

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

Meeting of the Transportation Committee

Monday, August 13, 2012

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair Adam Duininck	James Brimeyer Roxanne Smith John Đoàn	Jennifer Munt Jon Commers
Members Absent	Edward Reynoso		
Staff Presiding	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	
TAB Liaison	Robert Lilligren		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on August 13, 2012 at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Smith to adopt the agenda for the August 13, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commers, seconded by Munt to approve the minutes from the July 23, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

Committee members are reminded that a joint CTIB-Transportation Committee Program of Projects workshop will be held on Wednesday, August 15, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am Ramsey County offices building on Plato Boulevard. This is also CTIB's regular meeting time, and the board will be holding a brief session prior to the workshop to conduct its regular business.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit, reported the following:

Metro Transit ridership in July was on par with that of July 2011, coming in at 6.5 million rides – up 0.1 percent or 3,600 rides over last year. So far this year, overall ridership is trending slightly ahead of 2011. Bus ridership is up one-third of one percent over last year; light-rail is up 2.7 percent and Northstar is down 2.9 percent. As previously noted, 2011 was one of only two years (along with 2008) since 1982 in which Metro Transit ridership exceeded 80 million.

To accommodate Green Line construction activity near the Metrodome, the Hiawatha/Blue Line will have a “condensed,” 30-hour shutdown from approximately 5:30 pm on August 18 to approximately 3:30 am on August 20. Metro Transit bus operations will provide service to Blue Line passengers from Franklin Avenue station to Target Field station during this period. In addition, the Washington Avenue Bridge will be closed to all traffic for one week from August 20 through August 26 to allow for crews to work around the clock in order to avoid multiple bridge traffic closures after fall semester begins. Project staff continues to keep customers, stakeholders and the news media up to date on these disruptions.

On Friday evening, August 17, Metro Transit will be serving the first Vikings pre-season home game, against the Buffalo Bills. Nearly 15 percent of Vikings fans travel to games via light rail, bus and Northstar. Northstar will again serve all Vikings home games this year.

Target Corporation has been moving workers from its downtown location to its North Campus in Brooklyn Park. The Travel Demand Management (TDM) group of Metro Transit's Marketing department reports that registered carpools have now grown from 15 to 50 at the North Campus. Also, workers have formed the first Metro Vanpool at that location, an option that is gaining additional interest. About 900 Target workers have moved over the past several weeks. Preferential parking is provided for registered employee carpools, which our TDM staff administers for Target and other regional employers. The TDM group has also organized a North Campus employee Commuter Fair this week to give employees more information. In addition, the Service Development department reports that ridership on express Route 765 from downtown Minneapolis to the North Campus has more than doubled and continues to grow. Two new trips have been added to the route, and monitoring will continue in order to determine long-term demand.

Transit Information Center and Customer Relations representatives now have access to interpreters for help communicating with native speakers of languages other than English. Representatives use a conference call to connect to Language Line, a telephone interpretation service with capability for 170 languages. We expect primarily to use interpreters for Spanish, Somali and Hmong customers. In fact, even though this service has just been launched, it's already working. As reported by the Customer Relations department this morning: Lost & Found has been in possession of a wallet for about six weeks which did not have any kind of address in it but did contain credit cards and \$337 in cash, as well as several Lake Street Dental business cards. CR supervisor Pam Steffen called Lake Street Dental to see if they had a phone number on file for the customer, which they did. Pam then called the customer, who speaks only Spanish, and used Language Line to help interpret the purpose of the call. Needless to say, the customer was thrilled and will be picking up his wallet today.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

A motion was made by Đoàn, seconded by Commers to approve items 2012-249, 2012-255, 2012-254 and 2012-250 as consent items. Motion passed unanimously.

2012-249: Authorization to Purchase 7 Small Buses

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with Hogle Bus (contract #40762) for seven small buses in an amount not to exceed \$490,000.

2012-255: Authorization to Execute Contract Options with Gillig, Inc.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise purchase options on contract 07P162 with Gillig Corporation to purchase two forty-foot buses in an amount not to exceed \$880,000.

2012-254: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve Resolution 2012-24 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

2012-250: Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (Green Line Extension): Professional Services Agreement with the City of Eden Prairie

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Professional Services Agreement with the City of Eden Prairie for staff support for the Traffic Engineer Lead position for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Non-Consent Items

2012-223: 2012 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

MTS Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented the item and responded to general questions from committee members.

Motion by Đoàn, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2012 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table attached to the business item.

Motion passed.

2012-224: 2012 Unified Capital Program Amendments

MTS Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer and Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented the business item.

There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Đoàn:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2012 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 35,238,690
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 7,464,835

- Amend the 2012 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 18,060,350
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 7,464,835

Motion passed.

2012-252: Authorization to Execute an Operating and Capital Grant Agreement with MVTA

MTS Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for \$1,911,338 for three years of operating assistance and equipment along the I-35W corridor.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-256: 2013 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)

MTS Senior Planner Mary Karlsson presented the item. Staff responded to questions about the process for determining recommendations and the geographic distribution of projects.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for:

- Calendar year 2013 capital commitment from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following project:
 1. Southwest LRT (Green Line extension) Preliminary Engineering (PE) / Final Environmental Impact Analysis (FEIS): Est. \$23 million
- Calendar year 2013 grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following projects:

Capital:

2. I-35W South BRT (Orange Line) Expansion Vehicles: Est. \$825,000
3. Bottineau LRT Preliminary Engineering (PE) / Final Environmental Impact Analysis (FEIS): Amount to be determined by the Regional Administrator

Operating:

4. Hiawatha Light Rail (Blue Line) Operations: Est. \$11.5 million
5. Northstar Commuter Rail Operations: Est. \$7.9 million
6. I-35W South BRT (Orange Line) Lakeville Express Service: Est. \$145,000
7. Cedar Avenue BRT (Red Line) Express Service including Facilities Operations & Maintenance: Est. \$400,000
8. Cedar Avenue BRT (Red Line) Station-to-Station Service including Facilities Operations & Maintenance: Est. \$1.65 million

Motion passed.

2012-248: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Fourth Street Areaway and Sidewalk Reconstruction Contract

Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Brimeyer, seconded by Doan:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Cy-Con Inc., for the 4th Street Areaway and Sidewalk Reconstruction at a cost of \$367,000.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-251: Authorization to Purchase 45 Option Forty-foot Diesel Gillig Buses

Metro Transit Director of Bus Maintenance Jan Homan presented the item. He responded to a question about when the next bid would go out and confirmed that a new contract will have a term of five years.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an existing contract option with the Gillig Corporation to purchase 45 forty-foot, diesel low-floor transit buses in an amount not-to-exceed \$19,416,105.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

INFORMATION

1. Regional Air Quality Attainment Status

MTS Senior Planner Jonathan Ehrlich provided an overview of air quality standards and regulation, emerging issues and the history and current status of the region's compliance.

2. State Fair Preview

Market Development Specialist Kelci Stones and Lisa Johnson, Manager of Street Operations, presented an overview of Metro Transit involvement in the State Fair, including staffing and equipment requirements, projected ridership levels, express service sites and marketing and advertising plans.

3. Blue Line Operations & Maintenance Expansion Update

Mark Leemon, Lead Project Manager for Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, reported on the status of the expansion of the light rail O&M facility, including project description, challenges, progress and schedule.

4. Light Rail Vehicle Type 2 Procurement

Central Corridor Assistant General Manager Rich Rovang provided an update on the purchase of LRVs for the Green Line light rail project. Highlights included delivery schedule, production status and commissioning and warranty schedule.

5. Northstar Fare Pilot Program Rollout

Market Development Specialist Kelci Stones and Maria Cone, Market Development Supervisor, outlined Metro Transit's marketing initiatives to increase ridership on commuter rail by promoting the weekday fare reduction in effect from August 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013.

6. Advanced Technology Hybrid Buses

Jan Homan, Metro Transit Director of Bus Maintenance, provided an overview of the bus project from initial funding to delivery of the first next-generation bus in May 2012. Homan also highlighted many of the features of the advanced technology and invited committee members to a demonstration of the new bus after the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Transportation Committee meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m. August 13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary