

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: October 24, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco, District 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Kris Fredson, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raymond Zeran, District 9 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sterner, District 15 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Molly Cummings, District 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Francisco Gonzalez, District 12 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Cummings to approve the agenda. Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Cummings to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2022 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced Revenue Collections Senior Manager Dennis Dworshak who presented to Events & Fare Program Program Specialist Nick Gorell, Revenue Operations Manager Lisa Anderson who presented to Sales Operations Specialist Dustin Crescini and Transit Information Senior Manager Ben Rajkowski who presented to Transit Information Representative Pam Thiem.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization

Hosting a national conference this week for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization's annual conference. The conference will include a mix of sessions, workshops, mobile tours. Nine Metropolitan Council and Metropolitan Transportation Services staff are speaking/sharing our work and will be hearing from other MPOs around the country.

MVST

Receipts continue to outpace projections. September actuals were 107% of forecast, and YTD are at 104% of forecast (+\$11M). Average new car price is around \$46,000, 10% higher than 2021.

Metro Mobility

Continuing to see ridership increase this fall; in recent weeks we've seen ridership grow closer to 90% of pre-pandemic level.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

North Loop Garage Tour & Gold Line Groundbreaking Ceremony

Thanks to Council members for attending both the North Loop Garage tour and the Gold Line groundbreaking ceremony last week.

3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Dugan provided an overview of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Consent Business

1. There are no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-265 SW:** Renewal of Interagency Agreement between Metro Transit and MnDot for a Five-year Contract for Salt Procurement

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement (#211039) with Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") for the purpose of supplying Metro Transit with bulk salt for system use for an amount not to exceed \$611,000.

Metro Transit Facilities Maintenance Manager Mike Maddio presented this item. Cummings asked if the price of salt has changed from the last contract. Maddio responded that yes, due to fuel of transportation and increase in raw materials the price is about 30% more than the last contract. Cummings asked if we have looked at alternatives to salt. Maddio answered that we have worked with other peer agencies on the effort but haven't been able to find another material that is as effective; so instead we are focusing on proper training of staff and correct application of salt by the machines. Sterner asked if we use sand or rock. Maddio stated that we don't use sand due to the impacts on the bus system (we do use sand on some rail applications) but we don't mix salt and sand. Maddio continued that if there are areas with over application, we try to collect that material before it gets washed away into the water system.

Motion carried.

2. **2022-272:** Small Bus Procurement Contract 22P373, Contract 22P372

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Pacheco, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 22P373 with North Central Bus Sales for up to 63 replacement buses and 12 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$9,365,194; and Contract 22P372 with Hogle Bus for up to 26 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$3,522,206, for a total procurement value not to exceed \$12,887,400.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented this item. Sterner asked what fuel type these buses will be. Colton responded that they are all gasoline.

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

3. **2022-273:** METRO B Line – Joint Powers Agreement with City of Saint Paul

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 221030 ("Agreement") with the City of Saint Paul for right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the METRO B Line project.



Metro Transit Arterial BRT Projects Director Katie Roth introduced BRT Project Manager Frank Alarcon who presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

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

4. **2022-274:** METRO B Line – Joint Powers Agreement with Ramsey County

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 221031 (“Agreement”) with Ramsey County for right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the METRO B Line project.

Metro Transit BRT Project Manager Frank Alarcon presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

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

5. **2022-276 SW:** METRO B Line – Station Pylon Contract Option

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Sterner, that the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an option on existing contract 19P385A with ASC Acquisition Co./DBA Albrecht Sign Company for the fabrication and delivery of 47 pylon signs and 1 suspended horizontal sign for installation on the METRO B Line project, in an amount not to exceed \$1,477,770.

Metro Transit BRT Project Manager Frank Alarcon presented this item. Zeran asked if the pylons were manufactured locally, to which Alarcon responded yes. Zeran stated disappointment that there wasn't a DBE available to produce these goods. Metro Transit Arterial BRT Director Katie Roth responded that a new contract will be procured in about 4 years and OEEO is expected to again complete a thorough review for DBE goal assignment at that time. Chamblis stated support for early planning in contracting to support opportunities for small firms to participate. Chair Barber stated that Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby was in the audience and heard the request regarding DBE participation in the next contract. Sterner affirmed that the company is local, pays prevailing wages to their employees, and is a union shop. Barber stated support for the B Line project advancing.

Motion carried.

6. **2022-275:** METRO C Line – Olson Memorial Highway Long-Term Alignment

It was moved by Sterner, seconded by Zeran, that the Metropolitan Council approve the staff recommendation to retain the long-term METRO C Line alignment on Olson Memorial Highway.

Metro Transit BRT Planning Manager Kyle O'Donnell Burrows introduced Planner Laura Greteman who presented this item. Chamblis asked if it's typical to put temporary stations and service along the line of a planned light rail project to support service during construction. O'Donnell Burrows answered that the rationale for temporary locations along Olson Memorial was to avoid making a permanent structure that could be impacted by the construction of the Blue Line. Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra stated that this is a unique situation and there are no plans to provide service on the new blue line extension route while it's under construction. Chamblis asked if we did an analysis on development plans or community benefits that were expecting the C Line service to shift to Glenwood. Greteman responded that staff did reach out to stakeholders along the corridor, and they were enthusiastic about the service staying on Olson Memorial. O'Donnell Burrows added that we would be retaining the Route 9 on Glenwood (which is supposed to be a high frequency route when the bus operator shortage is not an issue) and that this area is included in the Metro Micro Transit pilot as well.



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

Information

1. METRO F Line Draft Corridor Plan

Metro Transit BRT Planning Manager Kyle O'Donnell Burrows and Senior Planner Jake Knight presented this item. Barber asked how this project is different in that we are applying for Small Starts that we didn't do for other BRT lines. Metro Transit Arterial BRT Director Katie Roth stated there are a couple factors that make this project a good candidate, with the biggest one being that with the investment from the State Legislature coupled with the Regional Solicitation that's set aside, it allows us to identify an early local match.

2. Climate Action Work Plan Strategies Discussion

Metropolitan Council Member Lindstrom, Metro Transit Senior Project Coordinator Jeff Freeman, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer and Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented this item. Pacheco asked what we are doing in the area of environmental justice. Freeman stated staff put together a framework for environmental justice and a scorecard (put the Climate Action matrix through that scorecard) and collected the feedback with our own staff and external agencies and will look to incorporate that in the next go around. Freeman continued that the biggest take away was that we need to have a rechartered Environmental Justice task force that brings environmental justice to the forefront, outside of the Climate Action Plan. Cummings asked about solar panels. Freeman stated that solar is something we look at and is an opportunity that has barriers (utility companies have limits on how big solar can be). Chair Barber asked that Council members review the plan and provide comments back to staff.

3. Regional Solicitation Funding Scenarios

Metropolitan Transportation Services Transportation Planning Manager Steve Peterson presented this item.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 5:54p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of October 24, 2022.

Council Contact:

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