

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

August 8, 2016

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

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

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso

TAB Liaison Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present when Committee Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03pm on Monday, August 8, 2016 in the Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Rodriguez to approve the August 8, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.
Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Council member Rodriguez shared that at the last TAB meeting there was a discussion on funding for the Travel Behavioral Inventory. In past this was done every 10 years and the hope is to fund on a more rolling basis, every 2 years about a \$10M budget. Exploring an option where funding would be: third Council, third MDOT and third Regional Solicitation. It was voted on and went back to TAC and will be discussed at TAB Executive Committee on August 17.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INTERIM DIRECTOR and METRO METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER

Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Director Amy Vennewitz reported:

MDOT has a number of its state wide plans out for public comment now including: Statewide Multimodal plan, State Highway Investment plan and Greater MN Transit plan. MTS staff worked heavily with MDOT staff in drafting and reviewing the plans as they were being prepared, so weren't submitting formal letters of comment but if there are comments that you have, MTS will pass those along.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. US Bank Stadium Service

As I'm sure you all heard, there was a tremendous number of people who took transit to and from U.S. Bank Stadium Station last week for the venue's first major sporting event. According to preliminary ridership estimates, more than 13,500 people took light rail to the soccer match, the highest special event ridership we've ever seen.

Because of the large demand, and the fact that this was our first major event at the new stadium, there were, understandably, some lessons to be learned. After the event, our team met to assess our operation and plan for future events. While there are some things we may do differently, we stand behind last week's service

and know our staff did the best they could to safely and efficiently get people to and from the game. Every available train car was working throughout the system, and all but two consists were three-car sets. In addition, we had 18 buses outside the stadium to provide supplemental service to Blue Line Park & Rides after the game.

With concerts at the stadium on Aug. 19 and 20, we'll encourage fans to be prepared to spend some time waiting after the event and to help make our operation efficient by purchasing fares in advance.

2. New Bus Stop Signs

Efforts to install new bus stop signs around the region picked back up again last week. In the latest phase of the systemwide roll-out, around 5,000 signs will be installed along nearly 30 local and express routes by the end of the year. Most of the routes provide service in Minneapolis, St. Paul and inner-ring suburbs. The new signs include route and unique stop numbers, as well as instructions for accessing real-time predicted departures through NexTrip. Signs at stops with higher ridership also have a route map, frequency information and indicate the direction that buses serving that stop travel. Around 2,300 new signs were installed last year and all signs will be replaced by the end of 2017.

3. MTT Graduation

Council Member Rodriguez, community partners and Metro Transit staff recently had a chance to celebrate 19 participants who have successfully completed the first half of the Metro Transit Technician program. Participants spent more than 300 hours shadowing current Mechanic-Technicians, who were thrilled to share their expertise, and they also spent time in empowerment training and tutoring sessions. Later this month, they'll begin a customized, two-year bus maintenance program at Hennepin Technical College while working full-time as interns at Metro Transit. We really have to thank our partners with the ATU, Twin Cities Rise and Hennepin Technical College for their continued support of this program, which we know is being looked at as a model nationally. A full report on the program will be provided at a future meeting.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

1. There are no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2016-148 SW: Approve SWLRT Project Scope and Budget Adjustments and Authorize Application for Engineering, Resolution No. 2016-22

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, introduced Jim Alexander, Metro Transit SWLRT Acting Project Director, who presented this item. Council member Dorfman asked about the risk of losing FTA's contribution if the project keeps delaying; Alexander responded that FTA is still on board but we need to apply for Engineering to get the amount locked in. Council members Munt and Rodriguez questioned where the \$1M/week for every week of delay would be funded from; Alexander responded that once budget is passed, any additional delay dollars are funded 100% local.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Dorfman:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Resolution and direct the Southwest LRT Project Office (SPO) to submit the application for Entry into Engineering to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Resolution includes the SWLRT Corridor Management Committee recommendations:

- Approve the Southwest Light Rail Transit project scope as described in Attachment A.
- Approve the Southwest Light Rail Transit cost estimate of \$1.858 billion as the project budget.
- Acknowledge the Southwest Light Rail Transit revised project schedule that anticipates a revenue service year of 2021.

- Authorize staff to submit the Application to Enter Engineering.
Motion carried.

2. 2016-149: Authorize Blue Line Extension Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement
Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, introduced Dan Soler, BLRT Project Director, who presented this item. Council member Commers asked about the 6 properties that were called out in the 106 Review and if there was any significant concerns. Soler responded that there were no significant concerns but the key pieces were: Floyd B. Olson Memorial Statue, Grand Rounds Historic District (GRHD): Theodore Wirth Segment, Homewood Historic District, Osseso Branch Line of the St Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad/Great Northern Railway Historic District, Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church and West Broadway Avenue Residential Historic District and in each case the final details will be worked out in project office with MDOT.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the Blue Line Extension Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), developed jointly between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office (MnHPO), and the Council pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

Motion carried.

3. 2016-151: Approve Blue Line Extension Project Scope and Budget and Authorize Application for Engineering, Resolution No. 2016-23

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, introduced Dan Soler, BLRT Project Director, who presented this item. Council Member Munt indicated the importance of extending the blue/green lines and how the community, elected officials and businesses support this. Chair Schreiber thanked the staff for their hard work in staying on task/schedule during the project.

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached Resolution and direct the Blue Line Extension LRT Project Office (BPO) to submit the application for Entry into Engineering to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Resolution includes the BLRT Corridor Management Committee recommendations:

- Approve the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit project scope as described in Attachment A.
- Approve the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit cost estimate of \$1.536 billion as the project budget.
- Authorize staff to submit the Application to Enter Engineering.

Motion carried.

4. 2016-156: Minneapolis Service Center Lease

Nick Eull Metro Transit Senior Manager – Revenue Operations presented this item and Mary Capistrant Supervisor Revenue Operations was also present to answer any questions. Council Member Letofsky asked how the service center interacts with the TMO and what this would mean as TMO is having its own conversations about its future; Eull answered that there is some cross over with the TMO but the Service Center provides more service to customers by having a higher level of knowledge and specialty, allowing them to offer more in depth information on fare programs, etc.; Brian Lamb answered that the 9 month extension will allow us to look holistically at the future of TMO and evaluate the Service Center to determine what our role and shared responsibilities will be moving forward.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the 6th amendment to contract CAA 86-065-165 with St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Equity Transwestern,

LLC for a 9 month lease of office space at 719 Marquette Ave, Minneapolis MN in an amount not to exceed \$61,000, to include leasing costs and supplementary cleaning and maintenance costs.
Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. TOD Quarterly Update

Metro Transit Director Transit Oriented Development Lucy Galbraith presented this item and answered questions from Council members including: if we look at which childcare facilities are licensed and unlicensed (yes; Wilder has that database); revised stroller policy (still under consideration and formal review; policy is: Fold & Hold but that doesn't always work); formal date that a decision will be made on Stroller policy (currently under Equity review and by end of year hope to have a prioritized work list that systemizes our efforts at equity issues; this is on list but not sure where it will fall); how do we get issues resolved, as example: mother needs restroom for her children at Transit facility but often these are locked because we don't have enough police to patrol them (while no specific equation, we do run through the safety/cost of each issue, while having a practical approach; we continue to work on these issues).

2. International Rail Rodeo

Metro Transit Director of Light Rail Operations Mark Benedict presented this item and Metro Transit Rail Coordinator Christina was available for any questions. Council member Letofsky expressed her gratitude for the staff's extra work to coordinate this event as it is a great added value and allows staff to show off their skills.

3. Metro Transit Community Outreach

Metro Transit Supervisor Public Involvement Jill Hentges presented this item. Council member Munt expressed her appreciation for her work and the value that has been added by having a culture that embraces engagement. Chair Schrieber also expressed gratitude for Jill and Carol LeFleur for their work with the *Cops and Kids Tournament* in which she recently attending.

4. MTS Regional Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Contracted Transit Services John Harper presented this item. Council member Dorfman provided feedback that maybe we shouldn't just look at this within a Transit lens and that maybe its a phase within the economy that is touching a lot of different industries. Council member Letofsky asked that at the next quarterly update, the information include how our ridership compares to other peer regions and also the broaden economic perspective as it relates to Council member Dorfman's comments. Council member Commers asked if the workgroup includes any external parties, in which Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petiere answered that we are currently looking our services in how it compare to past years and working with John Levin Metro Transit Director of Strategic Initiatives on the information he knows from his work with Urban Studies and those type of groups. Council members Commers suggested we take advantage of having an Urban college in our backyard and the opportunity to leverage their work and studies.

5. Metro Transit Sustainability/Energy Annual Update

Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator Jeff Freeman and Metro Transit intern Claire Warren presented this item and Metro Transit Assistant Director Facilities Engineering Pat Jones was available for questions. Freeman and Jones answered questions from Council members: specific goals for where we want to be in regards to energy use and MPG (Yes: facilities having EUI (Energy Use Intensity, KPTU per Sq ft.) of 80, looking at LR propulsion and mpg improvement with our revenue fleet; there are numbers we are working towards and will provide in future presentation); explored CNG (yes but CNG is a bridge technology to get to Electric buses which are coming on strong so work was put on hold);

status on our work to comply to Governor Dayton's 2012 Executive Order on energy use reduction (exceeded the 20% mark but since we are a growing service we want to use Energy Usage per Ride as our metric, and try to continually decrease). Council member Rodriguez stated how impressed she was by the efforts and Chair Schrieber was interested in learning about the energy use comparison between a Park and Ride facility that uses solar panels and another one of similar size that doesn't have them.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 6:15pm.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary