

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

July 24, 2017

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

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

Committee Members Absent: Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:06pm on Monday, July 24, 2017 in the Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2017 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 Manager Transportation – Bus presented to Metro Transit Mark Up Dispatcher Louie Lofton.

Metro Transit Sr. Rail Transit Supervisor Nick Pellegrin presented to Metro Transit Rail Supervisor Liz Hendren.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Peter Dugan reported that at the last TAB meeting: the first workshop was presented by Metropolitan Council staff on the TPP, with additional workshop continuing throughout August & September; MnDOT reported the St. Croix River bridge will be open on August 2nd; the work on 35 W Lake St. & 46th St. to Downtown will begin with removal of the Franklin St. & 36th St. bridge in August, ongoing for the next 4 years; MAAC reported they have a new website, www.msairport.com; and two streamlined TIP amendments were passed.

There were also a couple major discussion items including: TMA Certification review (Metropolitan Council receiving high marks), Truck Highway Corridor Study, Shared Mobility Action Plan (reported on by an organization from Chicago) and the ongoing new initiative on mapping already funded regional solicitation projects.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson had nothing to report.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Metro Transit Police Department at Cal Ripkin: Last week Metro Transit Police Officers joined with other law enforcement agencies to play a little ball with some kids a community baseball clinic hosted by the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation in Robbinsdale. The clinic is aimed at building positive relationships between at-risk kids and local police departments through a day of fun at the baseball field. Steps like this and the recent Cops and Fishing events are only a few way in with the Metro Transit Police Department works to connect with our riders and the communities in which our trains and buses travel. You also might see our officers at some of our stops and stations during National Night Out on next Tuesday, August 1.

State Fair tickets go on sale and evolve: Metro Transit is going to be proud to be taking thousands of riders to the State Fair. They go on sale beginning August 1st. This year, in addition to selling tickets online at Metro Transit.org, it is the first time that we will be providing the tickets through our mobile app. The tickets on the mobile app will be discounted, not only prior to the fair, but during it as well. Last year, we provided the most express and regular route rides to the Minnesota State Fair in the agency's history, serving just over 632,500 riders, about 16 percent of the fair's record 1.9 million visitors.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2017-157 SW:** Transportation Public Participation Plan

Metropolitan Council Outreach Coordinator Mai Thor presented this item. Council member Munt asked how we document the public comment process and if there is a loop back system to citizens, informing them if recommendations were factored in or not and if not why. Thor replied that staff is currently working on a system for the TPP but looking at a system/process that is broad reaching and could transfer to other initiatives.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Transportation Public Participation Plan. That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 Unified Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with attachment #2.

Motion passed.

2. **2017-142:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Cooperative Funding Agreement Amendment #1

Metro Transit Deputy Project Director SWLRT Joan Hollick presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute amendment #1 to the Project Development (PD) Continuance and Engineering Cooperative Funding Agreement for the Southwest LRT (SWLRT), (Green Line Extension) Project between the Council and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) to extend the HCRRA 20% share of funding for this phase through March 2018, for an amount not to exceed \$59.9 million.

Motion passed.

3. **2017-151 SW:** Blue Line Extension LRT Project – Bassett Creek Tunnel Box Culvert Contract

Metro Transit Director Transit Systems Development MarySue Abel presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with Max Steininger, Inc. in the amount of \$550,000 for the Bassett Creek Tunnel Box Culvert (17P108).

Motion passed.

4. 2017-159 SW: Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metro Transit Sr. Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented the item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Barber, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2017 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the Capital Program – Attachment #1 (Program Level).

Motion passed.

5. 2017-155 SW: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: MnDOT US 10 Cable Median Barrier

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. Council member Dorfman asked for clarification as to what cable median barriers were; Barbeau responding that this was the barrier (fence-line) between the two directions and Nick Thompson adding that these are lower cost and help prevent head on collisions.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project to add a cable median barrier to US Highway 10 from Anoka to Elk River.

Motion passed.

6. 2017-156 SW: 2017-2020 TIP Amendment: MnDOT Hardman Ave Rail Gates

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to install rail gates at Hardman Avenue in South St. Paul.

Motion passed.

7. 2017-158: 2017 Supplemental Operating Agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and SouthWest Transit

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Agesen-Huebner presented this item. Dave Jacobsen with SouthWest Transit provided comments in regard to the “Known Support/Opposition” of the Business Item, reiterating the funds SW Transit are requesting and the need for a better policy model.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements in the amount of \$958,000 with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and \$359,000 with SouthWest Transit (SWT) to provide supplemental transit operating funding during CY 2017. This item is contingent on Council adoption of the Q2 Unified Budget Amendment on July 26, 2017.

Motion passed.

8. 2017-154 SW: Fare Adjustment

Metro Transit Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull presented this item. Council member Dorfman expressed concern regarding the TAP program and how it has a fairly limited definition for ‘qualifying’ and asked if staff can begin to delve into how we can make this accessible to more low-income customers.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber to approve the motion. Council members engaged in discussion.

Letofsky made a motion to amend the Main Motion, seconded by Elkins to make the following additions/changes:

Front Page Amendments:

3. That the Metropolitan Council directs staff to develop a report for review by the Council by 1st quarter 2018 that will:

- a) Look at how travel distances could be considered as part of overall fare policy, and
- b) Identify opportunities to implement a reverse commute fare aimed at growing ridership on reverse commute trips

4. That the Metropolitan Council directs staff to update the Council at least every six months on the TAP program’s results, and include recommendations for potential expansions of the program.

Attachment B Amendments:

1. The senior, reduced and Medicare (“Reduced Fare”) base fare increases by \$0.25, to \$1.00 during off-peak times, and the peak fare matches the full-fare value.

Cash Fare Increases Senior, Youth and Medicare:	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Local Off-Peak	\$.75	\$1.00
Local Peak	\$2.25	\$2.50
Express Off-Peak	\$.75	\$1.00
Express Peak	\$3.00	\$3.25
Transit Assistance Pass (TAP)	New Program	\$1.00

Additional discussion ensued. Dorfman had an issue with #4 (above), wanting to have a more definite date on when recommendations for TAP Program could be completed. Eull indicated potentially October 1, 2018, adding the pilot test gave valuable information to build a model that can be successful but we need time with the new model. A period between now and April/May 2018 would allow enough time to formulate recommendations that they’d be comfortable talking about regarding expansion. Brian Lamb added that modifications would continue to be made, with a June 2018 time frame for Policy Recommendations, with an implementation by the end of 2018. Munt added she wants to be cautious that we don’t recreate the deficit but look to how we can expand TAP in a way we have control. Commers suggested an early report back/discussion by mid-2018 to allow for a decision to be made by current Council Members as a late year implementation makes it harder to ‘hand-off’ due to Council Members’ terms.

Dorfman made a motion to amend the proposed amendment, seconded by Elkins to make the following changes in italics.

4. That the Metropolitan Council directs staff to update the Council at least every six months on the TAP program's results, ~~and include~~ *including assessment of program* and recommendations for potential expansions of the program *reporting back to the Council by June 2018.*

A vote was taken on the motion to amend the proposed amendment (made by Dorfman, seconded by Elkins) and passed unanimously.

A vote was taken on the proposed amendment as amended by the motion to amend the amendment (made by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins) and passed unanimously.

Chair Rodriguez expressed her thanks to staff, Council Members and customers who've provided input and ideas throughout this process. Several Council Members expressed their support for the \$.25 cent increase, expressing how tough of a decision this is, suggesting we look at system design and ensuring we keep the services our customers depend on.

A vote was taken on the Main Motion as amended by the motion to amend as amended:

1. That the Metropolitan Council accept the public comment report for proposed fare adjustments and authorize the recommended fare change proposal (attachment B) for service operated by all regional transit providers participating in the regional fare structure, with changes to be effective October 1, 2017 or as noted on the attached proposal.
2. That the Metropolitan Council directs staff to develop a fare policy recommendation by EOY 2017 for Council consideration to help determine when future fare adjustments should be considered and how future fare increases will continue to drive towards:
 - a. Creating solutions for a more sustainable funding structure
 - b. Understanding the best way to grow ridership while equalizing subsidies across modes to the best extent possible
 - c. Mitigating disproportionate impacts of increased fares on people of color, low income communities, youth and seniors, and persons with disabilities
 - d. Addressing the future considerations included in the Equity Advisory Committee recommendation from July 18, 2017.
3. That the Metropolitan Council directs staff to develop a report for review by the Council by 1st quarter 2018 that will:
 - a. Look at how travel distances could be considered as part of overall fare policy, and
 - b. Identify opportunities to implement a reverse commute fare aimed at growing ridership on reverse commute trips
4. That the Metropolitan Council directs staff to update the Council at least every six months on the TAP program's results, including assessment of the program and recommendations for potential expansions of the program, reporting back to the Council by June 2018.

Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

1. 2018 Operating Budget

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented their respective division's 2018 Operating Budget. Barber asked what the timing was for the Regional Revenue Allocation model, Nick Thompson

answered that the first meeting would be mid-August but will take several meetings to work through. Munt was glad to see the increase to \$16 pay for Metro Mobility drivers in the budget.

2. Metro Transit Energy Conservation/ Sustainability Update

Metro Transit Sr. Project Coordinator Jeff Freeman and Metro Transit E&F Intern Claire Warren presented this item. Freeman answered questions from Council members: industry benchmarks for Tailpipe Particulate and NOx Emissions and how are we doing (currently meeting all the guidelines that are set forth), are we meeting Governor Dayton's Energy Conservation Goals (participating in workgroups working on the Executive Order, with the focus on ensuring goals are doable and looking at the state as an enterprise); and is there a process for the VW Settlement funding and is Electric Buses part of that (Brian Lamb answered that we have been actively involved at the state level to help define the criteria establishing how they would measure and allocate the money; we've been teeing up what we believe our program initiative would be: electrification of our fleet).

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Becky Davidson
Recording Secretary