

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: December 12, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Molly Cummings, District 5

John Pacheco, District 6

Raymond Zeran, District 9

Francisco Gonzalez, District 12

Kris Fredson, District 14

Phillip Sterner, District 15

= present

Call to Order

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

Agenda Approved

It was moved by Pacheco, seconded by Gonzalez 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 Gonzalez, seconded by Chamblis to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2022, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment

Kurt Anderson, Metro Transit Mechanic and ATU Board Member, Faith Walker, Metro Transit Cleaner and Barry Clark, Metro Transit Cleaner addressed the committee about concerns with upcoming job schedule and job designation changes.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Transitway Policy

The Council approved the new transitway policy on November 30th. A transit planning workgroup (comprised of staff from cities, counties, transit providers, U of M) met today and talked about details of the policy. The group also previewed next steps for the TPP modification that will address the planning side and upcoming procedures that will address the implementation side.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Hiring

We had over 80 people attend the last two operator hiring events in December and have 70 people moving on to the next step. We are also now able to publicly hire train operators. The job posting just closed and were about 60 applications.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC)

No report.

Consent Business

Consent Business Adopted

1. **2022-329:** That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #19I054C (the “SFA”) with Washington County (“the County”) for reimbursement of costs for traffic signal systems for the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“the Gold Line Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$1,701,040.00.

It was moved by Gonzalez, seconded by Sterner.

Motion carried.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2022-300:** Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Partial Repayment from City of Anoka for Parcel at US 10/169 and Thurston Avenue

It was moved by Zeran, seconded by Sterner, that the Metropolitan Council approve the partial release of a restrictive covenant on 0.23-acres of land within the City of Anoka in exchange for a partial repayment of Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Number L0903 (RALF Loan L0903).

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer presented this item. Cummings asked if we reach out to say it’s time for the loan to be repaid or does the entity come to us. Fischer replied that it can be either, depending on the case. Pacheco asked who pays the property taxes. Fischer responded that the land is held by the city so it’s not taxable. Cummings asked where the money goes when repaid to which Fischer stated it goes back into the fund – it’s a revolving fund loan. Gonzalez asked what happens if the property is sold for higher than the loan amount. Fischer stated the cost of the RALF program is shared, so if there is exceeds it goes back into the program. Chamblis asked about the restrictions with the statute. Fischer answered that the statute anticipates that these funds will be used as a loan – so if there are better uses for the funds it would require a statute change.

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

2. **2022-332 SW:** Bus Farebox Replacement and Equipment Upgrade

It was moved by Fredson seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract with Genfare to provide Fastfare bus fareboxes and auxiliary equipment with options for futures purchases until December 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000.

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Revenue Collections Senior Manager Dennis Dworshak presented this item. Gonzalez asked about the difference between the larger and smaller ticket vending machines. Dworshak stated the bigger machines are used on the rail platforms due to being able to handle large ticket volumes and Petrie added the cost difference (bigger ones being about \$80k and smaller ones \$15k). Pacheco asked about vandalism. Dworshak stated overall the vandalism to the machines is very little.

Motion carried.

3. **2022-333 SW:** Cubic Smart Card Validators for Gold and B Line Bus Rapid Transit Contract 22P325, 22P326

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Cummings, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 22P325, 22P326 with Cubic for Smart Card Validators for use as offboard fare payments on the Gold and B Bus Rapid

Transit Lines in an amount not to exceed \$2,100,000.

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Revenue Collections Senior Manager Dennis Dworshak presented this item. There were no additional questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

4. **2022-334 SW:** Contract to Purchase Ticket Vending Machines for Gold and B Lines, Contracts 22P333, 22P332

It was moved by Fredson, seconded by Gonzalez, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a sole source contract 22P333, 22P332 with Flowbird to provide ticket vending machines for offboard fare payments on the Gold and B Bus Rapid Transit Lines in an amount not to exceed \$3,300,000.

Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Revenue Collections Senior Manager Dennis Dworshak presented this item. There were no additional questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

5. **2022-337 JT:** METRO Green Line Extension – 2022 Budget Amendment

It was moved by Cummings, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the 2022 Unified Budget as amended and in accordance with the attached tables.

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager – Capital Programs Nick Thompson and Finance Director Ed Petrie presented this item. Several Council members thanked staff for the presentation and being forthcoming with the information and the work they've done to come to an agreement with our partners. Council members stated the importance of this project and how this investment will be around for generations to come. Fredson stated that utilizing some of the leftover monies from other projects illustrates most of our projects get completed on time and under budget and that we need substantial structural changes in transportation funding in the state. Gonzalez asked if the CRRSAA funding was already earmarked for other projects. Petrie responded that no, these funds weren't itemized to specific projects and Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra added that the effect of using these funds brings the deficit into 2026 instead of 2027.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Bus Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship Program

Metro Transit Bus Maintenance Director Abel Mumbi presented this item. Cummings asked if there will be women mentors. Mumbi stated that the mentors will need to apply and that we can bring that information back. Pacheco asked if there was tuition that comes with this program. Mumbi responded that participants are being paid as they are being training both in class and during hands on training. Gonzalez and Fredson stated how beneficial and life changing programs like this are.

2. Better Bus Stops

Metro Transit Principal Project Coordinator Paul Lamb and Better Bus Stops Program Manager Berry Farrington presented this item. Sterner asked if this information is presented to the TAAC. Farrington stated that once a year, staff brings a little more in depth update to a TAAC meeting. Gonzalez asked if accessibility improvements are included in future projects. Farrington responded that as we replace shelters, we ensure that it's meet accessibility standards and that all new shelters go through an accessibility review.

Adjournment



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

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of December 12, 2022.

Council Contact:

Becky Gorell, Recording Secretary
Rebecca.Gorell@metrotransit.org

