

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: July 24, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, District 11 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15 |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> = present |

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approved

Chair Barber stated the Committee would hear public comment after Employee Recognition. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyronne to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Interim General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced Bus System Safety Manager Annette Hammerlund who presented an award to Bus Safety Specialist Doug Looyen.

Public Comment

ATU Local 1005 President Ryan Timlin, and ATU members Devin Durow, Abdirazaq Abdulle, and Likelesh Benti addressed the committee on issues relating to drug testing, light rail helper shifts and the expiring contract.

Lynn Vashro (Otter's Saloon), Brenden Viele (Francis Burger Joint) separately addressed the committee on concerns with two proposed bus stop locations for the F Line.

Charlene Edaferierhi addressed the committee on ongoing issues with Metro Mobility services.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Hot Weather

Hot weather is expected this week. No anticipated changes or disruptions but staff will take extra precautions as they are delivering services.

MVST

MVST continues to outperform forecast, with June receipts totaling 104.5% of forecast and 108% for the year.

2050 Transportation Policy Plan

At a recent meeting, the advisory work group reviewed a lot of the content that the Council members received at the last Transportation Committee meeting. The feedback was along the same themes that were received from the technical work group and Council members. Themes were around climate topics as it relates to resiliency across categories and interest in predictable and reliable travel.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

August Service Changes

At the next Transportation Committee meeting, Council members will hear an update on the August service changes, workforce and State Fair service.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

TAB members' main discussion was on how to spend the new Transportation Sales tax. Topics included whether to include fund into the 2024 Regional Solicitation or wait until 2026, local match requirements, types of projects, and determining the meaning of geographic equity.

Consent Business

1. There are no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2023-134:** METRO F Line – Approval of Final Corridor Plan

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Cameron, that the Council approve the METRO F Line Final Corridor Plan to establish the number and location of stations included in the project.

Metro Transit BRT Planning Manager Kyle O'Donnell Burrows introduced Senior Planner Jake Knight who presented this item. Chamblis asked if this item moves forward with approval if there are plans to monitor stops or mitigate concerns. Knight responded yes, that as the project transitions into the engineering phase where designs are down to the feet/inches we will truly understand the impact and work with stakeholders to mitigate any potential impacts. Chamblis questioned if staff looked at moving the stop at Central & Lowry to help Francis's cafe seating. O'Donnell Burrows stated the engineering phase will include final design of platform, including looking at ways to retain cafe seating but added that one of the reasons for this bus stop location was because of the major transfer point to the 32 (east/west bus route). Vento expressed concerned for the business owners losing customers due to the loss of parking spaces. Chair Baber added that staff in the ABRT group excel at making sure the transit lines reflect the community and business owners and this won't be the end of the conversation with stakeholders, there will still be ongoing collaboration. Cameron asked what the safety concerns were with the Central & 1st Ave/7th St alternative locations. Knight answered that staff try to ensure we don't place platforms on unsignalized intersections, so pedestrians have safe street crossing and that there is a lot of traffic of cars traveling southbound and taking a right tonto first and that the county and city staff stated a location just north of the intersection could present safety concerns because of that. Carter, Tyrone asked if stakeholders were presented with a mockup of how the shelters would look in the locations. O'Donnell Burrows stated that in the engineering phase, staff do have renderings available to aid those conversations. Several Council members stated they recognized the concerns from the businesses and stated the conversations should continue to enable

solutions to address those concerns.

Motion carried.

2. **2023-161 SW:** Metro Transit Master Partnership Contract with Minnesota Department of Transportation – Amendment

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Amendment 1 to the Master Partnership Contract #221003 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to allow the Council to receive up to \$5 million from MnDOT for various professional and technical services performed for Metro Transit capital projects.

Metro Transit Deputy GM – Capital Programs Nick Thompson presented this item. Cameron asked why initial limit was set so low in the first contract. Thompson responded that the original contract was more for the Council, so MnDOT could do work on our behalf whereas this amendment we are adding MnDOT work to our project. Thompson added that originally there wasn't expected to be as much MnDOT work (like a design contract).

Motion carried.

3. **2023-162 JT:** Imposing a Regional Transportation Sales and Use Tax, Resolution 2023-8

It was moved by Vento, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Council adopt Resolution No. 2023-8 imposing a regional transportation sales and use tax.

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. Carter, Toni asked for clarification on the numbers. There were no other questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

4. **2023-171 SW:** Contract 21P172 - Equity Evaluation of Regional Transportation Investment - Amendment One

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Vento, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment increasing the contract amount for contract 21P272 with Bolton and Menk Inc. by \$308,500 to conduct the Equity Evaluation of Regional Transportation Investment, resulting in a total project amount not to exceed \$718,500.

Metropolitan Transportation Service Planning/Finance Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Pacheco asked why the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) wasn't engaged on this process and how this overall fits with EAC work. Vennewitz responded that this was before EAC when the project was being scoped but going forward could do a better job at keeping the EAC apprised of the work. Pacheco asked how all the various Equity groups, committees and work is connected. Metropolitan Council OEEA Assistant Director Ashanti Payne briefly explained the work of the different equity groups. Chamblis stated having these different groups adds values and allows participants to go into deep conversations in areas they are interested in but that more reporting and collaboration with the EAC would be helpful, potentially doing a report on all the equity initiatives and how they relate.

Motion carried.

Information

1. 2024 Operating Budget Overview

Metro Transit Finance Director and Metropolitan Transportation Services Finance Director Heather Gisel presented this item. Council members discussed how discretionary funds are used, the need to plan for future needs and the new Metropolitan Transportation Sales Tax.



Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of July 24, 2023.

Approved this 14 day of August 2023.

Council Contact:

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