heywood Campus Vision & Police Department Facility

Metro Transit: Pierce Canser and Cathy Nordin presented this item. The presentation included the phases and schedule of the project, staffing projections and concerns, appropriate facilities for office, roll call, and evidence processing. Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington was also present to answer questions from the committee members.

3. Metro Mobility Technology & Ridership Update

Metro Mobility Senior Manager Andrew Krueger presented this item. The presentation consisted of the 2014 year in review for Metro Mobility, including ridership, productivity and cost savings and projections for the years to come.

4. TBI Program Evaluation

MTS Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich, presented this item and asked members for suggestions of what information they would like to see in the next TBI. Ehrlich stated that a TAC is being formed (made up of Ehrlich, Metro Council, MnDOT, U of M, and TAC Planning) to review the details for the TBI survey, the evaluation itself, and recommendations. Maluchnik requested that local representatives from counties/cities be considered for input on the TAC for the TBI. Ehrlich responded that Lisa Freese (Scott County) is on the TAC. A consultant will conduct the study.

5. Highway Transitway Corridor Study – Highway 55 Analysis

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Cole Hiniker presented this item. He also presented to the City of Plymouth earlier in January. Elkins commented that there is a need to be sure that cities are okay with land use as well as the transitway. Hiniker stated the Technical Report is in draft form and expects the final near the end of March. In answer to Munt's question, Hiniker will research and respond as to how many of the transitways are in the Governor's Transit proposal, and how many are planned for light rail.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.