

## Minutes of the

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

February 25, 2019

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

**Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman, Marie McCarthy, Jennifer Munt, Lona Schreiber**

**Committee Members Absent: Cara Letofsky, Edward Reynoso**

**TAB Liaison Present:**

#### CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2019 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion by Munt, seconded by Dorfman to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Commers to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2019 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

##### Riverview

Metropolitan Council and Ramsey County staff met with Prairie Island Indian Community to discuss the Riverview project. Background on the project was given and ways to continue the consultation was discussed.

##### Transportation Advisory Board

TAB had an electronic vote on the TPP Amendment for public comment since TAB was canceled due to weather.

##### Legislation

The Governor introduced his budget proposal and it is a good proposal for transportation in the region. There is a bill related to DHS/Metro Mobility data sharing making its way through the committees. The house is having hearings in the community and the public is invited to speak on various topics, the Metropolitan Council and transportation in general is brought up frequently (in the St. Cloud field hearings the Northstar has been brought up as a topic) so Metropolitan Council staff is attending to be able to answer questions as they come up.

Metro Transit Chief Operations Officer Vince Pellegrin reported:

##### March 9 service changes

Several service changes will take effect on Saturday, March 9, 2019. The changes are part of our regular, quarterly service adjustments. The most notable changes are occurring in downtown Minneapolis, where city-led road construction will cause us to detour several popular routes from 8th Street to 6th Street. There are about 350 trips on 6th Street each weekday. These trips will operate on 6th Street until construction on 8th Street is finished later this year. Some new bus shelters will be added along

6th Street to help accommodate customers. During the city's reconstruction project, we'll also build several BRT shelters on 8th Street that will later be served by the C and D lines. When the C Line opens in June, it will operate on 6th Street. As early as this spring, we expect the city to begin construction on Hennepin Avenue, causing us to shift bus operations from that corridor to Hennepin Avenue.

#### Smoking enforcement

Transit police will be doing more to deter smoking on and near our light rail vehicles beginning this week. Plain clothed officers will be riding at times and in locations where we've received the most reports of this behavior and issuing citations as necessary. Smoking on transit property is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$300.

#### Weather response

Two recent social media posts underscore the remarkable weather we've been having this month. At left, the National Weather Service made note of the fact that this has been the Twin Cities' snowiest February ever with a photo of a light rail train in downtown Minneapolis. At right, a light rail customer spotted someone who saw last Tuesday's snowfall as an opportunity for a different kind of multimodal commute.

Dorfman asked if a rail break is the same as a crack. Pellegrin said it is an actual break not just a crack, the rail has separated and the cold temperature causes it so a new piece of rail has to be welded in. There were no fuel problems with the buses with the extreme cold.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items:**

There were no consent items on the agenda.

### **Non-Consent Items:**

1. **2019-30 JT SW:** 2019 Budget Amendment – Carry Forward Amendment  
Metro Transit Finance Director Ed Petrie and Metropolitan Transportation Services & Community Development Director of Finance & Administration Heather Aagesen-Huebner presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the 2019 Unified Budget amendment as indicated, and in accordance with the attached tables.

Motion carried.

2. **2019-42:** Master Contracts for Mechanical Engineering Services – Contract 18P251  
Metro Transit Senior Project Administrator Julie Brenny presented this item.

Dorfman asked for clarification on how the cap is measured.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute five master contracts with a duration of four years, each valued at \$250,000 to the following firms:

Toltz, King, Duvall Anderson, and Associates

LHB, Inc.

Stanley Consultants, Inc.

Hallberg Engineering, Inc.

Short, Elliott, Hendrickson, Inc.

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

3. **2019-43 SW:** SWLRT (Green Line Extension) BNSF Construction Agreement, Amendment 1  
Metro Transit SWLRT Agreements Manager Kelly McKeon presented this item.

Dorfman asked if there is a disruption to BNSF trains. McKeon said there will be outages of up to 8 hours that will be coordinated with BNSF.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Freight Rail Coordination Agreement – Construction Phase (the “Construction Agreement”) with BNSF Railway (BNSF) to incorporate schedules, plans, and specifications and issue a purchase order up to total amount not to exceed \$4.5 million.

Motion carried.

4. **2019-44:** SWLRT (Green Line Extension) SFA #12 with Hennepin County for Inspection Staff  
Metro Transit SWLRT Agreements Manager Kelly McKeon presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 12 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Hennepin Co. for construction support services in the total amount not to exceed \$650,000.

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

5. **2019-46 SW:** Eight Sixty-foot BRT Articulated Expansion Buses for D-Line  
Metro Transit Director of Bus Maintenance Matt Dake presented this item.

Munt noted that it’s exciting that we are purchasing Minnesota-made New Flyer electric buses and supporting union jobs as we move away from dirty diesel.

Motion by Munt, seconded by McCarthy:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options in Contract no. 13P183 with New Flyer of America Metro to purchase eight (8) sixty-foot articulated diesel buses with bus rapid transit (BRT) styling, in an amount not to exceed \$7,008,507.41, contingent upon satisfactory results of the Pre-Award Buy America Audit.

Motion carried.

6. **2019-37 SW:** Public Comment Report and Amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan to Add Riverview Modern Streetcar Locally Preferred Alternative  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Multi Modal Planning Manager Cole Hiniker presented this item.

Munt asked why Riverview doesn't go to the Ford site (anticipating that in the future comments will be similar to those asking why the Northstar doesn't go to St. Cloud), she asked if the process moving forward will allow for that to be reexamined. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson said the LPA came out of this because it had a higher ridership, served a different transit market area, and the transit investments needed in the Ford area will be addressed next from this – there is a need for transit in that area but this alignment was the best for this specific project. Hiniker said Saint Paul supported this LPA and there are multiple steps of approval a project will go through as it moves forward.

Motion by Commers, seconded by McCarthy:  
That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Accept the Public Comment Report for the proposed amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan to add Riverview Modern Streetcar Locally Preferred Alternative;
2. Direct the Regional Administrator to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Ramsey County and Hennepin County regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Council and the Counties during the continuing environmental analysis and pre-project development phases of the Riverview project, including continued consultation with the tribal governments and communities; and
3. Adopt an amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan to add the Riverview Modern Streetcar locally preferred alternative to the Transportation Policy Plan's Current Revenue Scenario.

Motion carried.

7. **2019-47 SW:** Purchase Agreement with Apollo Video Technology  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Services Manager Paul Colton presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Commers:  
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a sole source agreement with Apollo Video Technology in an amount not to exceed \$890,500 to purchase up to 122 DVR/Camera systems and spare units.

Motion carried.

8. **2019-48 SW:** Release for Public Comment Draft Amendment #2 to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan to Amend the METRO Gold Line Project and Amend the I-94 Project from MN 101 to I-494  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Highway Planning & TAB/TAC Process Manager Steve Peterson presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by McCarthy, seconded by Schreiber:  
That, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the attached draft amendment #2 to the [2040 Transportation Policy Plan](#) to amend the METRO Gold Line project and to amend the I-94 project from MN 101 to I-494 for public review and comment.
- Authorize a public comment period from February 28, 2019, to April 12, 2019, including a public hearing on the draft document to be held on April 2, 2019, at 4:00 PM.

Motion carried.

Dorfman expressed appreciation for staff support. Chair Barber echoed appreciation for staff and Council Member work.

## **INFORMATION**

1. There were no information items on the agenda.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Jenna Ernst  
Recording Secretary