

**Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Monday, January 28, 2013

Committee Members Present: **Steve Elkins, Chair** **Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair**
 Edward Reynoso **Adam Duininck** **Jon Commers**
 James Brimeyer **Jennifer Munt** **Roxanne Smith**

Committee Members Absent:

Committee Members Excused: **John Đoàn**

TAB Liaison: **Robert Lilligren**

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 28, 2013.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Reynoso, seconded by Smith to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commers, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2013 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren reported that the TAB has been meeting as one committee of the whole, instead of the sub-committees, for a trial period of six-months. At the January meeting, the TAB heard the latest information from MnDOT on the impact of MAP-21 on the 2013-2016 TIP. At the regional level, there will more assertive management of projects to gauge readiness and ability to deliver the project in the program year. As noted at the TAB meeting, Lilligren expressed concern that smaller communities may have difficulty preparing projects to the point of application for funding.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing Director, presented awards to:

Pete Raeker-Writer/Editor, Christina McHenry-Graphic Production Coordinator, and Kathy Love-Mailroom Coordinator (not present), for their work on the Insights publication.

Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington, presented awards to:

Sergeant Rick Grates and Officer Leo Castro for their work in solving a molestation crime that took place on a Metro Transit bus in downtown St. Paul.

GENERAL MANAGER AND DIRECTOR REPORTS

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Employee Appreciation: 3 Billionth Customer Events

We're continuing the momentum established from hitting the "3 billionth customer" mark in late November with employee appreciation events at Metro Transit. Over the last couple of weeks and throughout the next couple, all of our worksites throughout the region – garages, offices, rail facilities, police – are hosting events to

recognize the efforts of every employee at hitting this historic mark and looking ahead to serving our next billion customers. Lamb has been attending these events and has had great dialogue with employees throughout the organization who always impress him with their passion for our business and eagerness to provide the very best service to the region.

Agency Partners with St. Paul Winter Carnival

Metro Transit partnered with the St. Paul Winter Carnival this past Saturday to encourage event participants to leave their cars at home and take Metro Transit instead during a very busy weekend in St. Paul. We offered free rides to the event in exchange for promotional value. Parade goers could download a free pass from the Winter Carnival's web site to get to the event on buses. King Boreas Grande Day Parade and other events continue through Sunday, February 3rd.

2012/2013 Wild Ride partnership began Saturday

The "Wild Ride" promotion has resumed for MN Wild home games at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Customers who present game-day tickets to bus drivers or Transit Police officers can ride free to Wild games. This is an annual partnership with the team that provides a great deal of in-kind advertising and promotional value for us.

Staff Pitched Transit at TwinsFest

The Marketing department reports that staff met with hundreds of baseball fans over all three days of TwinsFest this past weekend. Staff explained to fans how to use Metro Transit to get to games at Target Field.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy was not present at the meeting. Deputy Director Finance & Planning Amy Vennewitz called attention to a positive letter from a Metro Mobility customer provided to committee members. This highlighted that not all correspondence from customers is of a negative nature.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt, to approve the items on the consent agenda. Individual actions are listed below. Motion carried.

2013-33: Green Line: Authorization to Purchase a Vacuum Truck

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Purchase Order for a vacuum truck from MacQueen Equipment Inc. under a Cooperative Procurement Venture (CPV) with the State of Minnesota in an amount not to exceed \$350,000.

2013-45: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment for the Mississippi River Trail in the City of Anoka

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the total project cost by \$671,769 to \$1,181,256 and the local funding amount to \$793,448 for the Mississippi River Trail along the river from Tungsten St. to Ramsey Blvd. in the City of Ramsey (SP#103-090-003).

2013-46: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment for Metro Transit Police Facility

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Metro Transit Police Facility Project in 2013 using \$9,600,000 in Section 5307 funding and \$2,400,000 in Regional Transit Capital funds.

2013-47: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment for Anoka County Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge on CSAH 14 over I-35W

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the total project costs and local funding amount by \$890,763 to a new total project cost of \$1,220,549 for the pedestrian/bicycle bridge along CSAH 14 over I-35W in Lino Lakes (SP#002-614-035).

2013-51: Authorization to Execute a Capital Grant Amendment with Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA) for the Newport Station

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with WCRRA for \$2,225,000 for the construction of the Newport Park-and-Ride and Transit Station.

Non-Consent Items

2013-37: Authorize Public Hearings on the West Suburban Service Changes

Steve Mahowald, Metro Transit Senior Transit Planner presented this item. Councilmember Munt commended staff on their work on this project.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Smith, that the Metropolitan Council authorize public hearings on the West Suburban Service Changes Concept Plan. Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2013-44: Transportation Committee 2013 Work Plan

The revised item with committee members' comments/additions was provided to committee members for discussion.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers, that the Transportation Committee adopt the attached list as its 2013 Work Plan. Motion carried. This item does not need to proceed to the full Council.

2013-52: Adoption of the Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordinated Action Plan

MTS Senior Planner Elaine Koutsoukos presented this item. Munt commented that she appreciated the opportunity for the users of the system to comment. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt seconded by Smith: That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordination Action Plan as the coordination public transit-human services plan for the region. Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2013-34: 2013 Unified Capital Program Amendment

MTS Principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Smith, that the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2013 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows:

Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 4,610,000
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- Amend the 2013 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:

Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 450,000
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Motion carried.

2013-48: Authorization to Exercise Contract Options with Gillig, Inc.

MTS Fleet Manager Alex Curtiss presented this item. Curtiss answered questions from Elkins about the status of BE Line buses – they have been replaced – and it is anticipated that these buses will be used more for the Green Line.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Munt that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise purchase options on contract 09P060 with Gillig Corporation, contingent upon approval of BI 2013-34, to purchase 16 thirty-foot buses in an amount not to exceed \$5,960,000.00.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2013-50: Authorization to execute agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and SouthWest Transit for Supplemental Operating Funding

MTS Principal Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented this item. Pfeiffer answered questions from Duinick as to the frequency of this action and that this action does not increase service, it builds up the agencies' fund balances. Vennewitz and Lamb further explained the allowable fund balances and MTS and MT balances. Motion by Munt, seconded by Schreiber, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant agreements in amounts not to exceed \$4,909,200 and \$604,200 with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and SouthWest Transit (SWT), respectively, to provide supplemental transit operating funding during CY2013. Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

INFORMATION

1. Corridors of Opportunity Update

Susan Hoyt, Community Engagement, introduced several people including David Kang, Asian Media Access, who presented this item. The presentation shared information about the grantees for funding through Corridors of Opportunity and how the grants have been used to create community engagement and involvement.

2. I-35W Quarterly Update re: Lake Street Access

Pat Jones, Metro Transit Assistant Dir. Facilities Engineering, and James Harwood, Principal Engineer, presented this item. The presentation included proposed design, differences between this station and 46th Station, proposed development, various project partners and funding sources.

3. 2012 Park-and-Ride Annual Survey Report

Maurice Roers, Metro Transit Manager Facility Planning, and Pierce Canser, Intern, presented this item. The Park-and-Ride survey reveals facts about where the users of P&R's originate from, the numbers of users by provider and by year, and is helpful in future planning.

4. Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Household Survey Preliminary Results

Jonathan Ehrlich, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. Ehrlich discussed the household trip survey that was conducted over the past year and that reveals a picture of the number of, types of trips that are made in average households. This information will be very useful in the TPP and future facility/transportation/highway planning.

5. Bicycle Planning Update

Due to time constraints, this item will be rescheduled for the February 11, 2013 Transportation Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.