

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

March 13, 2017

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Katie Rodriguez, Cara Letofsky, Deb Barber, Steve Elkins, Jennifer Munt, Jon Commers, Gail Dorfman, Edward Reynoso, Lona Schreiber

Committee Members Absent: Marie McCarthy

TAB Liaison Present: Randy Maluchnick

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Rodriguez called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2017 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Chair Rodriguez suggested the agenda be amended as follows: Move Information Item 1-Fare Policy Update to follow the approval of the agenda and minutes, and move Information Item 3-MTPD Update to be the first item under the Information portion of the agenda. Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Letofsky to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

4. Fare Policy Update

Rodriguez noted that there have been several requests from the public to speak to this item. She suggested that the presentation be given, followed by Transportation Committee questions and comments, then followed by public comments. Due to time constraints, she stated that the public comments may be limited as to number and the time allowed to speak. She also stated that there will be no vote today, and there will be extensive outreach to the public regarding any change in the fare policy prior to any action being taken by the Council.

Metro Transit Senior Manager Revenue Operations Nick Eull presented this item. Metro Council Communications Public Outreach Manager Michelle Fure was also present to answer questions about the public input process and outreach. Members questioned whether a fare increase would be necessary if the legislature approved a sales tax increase. That would be dependent on the numbers that come out of the legislature. Schreiber asked for a future analysis of peer cities' fares and structures. Dorfman asked for data on how much ridership would need to increase to make a fare increase unnecessary. Rodriguez asked for general trends from peer agencies.

Members of the public who spoke were: Harry Maddox – St. Paul Smart Trips & Transit for Livable Communities; Desmond Juan – Dayton's Bluff Community Council; Cameron Slick – citizen; Mel Reeves – citizen/transit rider; Tyler Vasseur – U of M Student; Eric Ecklund – citizen; Amity Foster – Transportation Forward & ISAIAH.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

Randy Maluchnick reported that the TAB has not met since the last Transportation Committee, therefore no report.

CTIB UPDATE – Lona Schreiber

Schreiber shared a MINNPOST article which summarizes the status of CTIB dissolution to date. The next meeting for CTIB is Wednesday, 3/15.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Nick Thompson reported:

1. TPP Update

MTS continues to work on the TPP Update. A Strategic Management Working Group has been formed; it is a small group of CMs (Rodriguez, Elkins, Commers, Barber and McCarthy) that will help guide the process of developing the TPP. They met today to begin delving into the topics. Today's topic was Performance Measures. TAC Planning is a key group that staff will be bringing this through.

2. Legislature

Metro Council and specifically the Transportation/Transit divisions continue to testify at the many hearings at the legislature. Last week was the deadline for policy bills. There have been no budget bills yet.

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb reported:

1. Transit Driver Appreciation Day

We are celebrating Transit Driver Appreciation Day one week from today. We are encouraging all of you and our own senior staff to show support for our operators by riding the bus or train and publicly recognizing the operators with thank you cards (we have some of them here for you today). We'll also have two staff members from 6 a. m. to 10 p.m. visiting stations between the Hennepin Avenue / Warehouse Station and 9th Street in downtown Minneapolis to have riders join with us in showing their appreciation.

2. Saint Patrick's Day

Metro Transit will once again partner with MillerCoors brewing company to promote taking transit as an alternative to driving on St. Patrick's Day, Friday, March 17. Metro Transit staff will be participating in the St. Paul and Minneapolis St. Patrick's Day parades on March 17, helping to remind riders of our partnership.

- The St. Paul parade starts at Noon and lineup for that parade is near 4th St in Lowertown.
- The Minneapolis parade starts at 7:30 p.m. and will be held on Marquette take part on the parade will be held on Marquette Ave. due to the construction on Nicollet. This year, the parade route is REVERSED compared to previous years, running North to South along Marquette Ave. starting at South 6th Street and concluding at South 11th Street. Line up will be near 6th Street
- Each parade, from start to finish, lasts roughly 1-2 hours

3. Metro Transit Police Department awards ceremony

On Wednesday, March 22 at 1 p.m., the Metro Transit Police Department will hold its Officer of the Year ceremony where we will honor the officers are awarded for their work over the past year. Please join us at 415 Pascal Street North here in Saint Paul.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Commers, seconded by Elkins and passed, to approve the following consent items:

1. 2017-63: Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds – Resolution No. 2017-3

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2017-3 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

2. 2017-66: Authorize Execution of Contract Options with Gillig LLC

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise existing contract options on Contract 12P227 with Gillig LLC to purchase 16 replacement transit buses in an amount not to exceed \$8,000,000.

Non-Consent Items:

1. 2017-68: Travel Behavior Inventory Master Agreement and Resolution with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Access to Funds, Resolution No. 2017-6

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Barber:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount not to exceed \$4.4 million for calendar years 2017-2022, and to adopt the attached resolution approving the funds.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection from committee members, Chair Rodriguez stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

2. 2017-69: Travel Behavior Inventory Subordinate Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for Initial Work, Resolution No. 2017-9

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Katie White presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) Subordinate Funding Agreement to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, and to adopt the attached resolution approving the funds.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection from committee members, Chair Rodriguez stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

3. 2017-67: Capital Grant Agreement with City of Plymouth for Agora Park and Ride

Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager of Administration Heather Agesen-Huebner presented this item. Luke Fisher from the City of Plymouth was also present to explain the project further at Dorfman's request.

Commerz asked that the record show that he would not be engaging in discussions or voting on this item.

Motion by Letofsky, seconded by Elkins:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to develop and execute an agreement with the City of Plymouth for \$3,100,000. The City of Plymouth will use funds for the Agora Park and Ride facility.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection from committee members, Chair Rodriguez stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

4. 2017-62: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Initiate Condemnation on Parcels over \$1 Million

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann gave an update on the project (clarified to Munt the date that construction could begin if all goes as planned) and presented this item. There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Green Line Extension LRT Project Office to initiate condemnation proceedings on the following parcels appraised at greater than \$1 million that staff is not able to acquire by negotiation:

Parcel 219 (Convenience Center), Parcel 601 (Construction Materials), Parcel 603 (Ugorets), and Parcel 612 (Vision Bank).

Motion carried

Hearing no objection from committee members, Chair Rodriguez stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

1. 2017-65: MnDOT Orange Line Partnership Agreement

Metro Transit Sr. Manager BRT/Small Starts Charles Carlson presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Dorfman, seconded by Letofsky:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a cooperative construction agreement and a partnership agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the construction of the I-35W and Lake Street transit station, 12th Street transit ramp, and related transit construction in an amount not to exceed \$46,871,750.

Motion carried

INFORMATION

3. MTPD Update

Metro Transit Police Chief John Harrington presented this item. Dorfman asked what percent of citations with fines are actually getting paid and Harrington responded that it is anecdotal-very few because they are either reduced or dismissed. Letofsky commented that the Central Station property is a good fit for TOD. Several agencies are involved in the property, Lamb said that the committee would receive an update from Lucy Galbraith-TOD within the next couple of meetings. An update on the MTPD headquarters is planned for April.

1. Regional Highway Spending Study

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Tony Fischer presented this item.

2. Route 9 West End Restructuring

Metro Transit Senior Planner Steve Mahowald presented this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.