

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: April 25, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Robert Street

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco, District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kris Fredson, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Zeran, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sterner, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Cummings, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Francisco Gonzalez, District 12 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present, E = excused |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m.

Present	8	Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Absent	0	

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis to approve the amended agenda of the April 25, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Zeran to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Aye	8	Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	0	

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

- Metro Transit Chief of Staff Lesley Kandaras on behalf of General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced Metro Transit Chief Operating Officer Brian Funk who presented awards to Bus Operator Apprenticeship Coordinator Alec Johnson, Operator JoAnn Peterson, Transit Supervisor Thomas Hosley, and Operator Rodney Smith.

Reports

- Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Charles Carlson
Planning

The Regional Solicitation for federal funds application period closed last Thursday. High demand for transportation improvements far outpaces funds available. The Council received a record number of applications, 155. The amount of federal money available (approximately

\$200M) will only fund about 1/3 of the requests (approximately \$600M). Including local match, the total amount of transportation investment proposed is \$1.2 billion. Of note- demand for multiuse trail and pedestrian facilities is high with a record 69 applications, requesting nearly \$170M. Unfortunately, traditionally there is only around \$30M available to fill the \$170M of requests (18% success rate). Additional funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects is urgently needed for the region to build out multimodal systems that serve all people.

Finance

Update on Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (or MVST) Receipts: March receipts were consistent with March 2021 around \$32 million. Receipts for the last 6 months exceed the same period last year by 5.5%. So far in 2022 we have received \$82 million which is \$3.2 million or 4 percent above forecast.

Contracted Services

Ridership continues to grow across MTS services, with Metro Mobility approaching 80% of pre-pandemic ridership levels and Transit Link service continuing to grow. February wage increases have assisted with contractor hiring to meet this demand. We are budgeted for 2022 to provide this expected increased level of service. Like Metro Transit, MTS services have adjusted following the end of the federal TSA order requiring face coverings on transit services. Lesley will cover this in the GM report as well so we can jointly address questions on that topic, if any.

Cummings asked how the MVST revenue compares to pre-pandemic, Carlson said the rebound continues to grow.

2. Metro Transit Chief of Staff Lesley Kandaras on behalf of General Manager Wes Kooistra *Fatality*

I want to acknowledge the horrific news that I imagine you've heard by now. Early Sunday morning, a person was stabbed to death on a Metro Transit train. Metro Transit extends our condolences to the victim's loved ones and our thoughts are also with the operator and officers who responded. Minneapolis Police Department is the lead law enforcement agency and the investigation is ongoing.

Mask Mandate

As a result of last Monday's court decision, the federal mask mandate for public transportation is no longer in effect. Metro Transit has not issued a mandate for our agency, and thus, masks are voluntary at this time. That said, we are reiterating and amplifying the CDC guidance that masks should still be worn on public transit as well as reminding passengers they shouldn't be riding if they are ill and should try to keep distance from others when possible. Generally, at this stage of the pandemic we are at about 50% of our pre-pandemic ridership. So, it continues to grow, but still not where we were pre-pandemic.

Better Bus Stops

With spring comes construction season for Better Bus Stops. This year, the program plans to add up to 20 new shelters, replace up to 25 aged shelters, and construct up to 40 accessible boarding pads at bus stops without shelters. To put that figure in context, 2022 is the second year of the program's current five-year plan. This year's capital projects puts progress at

- 25% of the 5-year goal for new shelters
- 50% of the goal for replacement shelters
- 40% of the goal for light or heat, and
- 40% of the goal for accessible boarding pads.

Since the Better Bus Stop program began and with completion of this year's work plan, 181 new shelters will have been added to the system, and light or heat installed in 111 shelters. As has been our annual practice, we are sending letters to city council members to let them know about these changes

in their communities. The letter will be sent to City Councilmembers in Minneapolis and Saint Paul providing planned shelter changes on Thursday.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Peter Dugan

Dugan shared agency reports and mentioned the requirements for the streamlined TIP amendments on the Transportation Committee agenda. Dugan also shared information from the item on safety that was presented at the TAB.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-99 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Minneapolis Safety Project Cost Increases (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
2. **2022-100 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Southwest LRT Cost Increase (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
3. **2022-101 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: US 169 Cable Median Barrier (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
4. **2022-102 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: MN Highway 5 (Arboretum Blvd) Preliminary Engineering (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)
5. **2022-103 SW:** 2022-2025 TIP Amendment: Kellogg Bridge Cost Increase (Joe Barbeau 651-602-1705)

It was moved by Gonzalez seconded by Fredson.

Motion carried on the following vote.

Aye	8	Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent		

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-92:** Minneapolis Transit Service Center Lease Extension

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract to extend the Minneapolis Transit Service Center lease for five years.

Metro Transit Revenue Operations Supervisor Kevin Davis presented this item.

Gonzalez asked about the cost difference between continuing the lease and making a purchase. Davis said that purchasing property was not analyzed.

Motion carried on the following vote. Hearing no opposition Chair Barber stated this item could proceed consent to Council.

Aye	8	Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent		

2. **2022-95 SW:** Asset Condition Assessment Services, Contract Number 22P111

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 22P111, with Gordian Group, Inc, for asset condition assessment services in an amount not to exceed \$594,686.

Metro Transit Real Estate and Asset Management Program Manager Claudius Toussaint



presented this item.

Sterner asked if this can be done internally, Toussaint said that Metro Transit does not have the staff to complete this assessment but other agencies do perform this when they have staff to do so. Sterner asked about other bids, Toussaint shared information on the SourceWell firm and that the Council has worked with them previously. Gonzalez asked for clarification on the assets, Toussaint answered that they are made up of facilities.

Motion carried on the following vote.

Aye	8	Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent		

Information

1. Northstar Rail Corridor Post-Pandemic Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Multimodal Manager Cole Hiniker and presented this item. Chamblis asked what corridor-funders have commented on their thoughts and preferences. Hiniker said in general the comments have been that the study is timely, there is a mix on where it should head. Zeran commented that the message he hears from constituents is that they like having Northstar and the Twins Games service is brought up frequently. Hiniker said from a rider perspective Northstar rates as one of the highest. Chamblis asked about community engagement. Hiniker said the engagement is planned to take place once data is compiled. Kandaras said that known Northstar riders have been communicated with in addition to the study work. Fredson asked for clarification on the Twins Service. Cummings asked about the ridership pattern. Cummings asked about the expected timeframe. Hiniker gave an overview of the engagement. Carlson added that the information is assisting informed decision-making. Hiniker stated that the information provided will help scenarios be created. Carlson added that if a new agreement is not put in place the current agreement continues. Sterner asked for a breakout between event riders and daily riders. Sterner asked for funding option information as well as safety information. Gonzalez asked if termination of all services is an option that is being considered.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of April 25, 2022.

Council Contact:

Jenna Ernst, Recording Secretary
Jenna.Ernst@metc.state.mn.us