

# Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

July 11, 2016

LOCATION: Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Lona Schreiber, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Marie McCarthy, Steve Elkins, Jon Commers, Katie Rodriguez, Gail Dorfman, Edward Reynoso, Jennifer Munt

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**TAB Liaison Present:** None present

## CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, July 11, 2016 in the Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis, MN.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber to approve the July 11, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.  
Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Barber to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

The following people were presented Employee Recognition Awards for their work on the A Line BRT:

Metro Transit General Manager presented the award to A Line Project Manager Katie Roth.  
Metro Transit Director Customer Service & Marketing Bruce Howard presented the awards to Marketing Development Specialist Anj Olsen, Senior Graphic Designer Amy Dritz, Manager Customer Relations Pam Steffen, and Community Project Coordinator Karyssa Jackson.  
Metro Transit Deputy Chief Bus Operations Brian Funk presented the award to Assistant Manager Street Operations Greg Tuveson.  
Revenue Operations Manager Nick Eull presented the awards to Manager Revenue Processing Dennis Dworshak and Supervisor Fare Collection Equipment Bob Peterson (not present at meeting).  
Director Service Development Adam Harrington presented the awards to Schedulemaker Mark Coon, Transit Planner Scott Thompson, Service Analyst Karen Underwood, and Schedulemaker Lisa Benson (not present at meeting).

## TAB LIAISON REPORT:

Councilmember Katie Rodriguez reported that the TAB has not met since the last Transportation Committee meeting.

## METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES INTERIM DIRECTOR and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Interim Director Amy Vennewitz reported:

### 1. Monthly MVST report

In June 2016, Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) revenues were at 101% of the state November 2015 forecast. The SFY ended on 7/01/16. About \$3M extra was collected and will go to the MVST reserves.

## 2. FHWA grant for “Every Place Counts”

Ramsey County is the recipient of a grant from the FHWA for “Every Place Counts”. The grant is for placemaking workshops that will focus on I-94 between the downtowns. The workshops will be held Monday and Tuesday 7/18 & 7/19; the best time to attend is from 5:00-7:00 during the community conversations. The workshops will be held at the Griggs-Midway Building.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

### 1. Outstanding Operators

We had an opportunity to celebrate around 50 top bus and light-rail operators at our annual recognition brunch last month. Operators were invited to the event after earning Outstanding Operator status five, ten, 15 or 20 times during their careers. Operators earn this recognition by showing a consistent dedication to customer service, safety and reliability. More than 350 operators earned Outstanding Operator status last year. A dozen operators were also recognized for a remarkable 25 years of safe driving, which, combined, represents more than 5 million miles without an at-fault accident.

Our operators have excelled amongst our industry peers as well. After placing first and second in Metro Transit’s Rail Rodeo earlier this year, train operators Peter Mooers and Karl Obermeyer participated in the American Public Transit Association’s International Rail Rodeo last month in Phoenix, Ariz. Metro Transit took eighth place in the closely-fought Operators Competition, scoring 938 out of a possible 1,000 points. Last weekend, three of our bus operators competed in the state-level Bus Roadeo, hosted by the Minnesota Public Transportation Association. Jack Berner, who has won our Bus Roadeo five times since 2007, took first place in the competition. Heywood Michael Stenberg took fourth and Nicollet operator Paul Hollen took fifth.

### 2. Language cards

Responding to operators who wanted to better communicate with Spanish-speaking customers, we recently began distributing cards that provide Spanish-language instructions for calling our Transit Information Center, where representatives can help customers using an interpreter service that provides assistance in multiple languages. The cards are among several ways Bus Transportation, Transit Information, the Office of Equal Opportunity and operators are working together to better serve Spanish-speaking customers. A pocket guide and a training video have been developed and operators at our Nicollet and East Metro Garages are currently participating in Spanish language classes. Based on response, these efforts may expand to other languages in the future.

### 3. Rondo Days parade

Council members are invited to join Metro Transit in the 33rd Annual Rondo Days Grande Parade this coming Saturday. The parade begins at 10 a.m. near St. Peter Claver Church in St. Paul. Council members are invited to meet on site at 8:30 a.m. or board a bus departing Heywood Garage at 8 a.m.

### 4. U.S. Bank Stadium Station open houses

Vikings fans who want to see what a gameday experience will be like using transit will have a chance to take test runs when the team hosts open houses at the new stadium next weekend (July 23/24). In addition to bus and light-rail service, fans can ride regularly-scheduled Northstar to and from the stadium. As in the past, fans are invited to purchase round-trip fares in advance online.

### 5. Weekend disruptions

Demonstrations that led protestors onto Green Line tracks led light-rail service to be suspended on the Green Line overnight Thursday night (approx. 9 p.m. to first pull-out), and briefly again on Saturday evening. Because of resource constraints and limited scheduled service, replacement bus service was not provided. Bus service has been largely unaffected other than some delays due to a march and other activities in downtown Minneapolis on Saturday evening. On Thursday evening, an A Line bus was held at Snelling and Larpenteur for approx. one hour; Route 21 was temporarily detoured due to

demonstrations. Customers were informed of the service disruptions through station announcements, social media and staff contacts. Metro Transit police, Rail Transportation and Bus Transportation closely monitored the situation throughout the weekend and will remain actively engaged as the potential for additional protests continues. As of Monday morning, no major disturbances were anticipated. Reflecting the partnerships that have been built with our peers, Metro Transit police have been and continue to be present at the unified Emergency Operations Center, where response is being coordinated. At the request of partnering agencies, multiple buses were made available on Saturday evening to transport protestors that came under arrest and to provide temporary shelter for law enforcement. These buses are provided because partnering agencies do not have adequate transport resources of their own. Metro Transit has a longstanding tradition of providing support buses in emergency situations. Metro Transit police made no arrests and no injuries to staff or customers were reported.

We have reached out to our peers at Dallas Area Rapid Transit to express our heartfelt condolences in the wake of last week's deadly shooting. We have also reminded our own staff of the professional counseling resources available through the Council.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

Motion by Rodriguez, seconded by Elkins and carried to approve the following consent item.

1. 2016-140: Authorize Northstar Corridor Funding Agreement with State of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for Calendar Year 2017 to provide funding for public commuter rail service in Sherburne County, Minnesota for an amount up to \$1.4 million.
- Execute the Attached Resolution of the Governing Body (Metropolitan Council) to enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for Calendar Year 2017.

### **Non-Consent Items:**

1. 2016-129 SW: Authorization to execute contract 14P268 for C Line BRT Design and Construction Administration Services

Metro Transit Project Manager, BRT/Small Starts Katie Roth and Senior Engineer Shawn Walding presented this item and answered a question from Dorfman about where the C line will connect with the Green Line Extension - at the Royalston Station, whether the alignment is chosen on Olson Memorial Highway or Glenwood Avenue. McCarthy commented favorably about the efforts toward building relationships with the communities in the corridor.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a professional services contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$3,798,485 for design, engineering and construction administration on the C Line rapid bus Line an concurrent street intersection reconstruction along Penn Avenue in Minneapolis and Brooklyn Center.

Motion carried.

2. 2016-137: Authorization of Interagency Agreement with City of Minneapolis for Travel Demand Management Services

Metro Transit Director Customer Services & Marketing Bruce Howard presented and Director Program Evaluation & Audit Arleen Schilling was also present to answer questions from committee members. Committee members had questions about: whether CMAQ funds that were withheld will be reimbursed (investigation into the Audit is still ongoing); who has the oversight to manage a TMO to success (in this case City of Minneapolis); what are the repercussions if TC votes no (continuity of relationships with

businesses that TMO has built is important); explain make-up of TMO Board and how members are recruited; whether the City of Minneapolis and TMO's responses to audit show that they are making positive changes (yes); could we enter a 3 mo. agreement instead of 6 mos (need time for the results from FTA review and also need to have time for Metro Transit to be ready to take over if necessary); can agreement with TMO be terminated (yes).

General comments from committee members were that the "fee for service" method seems to be a good process in this situation. Some members expressed a level of uncomfortableness acting on this item before results of FTA review is complete.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an interagency agreement with the City of Minneapolis for employer outreach and other Travel Demand Management (TDM) services in downtown Minneapolis in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Motion carried.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Update on Subsidy per Passenger – Twin Cities Peer Regions  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Cole Hiniker presented this item.
2. Low Income Fare Program Update  
Metro Transit Supervisor Revenue Operations Mary Capistrant presented this item.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.