

Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Monday, December 9, 2013

Committee Members Present: **Adam Duinick, Chair** **Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair**
 Katie Rodriguez
 Jennifer Munt **Jon Commers**
 James Brimeyer **Steve Elkins**

Committee Members Absent: **Edward Reynoso**

TAB Liaison: **Robert Lilligren**

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Chair Duinick called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 3:31 p.m. on Monday, December 9, 2013. The Chair requested that staff proceed with information items.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2013 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Robert Lilligren gave a brief recap of the November 20, 2013 TAB meeting, discussion which covered the TIP amendments listed on this meeting's consent agenda as well as an update regarding the \$500,000 provided by TAB to the PCA for the implementation of electric vehicle charging stations.

Chair Duinick and several other Council Members then spent a few minutes wishing Robert Lilligren well, as this would be his last meeting as the TAB Liaison for the Committee.

GENERAL MANAGER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported on the following:

1. Buses began operating on the new Washington Avenue Transit/Pedestrian mall this weekend as service changes went into effect across the region. Buses have been detoured off Washington Avenue since May 2011 due to construction on the METRO Green Line.

Some 1,200 bus trips on more than 20 routes operated by Metro Transit will now run on Washington Avenue, including popular routes 16 and 50. When the Green Line opens next year, buses will share the right of way with trains between Coffman Memorial Union and Walnut Street. Metro Transit staff was on campus talking with customers about the change last week and a safety campaign is ongoing. A new video explaining bike boxes is available online at metrotransit.org.

In all, around 40 Metro Transit routes saw service changes on Dec. 7. Service changes are implemented every three months in response to customer trends. To inform customers about the changes, hundreds of schedules were updated at Park & Rides, Transit Centers and waiting shelters around the region. Another 503,000 new printed "pocket" schedules were distributed.

2. Metro Transit customers can ride free to the Doontree Blowout on Friday and to the Target Holidazzle Parade on Saturday. Free rides for Friday's Doontree concert at First Avenue are available from 6 p.m. to

midnight on all Metro Transit buses and METRO lines. Free rides are available on Saturday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. A special event Northstar train will also run to Saturday's Holidazzle parade. Metro Transit is the featured sponsor of Saturday's parade.

3. The arrival of winter weather has customers turning to Metro Transit's Facebook and Twitter accounts, where they can receive real-time service updates. Our Twitter account, @MetroTransitMN, surpassed 9,000 followers last week; our Facebook page has more than 21,000 "Likes." Service updates are offered every 15 minutes when inclement weather impacts service.
4. A 40-kilowatt solar array has been completed at the Light Rail Support Facility, east of the METRO Blue Line on Franklin Avenue. The 150 solar panels atop the facility's roof are expected to provide 12 percent of the energy used at the facility, reducing energy costs by as much as \$4,000 a year.
5. TIC reps handled 5,865 calls on Friday, Nov. 29, the day after Thanksgiving. That set an all time record for the most calls handled in a single day.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy reported the following:

The Council will make appointments to seven positions on the TAB (Transportation Advisory Board), a 33-member body that advises the Council on issues involving the regional highway, public transit and airport systems, as well as bike and pedestrian facilities. Two members are sought to represent specifically public transit interests in the region and one member to represent bike and pedestrian interests. Four citizen members are sought to represent the following TAB districts:

- A (Council Districts 1 and 2, northwest metro)
- B (Council Districts 3 and 4, west and southwest metro)
- C (Council Districts 5 and 6, just south and west of Minneapolis)
- D (Council Districts 7 and 8, Minneapolis)

TAB is composed of elected officials, representatives of government agencies involved in transportation issues, citizen members and representatives of transit, freight and non-motorized modes. Terms for these seven positions expire in January 2016. TAB meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 1 p.m. in Council Chambers. Questions can be directed to Carl Ohrn at Carl.Ohrn@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1719.

The Council is also seeking applicants to four vacancies on the TAAC (Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee), which advises the Council on management policies for public transportation services in the region that serve people with disabilities. The TAAC is composed of 16 members, including riders, advocates for seniors and members of the disability community, representatives of service providers and other appropriate agencies. Membership is sought in districts:

- B (Council Districts 3 and 4, southwest metro)
- E (Council Districts 9 and 10, northern metro)
- F (Council Districts 11 and 12, northeast and east metro)
- H (Council Districts 15 and 16, southeast metro)

At least half of the committee's members must be active transit users and eligible for paratransit services under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Terms are four years, concurrent with Council's. Questions can be directed to David Russell at David.Russell@metc.state.mn.us or 651-602-1662.

BUSINESS

A. Consent Items.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried.**

2013-341: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for North Urban Regional Trail.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the budget for SP#019-090-015 to a total of \$1,600,000 with \$794,080 in Transportation Alternatives (TAP) funds and an increased local amount of \$805,920.

2013-342: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Projects for 2014-2016.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the attached 24 projects for the HSIP allocation for years 2014, 2015, and 2016 with a total of \$15.5 million in HSIP, and modify the budgets for set-asides for the years 2014-2016.

2013-343: 2014-2017 TIP Amendment for I-35W North Managed Lane.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the I-35W North Managed Lane Environmental Assessment and Preliminary Design project (SP#6284-172) in the year 2014 with a total of \$904,540 using \$814,086 in federal Interstate Maintenance Discretionary funds and state funding of \$90,454.

B. Non-Consent Items

2013-340 SW: Authorization to Amend the 2013 Unified Operating Budget.

Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Rodriguez, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the amendment of the 2013 Unified Operating Budget as indicated and in accordance with 2013 Annual Budget – Summary of Revisions.

Motion carried.

2013-330 SW: Authorize Execution of Contract Options with Motor Coach Industries (MCI).

MTS Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt that the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an existing contract options on Contract 08P114 with MCI to purchase 7 coach buses in an amount not to exceed \$4,057,200 on behalf of SWT and the City of Prior Lake.

Motion carried.

2013-333 SW: Controlled Access Approval for Construction of an Interchange at 4th Street South & I-35W Northbound, City of Minneapolis & Hennepin County.

MTS Systems Planning Manager Connie Kozlak presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt that the Metropolitan Council approve a request by MnDOT and Hennepin County to construct an interchange with I-35W Northbound at 4th Street South in the City of Minneapolis, conditional upon any significant changes in the design of the proposed project being subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

Motion carried.

2013-344 SW: Supplemental Taxi Service (Peak Demand Overflow) with Taxi Services, Inc.

MTS Project Administrator Dana Rude presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee.

Motion to approve by Elkins, seconded by Schreiber that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Taxi Services Inc. for Peak Demand Overflow (PDO) services for January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$775,000.

Motion carried.

2013-321 SW: Approval of the 5th Capital Budget Amendment to the 2013 Unified Capital Budget.

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee.

Motion to approve by Elkins, seconded by Munt that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2013 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) and Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) as indicated and in accordance with the attached table.

Motion carried.

2013-329 SW: Metro Transit Police Department, Target Field Station (Interchange).

Metro Transit Lead Project Manager Joe Edwards presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee.

Motion to approve by Munt, seconded by Elkins that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a professional services contract with Julie Snow Architects, Inc. for design and construction support services for a building to be located on Development Parcel A of the Target Field Station and which will house the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) Facility and facilities to be owned by United Properties (a private developer) at a not-to-exceed contract amount of \$ 2,150,000 contingent upon the execution of an Interim Agreement for Co-Development of Target Field Station Development Parcel A.

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

1. Interchange Project Quarterly Update.

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Robert Rimstad presented the item and answered questions from the Committee.

2. Highway Studies Update.

Connie Kozlak, MTS Systems Planning Manager, presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee.

3. Highway Transitway BRT Study.

MTS Senior Planner Cole Hiniker presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee.

4. Update on Training to bring service back to Washington Ave.

Metro Transit Brian Funk, Assistant Director, Field Operations, presented the item and responded to questions from the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.