

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, December 10, 2012

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair John Đoàn	Adam Duinick Roxanne Smith James Brimeyer	Jennifer Munt Jon Commers
Members Absent	Edward Reynoso		
Staff Presiding	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:06 p.m. on December 10, 2012 at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Schreiber to adopt the agenda for the December 10, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Munt, seconded by Đoàn to approve the minutes from the November 26, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

As Council Members were previously notified, a Metro Mobility vehicle was recently involved in a fatal accident with a pedestrian. The vehicle was making a left turn on a green arrow when it struck a 71-year-old man crossing the street. The man was transported to the hospital, where he later died. Staff is cooperating fully with authorities in their investigation of the incident.

Council finance staff have been very persistent in working with Minnesota Management & Budget to determine why MVST receipts were unusually low for July, 2012. It was ultimately discovered that receipts from the first 13 days of July were not credited to that month. The correct dollar amount has yet to be determined, but it is anticipated that the next monthly forecast will reflect the corrected numbers.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit, reported the following:

St. Paul's historic Union Depot opened on December 8 after a \$243 million restoration. Met Council Chair Susan Haigh was among the speakers at the dedication, and daylong celebrations were attended by an estimated 20,000 people. Route 21 buses began serving the intermodal transit hub that same morning. Each weekday, Metro Transit and Minnesota Valley Transit buses will arrive and depart the facility more than 300 times. Jefferson Lines private coach service and Amtrak passenger rail will begin serving Union Depot in 2013. Green Line (Central Corridor) service to the location will commence in 2014 with about 225 trips each weekday.

Metro Transit was the event sponsor for the December 8 Target Holidazzle Parade on Nicollet Mall, now in its 21st year. Following the new Twinkle Bus, more than 200 Metro Transit staff and their families walked in the parade

wearing lighted character costumes. In addition, Metro Transit offered free rides on buses and light rail in downtown Minneapolis, and an extra Northstar trip was scheduled.

This coming weekend Metro Transit is teaming up with BNSF and Toys for Tots. On Friday, December 14, Northstar commuters who bring a Toys for Tots donation to Target Field Station will be greeted by staff and U.S. Marines. The donation can be exchanged for two Northstar tickets that can be used at a later date. On Saturday, December 15, customers can bring Toys for Tots donations to ride free on the special Holidazzle train which arrives at Target Field at about 4:00 p.m. and departs after the parade at 8:00 p.m.

In more good news for Northstar, the commuter rail line is seeing a ridership spike due to the wintry weather. About 1,555 Vikings fans rode Northstar on December 9, which is 15 percent higher than ridership for the last home game on November 11. In addition, an estimated 1,600 customers boarded the morning of December 10, approximately 25 percent more than the previous week. All trips were on time Monday morning, and Northstar continues to have near-perfect on-time performance in excess of 97%. Ridership among weekday commuters – Northstar’s primary market – has increased progressively every month compared to the July 2012 forecast. Early counts from the Ramsey station are encouraging as well. On typical weekdays, Northstar is averaging nearly 300 rides to and from the new station. Projections had been about 200 rides per weekday.

The 280-space park-and-ride lot at Highway 36 and Rice Street in Little Canada exceeded Metro Transit expectations for the first day of service. Just about 90 customers braved the cold on December 10 to take one of the seven scheduled trips to Minneapolis on the new Route 263. A big thank you is also owed to the neighboring Cub Foods whose employees were on hand graciously providing donuts and hot beverages to Metro Transit customers at the new park-and-ride location.

Metro Transit has gained 8,623 Facebook fans since launching an official page on the social media site this past summer. Last week’s celebration of Metro Transit’s 3 billionth rider was heavily promoted and shared via social media and drew scores of new Facebook fans. Also, frequent updates on transit service during the storm earned us more fans and Twitter followers.

A new marketing campaign is encouraging residents who live near six routes to give Metro Transit a try. The six routes include segments of routes 4, 22, 63, 64, 673 and 724. The routes were selected based on their recent ridership performance and their potential to gain new customers. Targeted media efforts are being used including ads in bus shelters, on gas pumps, in neighborhood restaurants and movie theaters and online. Bonus points are being offered to Ride to Rewards customers if they take any of the targeted routes during the campaign. In addition, a direct-mail brochure with a \$10 Go-To Card will be sent to 2,500 residents in each service area. As an added incentive, if customers ride 10 times by a specified date, they’ll get another \$10 added to the pass.

Council Members are reminded that several upcoming meetings will be held at times other than their regular schedule. All of these meetings will be held in the Council Chambers.

- Wednesday, December 12: The Met Council meeting will be held from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, followed immediately by public hearings for final approval of the budget beginning at 6:00 pm.
- Monday, December 17: A special Transportation Committee meeting will be held from 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm, immediately followed by the meeting of the Community Development Committee at 4:30 pm.
- Wednesday, December 19: A special Metropolitan Council meeting will be held from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm, immediately followed by the meeting of the Committee of the Whole at 3:30 pm.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items

2012-373: “A” Minor Arterial System Evaluation Study

MTS Planning Analyst Carl Ohrn presented this item including changes that the Transportation Committee suggested along with Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) changes. Ohrn answered general questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council accept the "A" Minor Arterial System Evaluation Study Report with the eight revisions to the September 28, 2012 draft as reflected in the business item.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2012-370 SW: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment to Add Midtown Greenway Corridor Bridge Study Project (SP#027-070-006; TAB Action 2012-39)

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Midtown Greenway Corridor Bridge Study project (SP#027-070-006).

Motion passed.

2012-371 SW: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment to Add the Transportation Interchange Facility in Minneapolis (SP#027-030-028; TAB Action 2012-37)

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the Transportation Interchange facility in Minneapolis (SP#027-030-028).

Motion passed.

2012-372 SW: 2013-2016 TIP Amendment to Modify the Lake Street Access to I-35W Project (SP#027-603-049; TAB Action 2012-36)

MTS Senior Planner Heidi Schallberg presented the business item. CM Brimeyer asked how Hennepin County was able to get the earmark initially and why it was for such a specific amount. Chair Elkins responded that Congressman Sabo was instrumental in obtaining funding in the past and since the earmark was done in 2003, the details of the initial request were unknown.

Motion by Duininck, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to modify the Lake Street Access to I-35W project in Minneapolis (SP#027-603-049).

Motion passed.

2012-374 SW: Authorization to Enter into a Contract for Highway Transitway Corridor Study

MTS Senior Planner Cole Hiniker presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract for the highway transitway corridor feasibility study to SRF Consulting, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$325,000.

Motion passed.

2012-364 SW: Title VI Policies Authorization for Public Hearings

Cyndi Harper, Manager of Route Planning for Metro Transit, presented the business item. CM Munt asked why not all of the suburban providers are setting policies or participating in the public process. Harper responded that only

providers with 50 or more peak vehicles are required to establish these policies. Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and SouthWest Transit are the only suburban providers that meet that criterion.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes public hearings on proposed policies to define Major Service Change, Disparate Impact, and Disproportionate Burden as required by FTA Title VI Circular 4702.1B.

Motion passed.

2012-368 SW: Authorization to Purchase Property – Public Facilities Maintenance Building

Pat Jones, Assistant Director, Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, introduced Senior Project Coordinator Cathy Nordin, who presented the business item. CM Brimeyer asked whether the property has a willing seller. Staff confirmed it did. CM Duininck asked if the project was in the capital plan. GM Lamb indicated that it has always been part of the CIP but is being pulled forward due to system growth and the benefits of this specific opportunity. Chair Elkins noted that this location is very accessible. CM Munt asked whether St. Paul city planning staff supports this acquisition. Staff responded that based on discussions with the zoning department the project meets the ordinance requirements and the covenant on the property poses no restrictions.

Motion by Duininck, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and purchase the property at 677 Transfer Road for the purpose of a new location for the Public Facilities Maintenance Group. This authorization would be for an amount up to the appraised value.

Motion passed.

2012-387 SW: Extension CTIB Master Operations Funding Agreement for Transitway Service

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a one year extension of the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) Master Operations Funding Agreement for Transitway Service. This one year extension will be for the period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Construction Update 2012 and Look Ahead to 2013

Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann and Director of Engineering Design and Construction Dan Soler provided a recap of 2012 construction activity including stations, systems, track and the operations and maintenance facility. Staff also outlined work to be accomplished in 2013. Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director of the Council's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, reported on DBE participation in construction and professional services as well as current and future goals. She outlined initiatives launched to increase workforce diversity on the Central Corridor project.

2. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): SEIS Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Update
Kathryn O'Brien, Assistant Director of Environmental and Agreements, reported on the SEIS prepared in response to a January 2012 order from the district court to assess potential impacts of the Central Corridor project on revenues for businesses along the light rail line. Public hearings are scheduled for January 10, 2013, and a final SEIS will be published in spring of 2013.

3. Downtown Saint Paul Facility Improvement Project

Metro Transit Facilities Planner Julie Quinn presented an overview of the project, designed to upgrade the physical environment of downtown St. Paul bus stops, enhance intermodal connections for transit and improve overall safety and security at transit facilities.

4. 2012 Transportation Committee Work Plan Review

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported that the Transportation Committee's 2012 Work Plan has been updated to 1) reflect unanticipated items that were added during the course of the year, 2) note completion dates for most work items and 3) indicate items not completed in 2012. Committee members have been provided with the updated plan and

are invited to provide feedback on the 2012 work and to use the 2012 plan to assist in the development of the 2013 Work Plan. Staff proposes bringing a draft 2013 Work Plan to the Transportation Committee on January 14 for its review, with adoption to follow at the January 28, 2013 meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Transportation Committee meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m. December 10, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary