

## **Minutes of the**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

April 22, 2019

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

**Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran**

**Committee Members Absent: Christopher Ferguson**

**TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2019 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Sterner to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2019 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

#### **Employee Recognition – Metro Transit:**

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra introduced the following, who presented recognition awards:

Metro Transit LRT Operations Manager Mike McNamara who presented to Metro Transit Rail Operator Brian Mayfield.

Metro Transit LRT Operations Assistant Manager Jake Rooney who presented to Metro Transit Rail Transit Supervisors Marty Jensen, Michael Taylor, and Joe Tschida.

#### **TAB LIAISON REPORT**

Dugan reported on new Transportation Advisory Board members, an information item that featured a new application created with data to display regional employment and travel flows, an after study of the A Line, and a Regional Solicitation policy working group forming to improve the Regional Solicitation by bringing recommendations back to the TAB.

#### **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS**

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

##### Regional Solicitation

Regarding the TAB policy working group: every two years Regional Solicitation criteria are updated but sometimes there are bigger decisions that need to be addressed. This TAB policy working group aims to get input on some issues that have come up and to give feedback to the TAB for future Solicitations. Tuesday, April 23, 2019 is a Carver County tour that will include some projects that were funded through the Regional Solicitation, either completed or about to be started.

##### Wednesday Events

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 is the Metro Mobility Spring Convening and Council Members are invited and encouraged to attend. Later that evening will be the interviews for the open seats on the Transportation Advisory Board for the Council-appointed members.

### CAV Workshops

Friday, April 26, 2019 and Monday, April 29, 2019 are the Connected and Automated Vehicle workshops. This will be a scenario planning exercise to explore where the technology is and where it might go, how it may influence the transportation network, and how it might be influenced to best serve the region.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

### Earth Week Train

Today is Earth Day – and this year, some light rail customers will be experiencing it in spectacular fashion. In partnership with the University of St. Thomas, a light rail vehicle has been wrapped, inside and out, with images of a caterpillar becoming a butterfly and seasonal local landscapes. The artwork was designed by Saint Paul artist Sarah Nelson. Nelson also designed the cover art for a book that St. Thomas students recently published. The book is about the transformational nature of riding transit and is based on interviews with riders. The project is part of ongoing participation in the Sustainable Communities Partnership, in which undergraduate classes undertake small, manageable Metro Transit-identified projects as part of their coursework.

### Operator Barriers

Customers will soon be seeing more operator barriers in service. Technicians recently began installing the first of 150 barriers that will go on buses this year. Operators have the choice of using the barrier or pinning it back. The style was endorsed by a committee that included bus operators, technicians and union leaders last year. Each of Metro Transit's garages will ultimately have 30 buses with barriers. The barriers are going on some of the 40-foot buses and all the Bus Rapid Transit buses that are or will be used on the METRO A Line and C Line.

### National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Metro Transit took time to recognize staff in the Transit Control Center last week during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. TCC supervisors play a critical role when it comes to responding to public safety events, dispatching and communicating with police officers, assisting operators, and responding to 911 calls. In 2018, the TCC handled more than 73,000 computer-aided dispatch police events, an 8.5% increase from 2017. The TCC also dedicates around 350 hours a week to law enforcement dispatch operations.

### Final Four/Allianz Field

It has been an incredibly active month for Metro Transit. At the start of the April, the NCAA Men's Final Four brought tens of thousands of fans to downtown Minneapolis for games at U.S. Bank Stadium and other festivities. As Metro Transit celebrated at the end of last week, the Blue and Green lines had their highest single-day ridership totals ever on the day of the championship game. Nearly 160,000 more rides were provided between April 5, 2019 and April 9, 2019 than on the same days the previous week. After getting through the Final Four and an April snowstorm, Metro Transit also played a major role in the opening of Allianz Field on Saturday, April 13, 2019. More than 5,500 fans took the Green Line or A Line to the inaugural match at the stadium and Metro Transit service received rave reviews. One customer said, "I don't know how many hours went into planning today but my ride was bliss. No issues with overcrowding. Thanks for your hard work!"

Fredson expressed admiration for a job well done with the Allianz field operations.

## BUSINESS

### Consent Items:

Motion was made by Chamblis, seconded by Gonzalez and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2019-93:** Minnesota Valley Transit Authority – Apple Valley Transit Station Modernization

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to develop and execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for \$1,927,760. This item is contingent upon Council adoption of the Q1 Council Budget Amendment, BI 2019-55 JT, on April 24, 2019.

2. **2019-94:** Minnesota Valley Transit Authority – Automatic Vehicle Locator Technology

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to develop and execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for up to \$1,800,514.

### Non-Consent Items:

1. **2019-78:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Contract for Bass Lake Spur Freight Rail Maintenance and Repair

Metro Transit Transit System Development Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item.

Cummings asked about advantages for the Council owning or not owning the area owned by TC&W. Alexander said there was no reason for the Council to own it because it is far enough outside of the project that it will not impact it. Cummings asked how many companies there are that do the work involved in the bid, Alexander answered that two bids were received in this procurement.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute Contract 18P387, Bass Lake Spur Freight Rail Maintenance and Repair, with North Shore Track Services, Inc. in the amount of its low, responsive, responsible bid of \$1,530,433.64. The term of the contract is five years.

Motion carried.

2. **2019-83:** TPP Administrative Modification to Include Federal Performance Targets  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Dave Burns presented this item.

Atlas-Ingebretson asked how the targets are used in the work of the Metropolitan Council. Burns answered that the targets are federally required and are used to help plan and program projects throughout the region and projects are monitored using these, budgets are implemented as well. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson said that this allows standardization and peer comparison. Thompson added that it informs investment decisions where money is allocated. Gonzalez asked for clarification on confirmed versus suspected serious injuries. Burns said a suspected injury is if the injury is suspected at the scene of the incident but it has not been confirmed at the scene of the incident.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt an administrative modification to the Performance Outcomes chapter of the TPP to include the federally required performance measure targets and associated analysis.

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

3. **2019-84:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: Performance Measure Language  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to incorporate pavement / bridge and system performance / CMAQ performance measures.

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

4. **2019-85 SW:** Adopt 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 Planning & Finance Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Atlas-Ingebretson:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Accept the summary of public review and comment (included below) and,
- Adopt Amendment #2 (attached) to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan to amend the Gold Line locally preferred alternative to extend the alignment and add a station in Woodbury and amend the I-94 highway construction project in Maple Grove and Rogers to add general purpose lanes.

Motion carried.

5. **2019-86 SW:** 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-94  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Atlas-Ingebretson:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to change the cost and description of MnDOT's I-94 concrete overlay project and to add an associated project for temporary widening and cross overs.

Motion carried.

6. **2019-77 SW:** Controlled Access Approval: I-94 in Rogers, Dayton, and Maple Grove  
Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer presented this item.

Chamblis asked for clarification on the reasoning for this item going same week to Council. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson commented that MnDOT had requested a faster process because of their construction timeline.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to add lanes along I-94 between MN 610 and MN 101, and construct a new full access interchange east of the existing Brockton Lane overpass, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

Motion carried.

## INFORMATION

### 1. Freeway System Interchange Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer and MnDOT Program Coordinator Michael Corbett presented this item.

Fredson asked for clarification on the focus locations identification on the map. Sterner asked for staff to expound on MnPASS. Fischer said the revenue is mostly for operating costs. Corbett added that revenues from MnPASS are around 2-3 million dollars and the expenditures are very close to that, excess revenue usually goes to future development. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson said an update on MnPASS can be brought before the Transportation Committee, it is a well-reported system. Sterner asked if MnPASS has been looked at as an option for revenue to help as the gas tax is being discussed. Thompson said a MnDOT study was done recently on tolling as a potential revenue source and that can be shared.

### 2. Hennepin Avenue Downtown Reconstruction

Metro Transit Principal Project Coordinator Paul Lamb and Field Operations Assistant Director Dave Hanson presented this item.

Atlas-Ingebretson asked about concerns expressed. Lamb said the idea of railings has been brought up, as well as an education component before the project opens. Atlas-Ingebretson said she would like Metro Transit to model off of best practices agencies in Europe and other cities in the United States have found. Cummings asked what lessons have been learned from Nicollet Mall. Lamb said there have been open houses to provide information and hear back early in the project, phasing the project out over four years block by block is one of the results from that. Hanson said there are ways to make this less imposing that will be implemented. Chamblis asked if the size of the sidewalks had to be reduced. Lamb said there is not a plan for a reduction in the size of the sidewalks. Atlas-Ingebretson asked about left-turning bike movements. Lamb said the bike lane will be farther away from the curb at intersections.

### 3. Metro Transit Customer Survey Results

Metro Transit Analytics & Research Manager Eric Lind presented this item.

Atlas-Ingebretson commented that when information is collected it would be helpful to see the information disaggregated by income level, race, and ethnicity. Atlas-Ingebretson said that racism and harassment are different and it is a question that should be added. Lind said the harassment question was specifically worded for sexual harassment, but this can be added. Fredson inquired if riders are asked if they are first-time riders. Lind said the survey does ask how long they have been riding and earlier riders are usually more satisfied. Fredson asked about specific routes. Lind said the breakdown

by mode was as detailed as the survey went and that was because of logistics since it is a system-level question not a route-specific question. Sterner asked about the Red Line, Lind answered that there were no dissatisfied responses received. Gonzalez asked about the demographics and said that the Somali population should be disaggregated. Lind said Black/African American was not disaggregated in this survey but that is good feedback.

#### 4. Regional Solicitation

This item was moved to a future meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Jenna Ernst  
Recording Secretary