

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

October 11, 2021

LOCATION: Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held electronically.

Committee Members Present: Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Christopher Ferguson

TAAC Liaison Present: David Fenley

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00p.m. on Monday, October 11, 2021.

AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2021 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Barber, Chamblis, Cummings, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Ferguson, Gonzalez

TAAC REPORT

David Fenley reported that at the October 6th meeting the committee heard an update on the Blue Line extension and then had a robust discussion about ways or things the committee can do to bring other items onto the agenda. The committee would like to hear about the process for the naming conventions of new lines, receive an annual presentation on driver training and receive information when there are vacancies on other committees to help spread the word to their communities.

Chair Barber acknowledged Fenley's requests and stated she will pass them along to the correct staff.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Acting Director Amy Vennewitz reported:

TAB Vacancies

The process is ongoing to fill the vacancies on TAB. The first application deadline is next Monday – Council members are welcome to pass the information along to any interested constituents.

Regional Solicitation

Currently receiving public comments on Regional Solicitation and Regional Bike Network update. The public comment period ends next Monday. Staff are receiving many comments, but Council members can encourage constituents or advocacy groups to look at the solicitation and send comments.

Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Amendment

There is a Transportation Policy Plan amendment that will be making it's way through the process. First step is the TAAC planning meeting this Thursday; the item will not be in front of TAB until November and at Council in early December. Staff is available to meet with Council members to walk through the amendment and answer any questions.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

COVID

To date there have 531 cases at Metro Transit, with 16 cases since last meeting and currently aren't experiencing any operational disruptions due specifically to COVID. Today is the first day of the Council's vaccination or weekly test requirement. Efforts by management teams extended over the weekend; employees who missed the first deadline have cooperated with their managers to meet the requirement and there haven't been any service impacts due to the start of the program. Work will continue throughout the week to improve the process and seek feedback for the Incident Command team.

Recognition

Light Rail operator Harry Mandik was recognized last week as the Minnesota Public Transit Association's Operator of the Year. The award was announced at the annual conference and was celebrated with Harry at the Green Line O&M. Harry spent 17 years as a bus operator before joining light rail in the first group of train operators who started before the opening of Blue Line and has 35 years of safe driving.

Bus Operator Melanie Benson celebrated 45 years of service with Metro Transit today.

Metro Transit Director of TOD Lucy Galbraith has announced her retirement.

Council members extended their appreciation and thanks to staff for their service.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Cummings, seconded by Sterner and carried, to approve the following consent item:

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

1. 2021-268 SW: 2021-2024 TIP Amendment: MnDOT Security Gate

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to add an installment of an automatic gate and associated crime prevention features for night closure at the Burns Avenue Overlook in St. Paul.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2021-251: Purchase Agreement with Luminator Technology for Bus Video Technology – Contract 21P296

Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source agreement with Luminator Technology Group (Luminator) to purchase up to 540 Digital Video Recorder/Camera systems including spare units in an amount not to exceed \$2,950,000.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

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

2. **2021-269:** Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan to City of Lakeville for Parcel at I-35 and CSAH 50 Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a right-of-way acquisition loan of up to \$1,100,000 to the city of Lakeville to purchase 17471 Kenwood Trail, Lakeville, which is a parcel of land needed for reconstruction of the northbound exit ramp at I-35 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 50.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

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

3. **2021-99 Revised:** Gold Line Master Utility Agreement #21I060 with the Office of MN.IT Services Metro Transit Assistant Director, BRT Project Chris Beckwith presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Gonzalez, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (Gold Line) Master Utility Agreement with the Office of MN.IT Services (MNIT) in an amount not to exceed \$2,863,601.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

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

4. **2021-252:** Ubisense Sole Source for Minneapolis Bus Garage, Contract 21P292 Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities Director Marilyn Porter introduced Planner Stephen Smith presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 21P292 with Ubisense America LLC, for the for Minneapolis Bus Garage system in the amount not to exceed \$750,000.

Motion carried. Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated this item could proceed as Consent to Council.

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

5. 2021-266: Marketing Research Services, Contract 21P137

Metro Transit Market Development Manager Maria Cone and Analytics and Research Manager Eric Lind presented this item. Chamblis and Chair Barber expressed their appreciation for staff looking at this differently and breaking it into two separate contracts to allow for more opportunities for vendors. Chamblis asked how the contractor's ideas or experiences allows them to be more knowledgeable and able to help us with the local market. Lind responded that the vendor has worked with the Council on the TBI program, both in terms of household inventory and as a subcontractor for the transit onboard survey. Lind added that the vendor has worked with similar transit customers in other systems around the country and has a good handle on how to reach customers of all types.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 21P137 with Resource Systems Group (RSG) for the purpose of conducting market research in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

Motion carried.

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

6. 2021-267: Media Planning & Buying Services, Contract 21P138

Metro Transit Market Development Manager Maria Cone and Market Development Specialist Jessica Cross presented this item. Gonzalez and Chamblis were interested in seeing the list of media/companies this vendor works with as it relates to connecting with our BIPOC communities and asked that we provide feedback to the vendor about some additional partners. Cone stated that in their proposal the vendor did list 10-12 organizations that they were already working with, that the vendor is currently buying some BIPOC media for us and impressed that the vendor already has established relationships with media/organizations that can do outreach to the communities we want to reach.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contract 21P138 with Clarity Coverdale Fury (CCF) for the purpose of media planning and buying in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.

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

INFORMATION

1. Twin Cities Highway Mobility Needs Analysis

Metropolitan Transportation Services Transportation Planning Manager Steve Peterson presented this item. Chamblis asked that because of the equity analysis found that job access didn't change based on different funding scenarios, could that mean there are other factors than just money and there is more involved to support equity populations. Peterson responded that there will be an equity study in the

short term for a more in depth analysis. Metropolitan Transportation Services Acting Director Amy Vennewitz added that the equity investment review hasn't kicked off yet but we are currently writing a scope of work which was presented at the Equity Investment committee last month and their feedback was received on the policy advisory committee that we are going to be using. Vennewitz continued that we think we are ready to go out and the SOW should be on the street next week; this will be about an 18th month project that looks at all of our decision making processes in project type investments. Chamblis asked that when we get the results of the telecommuting sensitivity analysis and before any decisions are made, that we look at the data disaggregated to see if there are any differences in the impact of telecommuting across difference variables of the population. Peterson responded that about 13% nationwide of people are telecommuting at least one day per month and that this was at 35% at the height of COVID. Peterson added they are curious to see where this lands that this is a great steady area we need to explore. Chair Barber stated as we look at these different funding scenarios, each would require an increased investment in the metropolitan twin cities region and asked if we would need to see a shift in the percentage of mobility funds the metropolitan region receives or either new funds. Peterson responded that this is one area that is more unique to the metropolitan area and the higher investment in this area would mean likely more money coming to the metropolitan area.

2. Upcoming Service Changes and Operator Hiring Update

Metro Transit Acting Chief Operating Officer Brian Funk and Service Development Director Adam Harrington presented this item. Cummings asked about the impact of the partnership with SPPS and if the partnership will last the entire school year. Funk responded that it has worked pretty well, and we've been able to ensure most days there is an articulated bus on the routes passing the school building during school end time. Harrington added that we have a pass program in place for the 4 schools for the remainder of the semester and that SPPS is using this time to ramp up their hiring so they can restore some service. Cummings and Chair Barber thanked staff for their work, adaptability, and creativity during these challenging times. Chair Barber asked how staff are reviewing where customers have alternative service options when determining service reductions. Harrington responded that one of things we are looking at are commuter express services, leaning back on level of service we hope to provide in the near term but primarily looking at areas where we have extra frequency or extra capacity on buses that could accommodate a lower frequency of service on the same route or a corridor where there might be more than one route operating and there is a reasonable alternative to that service.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:40p.m.

Becky Gorell
Recording Secretary