

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 26, 2018

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

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

Committee Members Absent: Marie McCarthy, Jennifer Munt

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 p.m. on Monday, March 26, 2018 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Rodriguez suggested that Business Item 2018-56 be deferred to a future meeting to allow for process discussion, amending the agenda. Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Dorfman to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2018 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced the following, who presented recognition awards to employees:

Metro Transit Revenue Operations Senior Manager Nick Eull, who presented to:
Metropolitan Council Systems Engineer Wayne Johnson
Metropolitan Council Database Administrator Mahbubul Huq
Metropolitan Council Applications Developer Sam Changtum
Metropolitan Council Applications Developer Patty Gernbacher

Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Warranty, Contract, & Analysis Manager Abel Mumbi, who presented to:

Metro Transit Business Systems Analyst Adam Shryock

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Peter Dugan relayed the following information from the March 21, 2018 TAB meeting:

TAB Chair's Report

TAB Chair Jim Hovland reported that there are several governance bills in the legislature. Information was distributed on some of the governance bills: SF 3497/HF 3917 and HF 3273/SF 2809. A bill regarding adding a funding application category to the 2018 Regional Solicitation was also distributed, HF 3521/SF 3349.

Agency Reports

MnDOT – Scott McBride reported on the Corridors of Commerce program, a later information item will have the current updates.

MAC – Carl Crimmins reported that 60,000 people went through the airport in the 24-hour period after the Super Bowl. The previous record high was 47,000 people. Spring break will see another spike in airport traffic. Construction is now picking up that the Super Bowl is done, expect six months of construction. The MSP airport was voted best airport in North America for its size category the second year in a row, 3 concessions won best in category.

Met Council – Katie Rodriguez reported that March 15 was Transit Driver Appreciation Day. Ground was broken on the C Line on March 20.

TAC Report

Lisa Freese, TAC Chair, reported that Ken Ashfeld (Maple Grove) and Anne Kane (White Bear Lake) have been appointed by Metro Cities to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The working group of TAB and TAC staff continue to discuss scope change policies.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

Legislative Update

Last week's approval of the Federal budget will have a positive impact on Transportation funding in MN, in addition to funding Transit Capital Investment Grant program, which is the source of funds for SWLRT and Orange Line, there were some increases in formula highway funding, and added funding for grant programs such as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program which could benefit Minnesota. Expect more details in the next few weeks.

At the State level we have passed the first deadline for bills, many bills remain active that impact the Council governance, transit reporting/operations. Still waiting on information around bonding proposals. The bill that aligns with the Metro Mobility Task Force to allow sharing data with DHS remains active.

Transportation Policy Plan

The TPP was presented to the Transportation Advisory Board as an information session last week, and we are scheduled for our last County visit with Hennepin on April 19, 2018. Next month, TAB will take their action to vote to recommend to the Council that the TPP be released for public comment.

Rodriguez asked how much the TIGER program was increased, Thompson said it tripled from \$500 million to \$1.5 billion.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

Technician training program recognized by Gov. Dayton

Our transit technician training program was recognized as one of the best examples of innovation in Minnesota state government last week. The program was one of three initiatives celebrated at Gov. Mark Dayton's Better Government Awards. As you'll recall, this training program puts job seekers with little or no experience on a path toward full-time technician careers through a combination of life skills training, on-the-job experience and support toward earning a two-year degree. The first group of participants will graduate this summer, becoming eligible to apply for full-time roles in bus maintenance. A second group pursuing careers in rail maintenance are mid-way through their education and full-time internships. And a third group will enroll in school and begin working in our garages later this year. Program leaders have also been asked to share information about the program at two upcoming APTA conferences, so our peers can appreciate and potentially replicate the model we've developed.

C Line recap

Last week's C Line groundbreaking was followed by an enthusiastic turnout at an open house where residents could learn more about the project and related construction impacts. Staff were also able to talk about the project over the weekend at the Northside Housing Fair at Lucey Laney Elementary School. Residents are being encouraged to stay up-to-date by signing up for e-mail construction notices, visiting our website or calling a construction hotline. We'll also be hosting community construction meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at UROC.

Road construction will begin on the south end of the corridor and generally move north through this fall. Penn Avenue will be rebuilt from sidewalk-to-sidewalk between Lowry and Broadway; several intersections will also see major reconstruction efforts. Traffic will continue to be able to cross Penn Avenue at major streets throughout construction. We'll begin building C Line stations on 7th Street in downtown Minneapolis soon. Additional station construction efforts will follow roadwork on Penn Avenue.

Ridership update

We've had some busier-than-usual Saturdays each of the past two weekends. More than 43,000 free rides were provided on St. Patrick's Day – a 26 percent increase over normal ridership during the promotion period. And while we don't yet have ridership information, we know many of the 20,000 people who gathered in St. Paul for Saturday's march got to and from the event on our trains and buses. The events follow what has already been a busy year for special event ridership: Super Bowl festivities in part accounted for record ridership on all our rail lines in January, and on our Blue Line and Northstar line last month. Transit Police and Street Operations have reported no major disruptions despite the flurry of activity.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2018-56:** METRO Green Line and Blue Line Extensions – Delegation of Change Order Authority
This business item was deferred to a future meeting per the amended agenda.

INFORMATION

1. Public Art Program Update

Metro Transit Public Arts Administrator Mark Granlund presented this item.

Dorfman commented that she believes public art is critical to the public infrastructure. Dorfman asked if there was documentation on pieces, colors used, maintenance plans, etc. and requested that the history of developing the public art on the Hiawatha project be included on the website. Granlund answered that part of his current role consists of turning paper documents into electronic documents to track all of the existing information. Letofsky asked if public art is only on the train platforms. Granlund replied that most of the work is on the platforms, but the Northstar stations, a few transit centers, and other Metro Transit properties have pieces as well. Letofsky and Dorfman asked if the newer lines will receive public art projects. Granlund responded that because of funding, public art will not be on the

platforms but they are working with surrounding communities for art outside of the platforms. Rodriguez commented that giving art tours for students would be a great idea since we have 70 pieces.

2. 2018 Twins Service & Marketing

Metro Transit Director of Customer Service and Marketing Bruce Howard presented this item.

Dorfman asked if the Twins track origins of attendees. Howard said that the Twins share data as they are able but sometimes attendees split up season tickets several ways so it is harder to track.

3. Corridors of Commerce

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer presented this item.

Dorfman asked if any of the 18 projects not supported have support from the cities/counties. Fischer said that to our knowledge they were not local government projects. Rodriguez asked if in the future, Corridors of Commerce can have tiered ratings, instead of all-or-nothing point awarding as it is currently. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson said the Metropolitan Council, as well as local cities and counties, have expressed to MnDOT that they would prefer gradients. Rodriguez asked how many of the 59 supported projects have conditional support. Fischer and Thompson said it is around 40.

4. Travel Behavior Inventory Household Survey

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Jonathan Ehrlich presented this item.

Rodriguez asked if people can volunteer to participate in the survey. Ehrlich said that to control for a random sample they cannot accept volunteers. Ehrlich said that there may be the option for people to test it out without their data being used.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary