

## Minutes of the

### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

#### Committee Members Present:

Reynoso, Barber, McCarthy, Rodriguez, Rummel, Duininck, Wulff, Kramer, Cunningham, Commers, Munt, Melander, Letofsky, Dorfman

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Duininck called the special meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:33 on Wednesday, July 12, 2017.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by McCarthy, seconded by Kramer to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Cunningham, seconded by Wulff to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2017 regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

#### INFORMATION

##### 2018 Transportation Finance Overview

Mary Bogie provided a 2017 legislative session financial biennial update. There was a \$192.7M regional transit deficit at the beginning of the 2017 legislative session. One-time funding reduced the deficit to \$109.9M, but the legislature did not address structural deficit. The Council fare and service/administrative actions could reduce but not resolve the structural deficit. There are some levers to reduce the structural deficit, including increasing fare revenues, reducing service/administrative costs, and bringing forward a transit sales tax proposal and State General Fund appropriation during the next legislative session.

##### Fare Increase

Michelle Fure began with an overview of the public outreach and engagement results. More than 6,000 participants filled out postcards, surveys, sent emails, testified in-person, and 202 communities throughout the region were involved. Transit use has statewide interest. Engagement approaches included traditional meetings and hearings, pop-up engagements, small group conversations, an online survey, and in-person calls to action. The survey saw 1600 participants from 99 metro-area communities. All respondents indicated some transit use, with most indicating multiple mode use. The overwhelming majority of individuals are against a fare increase, but most would rather have fares raised than see service cuts. There are expectations of improved service for a higher fare. There was also strong support for the Transit Assistance Program (TAP), which the Council members discussed at length. Mary Capistrant provided an overview of the program that supports low-income customers.

Nick Eull gave an overview of the fare change goals, which are to generate additional fare revenues, promote equity, and simplify the fare structure. Success factors include ensuring all residents and communities re partners in the decision-making process, finding ways to mitigate the impact of increased fares on those that are most transit reliant, and simplifying the "how to pay" question. The purpose of raising fares is to address the ongoing structural funding deficit while minimizing service reductions, and creating a long-term plan for revenues to maintain a world-class transit system. The farebox recovery has been slipping for the last decade from about 31% in 2007 to about 23% in 2016.

The Council is scheduled to vote on the fare increase at its July 26 meeting. After much discussion, it was decided that another Committee of the Whole meeting on this topic needs to be held before the vote. The July 19 Committee of the Whole meeting will be a continuation of this discussion.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:43PM.

Emily Getty  
Recording Secretary