

# Minutes

Transportation Committee



**Meeting Date:** March 14, 2022

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Location:** Virtual

## Members Present:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input 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, Acting Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. on the following roll call.

Present	7	Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Absent	1	Barber

## Agenda Approved

Acting Chair Chamblis noted that a roll call vote was not needed for approval of the agenda unless a Council Member offered an amendment to the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

## Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Cummings to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	7	Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	1	Barber

## Reports

### 1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Charles Carlson

Congress passed \$1.5 trillion appropriation package that funds the federal govt through end of September. The bill provides \$102.9B to the US DOT, an increase above FY2021. Within this there are \$16B appropriated for transit, fulfilling the new infrastructure bill's first year of appropriations across formula and discretionary programs. Brand new development, not yet signed into law but will begin to see effects of this in our programming decisions. The state tallied receipts for MVST. The Council's net receipts are \$24.2M, which is a 4% increase from 2021. For the last six months combined we're up 5.8% vs the same period last year. Year to date we are just above our forecast, at 2% above.

2. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra

Lesley Kandaras reported on the General Manager’s behalf. Kandaras reported:

**COVID**

We continue to see relatively low levels of COVID among our employees. Since the last Committee meeting on Feb 28, we have had 6 positive cases reported. 32 cases were recorded in the month of February. The Federal Mask Mandate imposed by TSA for all persons on buses, trains and airplanes remains in effect and has been extended to April 18. Bus Operator staffing is 48 below current service plan levels. We are projecting to be “even” in terms of operators at the start of the service changes that go into effect on March 26. But, in a bit of good news, we had a hiring event this past Saturday, and we had 15 attendees who applied and passed the interview.

**St. Patrick’s Day**

After a two-year break due to the pandemic, Metro Transit will again be offering free transit rides on St. Patrick’s Day. The Miller Free Rides promotion is sponsored by Molson Coors the maker of Miller Lite. From 6 pm until the last trip of the service day all rides on Metro Transit buses and trains are free. The goal of the partnership is to encourage celebrating responsibly and to offer an alternative to driving for those who have been drinking or just want to avoid driving that night. The program which began in the Twin Cities in 1997 has the support of local and state public safety officials and has provided more than 1.2 million safe rides over the years.

**Driver Appreciation Day**

The other event this week is transit driver appreciation day – which takes place this Friday, March 18. There are a couple of different ways to participate. You are invited to meet with operators at each of our garages while breakfast or lunch is served on Friday. You are also welcome to join Metro Transit staff who will be greeting operators at three locations Friday morning: Mall of America Transit Center, Along Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis, And at 6th and Cedar in downtown Saint Paul. At the garages, meals will be served from about 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The on-street outreach will begin around 5 a.m.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC) David Fenley

Fenley reported that TAAC has weighed in on their support for the proposed administrative citation bill.

**Consent Business**

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-69:** Bus Rapid Transit (METRO Purple Line) Rights of Entry, Resolution 2022-7
2. **2022-70:** Metro Freeway Project Approval: Minnesota Highway 13 and Dakota Avenue
3. **2022-71:** Metro Freeway Project Approval: US Highway 10 – Rum River Bridge and Ferry Street
4. **2022-72:** Federal American Rescue Plan Signature Authorization

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Zeran.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	7	Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	1	Barber

**Non-Consent Business**

1. **2022-34 JT:** 2022 Budget Amendment – April Budget Amendment 2022 Budget Amendment



It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2022 Unified Budget as indicated and in accordance with the attached tables.

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Service Finance and Administration Director Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	7	Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	1	Barber

2. **2022-45:** Bloomington, Edina, and Roseville Area Fixed Route Transit Service, Contract 21P290

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 21P290 with Schmitt & Sons Transportation, Inc. to provide regular route transit service under the Bloomington, Edina, and Roseville Area Fixed Route Transit Services in an amount not to exceed \$29,255,000.

Metropolitan Transportation Service Contracted Services Manager John Harper presented this item. Cummings asked if three responses is a normal response rate, Harper answered that three to five is typical.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	6	Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	2	Barber, Gonzalez

3. **2022-51:** Downtown & Green Line, Switch Heater Replacement, Contract 21P284

It was moved by Gonzalez, seconded by Fredson, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 21P284 with Kimley Horn, to design the replacement of switch heaters, and special trackwork on the METRO LRT Green Line and Blue/Green Line in downtown Minneapolis in an amount not to exceed \$1,342,000.

Metro Transit Engineering and Construction Manager Mark Leemon and Project Manager Elliot Courtney presented this item. Cummings asked if the wear and tear was expected. Courtney responded that it was a surprise in this case.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	7	Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	1	Barber

4. **2022-62 JT:** 2022 Budget Amendment – METRO Green Line Extension Budget Amendment

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Zeran, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2022 Unified Budget as amended and in accordance with the attached tables.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager of Capital Programs Nick Thompson and Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. Cummings asked about the impact if MVST money did not materialize. Petrie explained the movement of the money. Fredson noted that it makes sense to not lose financial investment for the State. Gonzalez asked for the Council to be more explicit about opportunity costs, what projects will be delayed or modified while the financial transactions take place. Thompson shared that the bipartisan infrastructure bill will be

providing additional funding across the system.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	7	Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	1	Barber

5. **2022-58:** METRO Green Line Extension AECOM Contract Amendment No. 12 for Advanced Design Consultant Services, Contract 14P125

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 12 to Contract 14P125 with AECOM for Advanced Design Consultant Services to increase the contract in an amount not to exceed \$10.6 million for a total contract amount not to exceed \$151 million.

Metro Transit TSD Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item. There were no comments or questions from Council Members.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	7	Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	1	Barber

6. **2022-59:** METRO Green Line Extension Braun Intertec Corporation Contract Amendment No. 2 for Quality Management Services, Contract 18P018

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to Contract 18P018 with Braun Intertec Corporation for Quality Management Services to increase the contract in an amount not to exceed \$7.8M for a total contract amount not to exceed \$43.8M. This authorization is contingent upon Council approval of the 2022 Budget Amendment – METRO Green Line Extension Budget Amendment (2022-62 JT).

Metro Transit TSD Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item. Gonzalez asked if there are contingencies that should have been foreseen and lessons to learn. Alexander and Thompson said this project has seen multiple issues and lessons have been learned as new projects come up such as choosing to not be near freight rail. Chamblis shared experience from taking a tour of the project. Procurement Director Jody Jacoby added that the department is also strategizing with the various entities. Fredson echoed that this project was an outlier.

**Motion carried** on the following roll call vote.

Aye	7	Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Gonzalez, Pacheco, Sterner, Zeran
Nay	0	
Absent	1	Barber

## Information

1. There were no information items on the agenda.

## Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.



## Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of March 14, 2022.

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### Council Contact:

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