

# MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, October 13, 2014

**Committee Members Present:** Duininck, Brimeyer; Elkins; Schreiber; Munt; Reynoso; Rodriguez; McCarthy

**Committee Members Absent:** Commers

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Duininck called the Joint Meeting of the Transportation and Community Development Committees to order at 4:01 p.m. on Monday, October 13, 2014.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

It was moved by Elkins, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2014 special meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC INVITATION:** An invitation to interested persons to address the Council on matters not on the agenda. Brett Collier made a presentation about Northstar.

**TAB LIAISON REPORT:** Chair Duininck gave Robert Lilligren's report in his absence. The TAB has not met since the last meeting but will be meeting this Wednesday. The Regional Solicitation that we approved and TAB approved is set to be released publicly this week. The TAB will be meeting at MnDOT's office located at Regional Traffic Control is located at Water's Edge in Roseville.

## MTS DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy shared information about MVST report. Three months this year, July-August-September, with receipts at 109%, 91% and 101.5%, for a three-month YTD at 99.92%.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann gave the General Manager report in Brian Lamb's absence. He covered the following information:

Green Line tops 1 million rides in September: More than 1 million rides were taken on the Green Line in September, the highest monthly ridership since service began in June. The 1,063,512 rides taken on the Green Line last month brings year-to-date ridership to 3,477,945. Average weekday ridership in September was 37,178, which is 35 percent higher than the ridership projection for 2015. The projected average weekday ridership for 2030 is 40,000. The Green Line and bus routes serving the University Avenue corridor (16 and 94) had a combined ridership of 1,185,217 in September. In September 2013, there were 653,208 rides on routes 16, 94 and 50. Ridership was boosted by the start of the U of M Fall Semester. U of M students have purchased 18,061 U-Passes this semester, surpassing sales from last year, and the East Bank Station is the Green Line's most active stop, drawing an average of more than 5,000 weekday boardings.

Roadeo Champion tallies 11th win: Heywood Garage operator Jack Berner took first place in Metro Transit's 2014 Bus Roadeo, an annual skills competition that involves a series of driving challenges. In second place: his son, fellow Operator Jason Berner. That the father-son duo placed first and second among the 108 operators who competed in this year's competition isn't all that surprising. Jack Berner has won 10 previous Roadeos and helped his son Jason prepare for this year's competition by practicing on the

course with him in advance. The third place Finisher was Nicollet Operator Douglas John, who also took home the Rookie of the Year award. Garage champions include: Jack Berner (Heywood); Douglas John (Nicollet); David Palm (East Metro); David DeCarlo (South); and Denny Bell (Ruter). Metro Transit's top finishers will advance to state and national competitions.

Bus Maintenance sets new performance record: Bus Maintenance reported 8,819 miles between maintenance road calls in August – a new system record. South, Nicollet and Heywood also set individual records for the month of August. The goal for the year is 7,200 miles between maintenance road calls and the year-to-date average is 7,024. Bus Maintenance credited the new record to skilled staff, a focus on preventative maintenance, training and favorable weather. The previous system record was set in November 2013, when there were 8,680 miles between maintenance road calls.

Wild partnership enters another season: Metro Transit is again partnering with the Minnesota Wild to provide fans free rides to all regular season home games. The Wild's first home game was Thursday, Oct. 9 (they beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-0). Fans can ride all buses and METRO lines free two hours before and after the game with a downloadable pass available on the Wild's website. The Wild have 41 home games this regular season, which concludes in early April. Metro Transit has partnered with the Wild since 2002.

## **BUSINESS**

### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

2014-246: 2015 Small Buses Procurement. That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements, contingent upon Council approval of Action Item 2014-227 on October 22, 2014, with:

1. Hogle Bus (MnDOT Contract 72485) for up to 32 replacement buses and 9 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$3,364,177; and
2. North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 72487) for up to 32 replacement buses and 20 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$3,356,000.

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Elkins, that the consent item be adopted. Motion carried.

### **NON-CONSENT ITEMS:**

2014-247: 2014 Coach Bus Contract. Presented by MTS Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton. That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. execute contract #14P053 with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) for the base purchase of 49 coach buses and an additional 95 option buses over a five-year contract term contingent on satisfactory results from the Pre-Award Buy America Audit. The total price of the base purchase is \$30,013,248; and
2. immediately exercise two option buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000.

Council Member Munt asked what was included in the Buy America requirements. Staff responded that to meet the Buy America Requirement, the manufacturer must have American made content and production of the content that represents at least 60% of the cost of the vehicle. It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Munt, that the item be adopted. Motion carried. Consent to Council.

2014-248: CTIB 2015 Project Grant Applications Consistency with the 2030 TPP. The proposed action is that the Metropolitan Council finds the eleven grant applications submitted to the Counties

Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for CY2015 funding to be consistent with the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan adopted November 2010. MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item. She noted that it is anticipated that CTIB will not agree to fund the I-35W South BRT Express expansion bus capital grant requests for \$173,700 as CTIB staff have advised they deem it ineligible. CTIB has funded this type of capital cost in the past and the increased operating cost associated with the expansion bus is also eligible and included in the I-35W South BRT Express operating grant request, but CTIB interprets its newly adopted Transit Investment Framework as having this bus expansion ineligible.

A project noted as being unique is Anoka County's Northstar Corridor Safety Improvement capital grant request for \$10,200,000. This will fund a TH10 grade-separated interchange at Armstrong Boulevard which will help Northstar reliability and safety in addition to similarly benefitting freight rail and auto traffic. It was moved by Munt, seconded by Schreiber, that the item be adopted. Motion carried. Consent to Council.

2014-227: 4th Quarter Budget Amendments. Presented by Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and MTS Principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2014 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the tables attached to the business item. It was moved by Munt, seconded by Schreiber, that the item be adopted. Motion carried. Non-consent to Council.

2014-249: Defederalize the City of Carver Demonstration Bus Service Project. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council concur with TAB's action to defederalize the City of Carver's Demonstration Bus Service project, contingent on TAB approval on October 15, 2014. MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item, noting that Brent Mareck, Carver City Administrator, was present. McCarthy explained how the City of Carver's bus demonstration project would benefit from receiving non-federal operating funds in lieu of the federal CMAQ funds.

Council member Van Eyll thanked Council and City staff for arriving at this solution. Mareck explained how this action will allow the city to implement an efficient service plan. In response to Councilmember Elkins' suggestion that TAB pursue intentional defederalization of more projects as a final step in the Regional Solicitation process similar to what other region's do, McCarthy indicated that the TAB Executive Committee will be discussing this idea.

Motion by Schreiber, second by Elkins, that the item be adopted. Motion carried. Consent to Council.

2014-242: Authorization to release the DRAFT Service Improvement Plan for Public Review and Comment. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council release the draft Service Improvement Plan for public review and comment. Metro Transit Manager of Route Planning Cyndi Harper gave a presentation about the draft Service Improvement Plan (SIP), including the types of projects included and estimated ridership and resources. Council Member Brimeyer asked that information about the public meetings be sent to the council members. Ms. Harper replied that this information is already on-line and will be sent to each council member as well. Motion by Reynoso, second by Munt. Motion carried. Non-consent to Council.

2014-245: Commit \$2M in Council-Controlled Funds to Leverage a \$6M CTIB Funding Commitment Request in Order to Enter Small Starts and Complete Orange Line Project Development and Engineering RESOLUTION. Proposed action, that the Metropolitan Council commit \$2M in council-controlled funds to leverage a \$6M Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) funding commitment to complete METRO Orange Line Project Development and Engineering activities. Metro Transit Senior Planner Christina Morrison presented the business item. Motion by Council Member Elkins, second by Council Member Schreiber. Motion passed. Consent to Council.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Dakota County Metro Mobility and Transit Link Services Transition Update (Andrew Krueger 651-602-1689, Paul Colton 651-602-1668)
2. METRO Blue Line Derailment Response (Mark Benedict 612-341-5627)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Linda Thayer  
Recording Secretary