

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 22 2015

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

**Committee Members Absent:** Deb Barber

**TAB Liaison Present:** Randy Maluchnik

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2015 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers. The committee began with the Employee Recognition noted below while waiting for a quorum. A quorum was reached prior to regular business.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2015 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following:

Metro Transit Nicollet Garage Manager Anthony Harris who presented the employee recognition award to John Cook, Assistant Manager Nicollet Garage, for his work and leadership during the major renovation at Nicollet Garage.

John Cook, Assistant Manager Nicollet Garage presented the employee recognition to Operator Renee Stafford for 35 years of safe driving, her encouragement to other drivers, compassion for others, and role model for women.

## TAB LIAISON REPORT

Katie Rodriguez reported the TAB approved the release of the Draft 2016-2019 TIP for public comment. The public comment period continues to 8/05, the TAB will act on the TIP on 8/19 and the TIP is scheduled to come to the Transportation Committee on 9/14.

The TAB also discussed upcoming equity workshops. Chair Hovland extended an invitation to TAB members to serve on a committee to help select the consultant. The proposed make-up of this committee would be three TAB members, two Council members and two Council staff. Rodriguez intends to serve – need one more Council member. Arlene McCarthy stated that once the consultant is on board, then a larger group will work with the consultant to plan the workshops.

## METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER and DIRECTOR OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORTS

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported:

1. MVST receipts for the previous 5 months averaged over 100% of the forecast, although May was at 87.21% of forecast projections. The number of actual remittance days can be different than the average over the last 10 years (which may account for the low percentage in May). For the first ten months of SFY15, MVST revenues are at 100.02% of forecast.

2. Update on Transportation Bill in Washington

The wait for a Transportation Bill continues. The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee has announced it will mark up a highway reauthorization bill on Wed. 6/24. It is anticipated to be a six-year bill with similar funding levels as MAP-21. It is estimated that \$92 billion in additional revenue is needed for the highway trust fund (HTF) to stay solvent for the six years of the bill.

The House of Representatives prefers an extension of the HTF spending authority until 12/31/15 to a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill. This five month extension would require between \$8 and \$11 billion in additional revenue for the HTF.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Nicollet Mall detours

In coordination with the City of Minneapolis, Metro Transit will be detouring buses off of Nicollet Mall beginning Monday, July 6. Nicollet Mall routes 10, 11, 17, 18, 25, 59 and 568 will be detoured between Washington Avenue and Grant Street to Third Avenue South and the general-purpose lanes on Marquette and Second Avenues. The detours will be in effect through 2017 as construction on Nicollet Mall occurs. Bus stop signs and some temporary shelters will go up along the detour route and scheduled service changes will go into effect on detoured routes beginning Saturday, Aug. 22.

2. Metro Transit goes to Hollywood

Metro Transit will play a supporting role in the movie *Wilson*, being shot this month in the Twin Cities. On Wednesday, a bus will be used for filming in south Minneapolis. Plans are also in the works to film on Northstar. The movie stars Woody Harrelson and is based on a graphic novel about a middle-aged man who is attempting to reunite with his ex-wife. A release date has not been announced.

3. Reduced holiday service

Due to decreased demand on the Friday before Independence Day, Metro Transit and regional transit providers will reduce service on Friday, July 3. Many routes will follow Saturday schedules. Northstar will follow a reduced schedule on July 3.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

Motion was made by Commers, seconded by Elkins, and carried to approve the following consent items:

1. 2015-146 SW: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: Metro Transit Section 5307 Preventive Maintenance

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include additional funds for Section 5307 Preventative Maintenance.

2. 2015-149: Authorization to Amend First Transit Metro Mobility Demand Contract

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend Metro Mobility service contract 09P224 with First Transit Inc. to increase the maximum contract amount by \$1,397,174 for an amended amount not to exceed \$66,975,436.

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

1. 2014-303: Authorization to Enter into a Sole Source Agreement with ARINC

Metro Transit Director LRT Operations Brian Funk presented this item.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sole source contract with ARINC for a three (3) year maintenance agreement as well as system software improvements and enhancements, not to exceed \$1.5 million.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item can proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2015-120: Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station: Professional Services Contract Amendment with SEH

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Claudius Toussaint presented this item.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a contract amendment to increase the Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) Inc. contract value by \$159,868 for a revised total contract value of \$1,045,421.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item can proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

3. 2015-122: Authorize Northstar Corridor Funding Agreement with State of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Resolution No. 2015-7

Metro Transit Director Northstar Commuter Rail John Paul Zanaska presented this item.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to:

- Enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for Calendar Year 2016 to provide funding for public commuter rail service in Sherburne County, Minnesota for an amount up to \$1.4 million.
- Execute the Attached Resolution of the Governing Body (Metropolitan Council) to enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for Calendar Year 2016.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection, Chair Schreiber stated that this item can proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

4. 2015-145 SW: Authorization to Amend the 2015 Unified Budget

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented this item and further explained the “no impact” to the budget to Dorfman and the reserve levels to Munt. Letofsky stated that although she will vote positively on this item, she expressed disappointment in the State for withdrawing previous funds and that staff was left scrambling for a solution for the funding gap. Munt stated that this further emphasizes the need for a dedicated source for transportation funding.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2015 Unified Budget – Capital Program (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the spreadsheet in Capital Attachment #1 (Program Level).

Motion carried.

## INFORMATION

1. St. Paul Youth Commission, Metro Transit Go-To Card Pilot Program

Councilmember Jon Commers gave an explanation of the project. Metro Transit Assistant Director Service Development Kristin Thompson introduced students: Sebastian Alfonzo, Spencer Willits, Breanna Simon, and their advisor Lisle Bertsche, who presented this item. This project was a partnership with the Youth Council. The students studied how and why their fellow students use their Go-To passes. A grant was provided and used for the survey of Go-To pass use in the hope of providing reasoning for providing free bus passes for students. The Youth Commission recommends that high school students be provided free bus passes. A video produced in partnership with the youth SPNN was shown relating personal stories from students regarding their experience with the free passes.

2. Metro Transit Police Update

Metropolitan Transit Police Chief John Harrington gave an update of the Metro Transit Police Department including statistics on fare checks, arrests, internal affairs complaints, on-board hours, types of police calls and response time, community outreach, and staffing levels/needs and demographics of staff.

3. Transportation Funding Overview

Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Planning & Finance Amy Vennewitz presented part 1 of 2 (or 3) of this item. This portion of the presentation included Minnesota and Metro Area transportation revenues and expenditures. Discussions are being held with the Communications Department to produce a narrative powerpoint presentation on this topic to be posted on the Council's website because this is an item of interest to parties outside of the Met Council.

4. Metro Transit Energy/Conservation/Sustainability Update

This item was deferred to a later Transportation Committee meeting.

5. Service Effectiveness and Efficiency

Metro Transit Director Service Development Adam Harrington presented on the ridership, purpose of trips, success factors, revenue, and subsidy per passenger.

6. Orange Line Update – Knox Avenue Layout and Downtown Access Options

This item was deferred to a later Transportation Committee meeting.

7. Metro Green Line One-Year Update

Metro Transit Director LRT Operations Brian Funk presented statistics of the Green Line one year after its opening.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.