

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 10, 2019

LOCATION: Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN

Committee Members Present: Chair Deb Barber, Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Francisco Gonzalez, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson

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, June 10, 2019 in the Metropolitan Council Chambers, Saint Paul, MN.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Fredson to approve the minutes of the May 13, 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:

Metro Mobility Spring Convening Follow Up

At the Spring Metro Mobility Convening there was discussion from attendees about ways to spread the positive messages received from customers about Metro Mobility. Often it is only issues or concerns that may go to Council Members and elected officials. So tonight a few recent notes of thanks from customers about the positive service and the importance of the service will be shared. It is not uncommon to hear these positive comments, so staff want to share a sample with you.

Regional Visits

Chair and Council visits with stakeholders continue and tomorrow is with the Dakota County Board. The Dakota County Board has several transportation related topics on the agenda including transitway operating funding, designation of a new principal arterial roadway, and discussions about regional solicitation funding for trails as it relates to the RBTN.

Metro Mobility Expansion

Planning is underway for the expansion of Metro Mobility service to Lakeville, an outcome of the recent legislative session. Service is expected to start after January 1, 2020. In the coming Transportation Committee and Council meetings there will be actions for fleet purchase and budget adjustments, as well as contract amendments to add the service to an existing contract that serves the south Metro.

Cummings asked what the criteria is for adding a city to the Metro Mobility service area. Thompson said state law prescribes where the boundaries are, and in 2006 state law said Metro Mobility must be the level of the transit taxing district but the set boundaries were not changed; therefore, there are some cities that are in the transit taxing district but not decided by state law to be within Metro Mobility boundaries.

Metro Transit Chief Operations Officer Vince Pellegrin reported:

METRO C Line Opening Recap

The first few days of METRO C Line service have been tremendously successful, with a lot of excitement from the community, riders, and staff. Staff have been riding throughout the weekend to help customers get familiar with the new service and will be back out at C Line stations tomorrow with the transition to revenue service.

Ovations

Metro Transit will recognize some of the safest and most reliable bus and train operators at the Ovations brunch later this month. The annual event recognizes operators who have reached career milestones, like 20, 25, 30 consecutive years of safe driving. Among this year's honorees is an operator who has gone a remarkable 40-year safe driving record. Operators will also be recognized for strong attendance and customer service records. Council Members are welcome and encouraged to attend. The event will be held on Wednesday, June 26, at the Minneapolis Marriot NW (7025 Northland Drive). A program will begin at 10 a.m. Transportation to the event will be provided to and from each of Metro Transit's five service garages.

Rail Anniversaries

June 26 also marks a milestone for a Metro Transit light rail line – it's the METRO Blue Line's 15th anniversary. Friday, June 14, marks the Green Line's fifth anniversary. The Northstar Commuter Rail Line will reach its 10th anniversary in November. Combined, these rail lines have been ridden more than 216 million times since their respective openings.

Rail Repairs Continue

With age, comes the need for more maintenance. Early this morning, Metro Transit wrapped up a 10-day effort to replace thousands of feet of worn rail, several pieces of equipment that allow trains to switch tracks and make other repairs and improvements on a section of the METRO Blue Line. Throughout the construction, replacement buses were used to provide uninterrupted service to customers.

Transit Police Reminders

Transit Police Chief interviews will be held on Thursday, June 13, at the Minneapolis Central Library. The event begins at 7 p.m. Questions are being solicited in advance. The newest group of new officers will be sworn in on Thursday, June 20. A ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Town & Country Club on Mississippi River Boulevard. Transit Police will move into their new headquarters on Monday, June 24. Parts of the building will also be open to all employees. There will be a public open house from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 20.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Ferguson, seconded by Cummings and carried, to approve the following consent items:

1. **2019-109:** Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds Resolution 2019-7

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council approve resolution 2019-7 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-Urbanized Area Formula Program funding for 2020 and 2021 from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to support Transit Link service.

2. **2019-142:** Small Bus Procurement – Metro Mobility

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements, with North Central Bus Sales (MnDOT Contract 121155) for up to 87 replacement buses and 9 expansion buses in an amount not to exceed \$6,823,464.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2019-143:** Transit Link – Scott/Carver Intergovernmental Agreement

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Project Administrator Sheila Williams and Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Zeran:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an intergovernmental agreement with Scott County to provide Transit Link service and related facility expenses in Scott County and Carver County from July 1, 2019 through January 31, 2024, in an amount not to exceed \$8,445,862. This agreement will replace 151090 currently in effect between the Council and the county.

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

2. **2019-124:** Consideration of Anticipated Surplus Property for Disposition

Metro Transit Principal Engineer Claudius Toussaint presented this item.

Chamblis asked if projects that could be funded through the proceeds have been decided on yet. Toussaint said that will be decided later with consultation with the finance office and approval of the FTA. Ferguson asked if equity goals are considered to leverage land being sold or if property is put on the market and sold regardless of future use. Toussaint said parcels are examined first to see if there is a transit purpose before they are put on the market. Metro Transit Facilities and Engineering Assistant Director Pat Jones said this property, though originally purchased with the project, was not needed in the end so the TOD office looked at it and per Council policy it is surplus property and cannot be made eligible for certain uses only. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Thompson said the TOD policy will be brought before the Council at the June 19, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting to review and discuss. Ferguson asked if there was any reason why these parcels had to be sold now. Jones said the business item could wait but the appraisals would have to be renewed. Chair Barber said because of the timing of the appraisals needing to be renewed in about a month she would recommend action be taken today. Thompson shared that the discussion of the proceeds will be brought through the capital budget discussion to decide where the investments will go. Cummings asked what the cost is to update an appraisal and if it is not a significant burden if the Committee consider holding off on the sale of the parcels. Toussaint said it would be 2-5,000 dollars per appraisal. Ferguson proposed tabling the item to a future meeting to allow for additional discussion.

Motion by Ferguson to table the item, seconded by Cummings.

Motion failed.

Fredson said he would not support the proposed motion made by Ferguson because 10-15,000 dollars is still a significant amount of money to have these parcels appraised again and considering these particular parcels, he does not think it is worth the cost. Chamblis said there are a lot of options to how

the money can be used, there is impact to local cities through the proceeds and she supports the original business item. Cummings commented that the last parcel sold for less than the appraised value. Gonzalez agreed the disposition of properties needs to be reviewed but looking at these specific properties he is inclined to support disposing of the properties.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council declare three parcels, acquired by the Council and no longer needed for transit operations, as surplus; authorize disposition of the surplus parcels consistent with Council policy and Federal regulations.

Motion carried, with Ferguson opposing.

3. 2019-112 SW: Orange Line BRT TH-494 and Knox Avenue Underpass
Metro Transit BRT Projects Director Charles Carlson and Engineering and Metro Transit Construction Project Manager Jim Harwood presented this item.

Chamblis asked about the engagement and if there was any opposition. Harwood said the engagement has been ongoing since 2014 and there is support from the cities, counties, he knows of no opposition.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize award and execution of construction contract 19P029 with CS McCrossan in the amount of \$24,426,017.51, contingent upon execution of the Orange Line Small Starts Grant, for construction of the Orange Line I-494/Knox Avenue Transitway project.

Motion carried.

4. 2019-140 SW: 2019 Orange Line Funding Agreement with Dakota County Regional Rail Authority
Metro Transit BRT Projects Director Charles Carlson and Engineering and Metro Transit Construction Project Manager Jim Harwood presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an interagency agreement with Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) for \$1,680,000 to fund METRO Orange Line project activities.

Motion carried.

5. 2019-141 SW: Amend 2017 Orange Line Funding Agreement with CTIB
Metro Transit BRT Projects Director Charles Carlson and Engineering and Metro Transit Construction Project Manager Jim Harwood presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Chamblis:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment 4 to Agreement 16I092 with CTIB/Hennepin County, increasing Hennepin County's participation by an additional \$15,421,812, and extending the grant activity period through June 30, 2020.

Motion carried.

6. **2019-103:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services Contract 14P265A Amendment #2 with Wilson Development Services
Metro Transit TSD Administration Director Robin Caufman presented this item.

Gonzalez asked about displacees. Caufman said there were no residential displacees. Cummings asked if the relocation experts are strongly partial to trying to keep the businesses within the community. Caufman said they try to keep them within the corridor.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council approve a sole source contract amendment for Property Owner and Tenant Advisory Services with Wilson Development Services (14P265A) to increase the contract amount by \$50,000 for a total contract amount of \$350,000.

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

7. **2019-122:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement Amendment with Century Link
Metro Transit TSD SWLRT Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Century Link Master Utility Agreement (MUA) to add \$2 million for a new total utility relocation reimbursement amount not to exceed \$3.5 million.

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

8. **2019-123:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement Amendment with CenterPoint Energy
Metro Transit TSD SWLRT Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item.

There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the CenterPoint Energy (CenterPoint) Master Utility Agreement (MUA) to add \$200,000 for a new total utility relocation reimbursement amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

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

9. **2019-138:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Amendment #1 to Canadian Pacific Connecting Track Agreement
Metro Transit TSD SWLRT Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item.

Cummings asked if when utilities move do they upgrade and does the project cost go towards that. Alexander said to his knowledge the pipe/conduit remains the same.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Gonzalez:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Canadian Pacific Connecting Track Agreement (CTA) to add \$300,000 to the agreement reimbursement of AT&T utility relocation costs. With this amendment, the total CTA agreement is not to exceed \$799,000.

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

INFORMATION

1. 1st Quarter Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper presented this item.

Sterner asked if the sporting events were not enough to offset the bad weather days. Cummings said everything is out of our control except for the fare increase and asked what is being done to mitigate the effects of that. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Thompson said when that fare increase was done it was expected that it would take 18 months to recover and the TAP helped offset impact and we are getting close to the 18-month mark now. Zeran asked if bus shelters were examined to make sure shelter from wind and heaters were operating. Metro Transit Chief Operations Officer Vince Pellegrin said there has been an ongoing program over the last couple years to address that but vandalism has been a problem. Pellegrin added that gasoline prices and other factors all impact ridership. Sterner asked if there were rough projections with the new C Line. Harper said there was a significant jump in the Snelling Corridor when the A Line was added. Pellegrin said he can get the C Line projections for the Council Members. Fredson asked if there was a temperature threshold or school closings that impacted ridership as opposed to the 1+ inches.

2. Transit Systems Performance Evaluation

Metropolitan Transportation Services Multimodal Manager Cole Hiniker, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planner Daniel Peña, and Metropolitan Transportation Services intern Andrew Degerstrom presented this item.

Chair Barber asked if the transit taxing district defined this area or if it was for the whole region. Peña said he will follow-up. Cummings asked if there is a way to assess the impact of ride-sharing services. Peña said he would like to include that in the next evaluation; Metro Transit has a shared mobility effort and any findings could be incorporated into the next report. Hiniker said there is not great data yet on what is being provided. Gonzalez asked what makes a city a peer city. Hiniker said population and similar transit use factor in. Sterner inquired if staff track peer cities that are doing well. Hiniker said staff look at investments and a future goal is to have more qualitative analysis.

3. Metro Mobility On-Demand Service RFP

Metropolitan Transportation Services Metro Mobility Senior Manager Christine Kuennen presented this item.

Gonzalez asked about the integration with non-speaking populations. Kuennen said she can ask about that and it should show in the customer complaint data if they need to call for help versus booking on their own. Fredson asked who decided the appointees to the task force and worker wages and benefits

are a concern with ride-sharing service. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Thompson said the task force membership was dictated by the legislature: counties, entities, and non-profits picked their representatives. Thompson said the labor issue was brought up from the last Council. Thompson added that the current Metro Mobility drivers are contractors not employees of the Council. Kuennen said of the contracted drivers in our system, not all are represented by labor unions and this does translate into impacts to the customer. Ferguson asked for a list of C Line launch expenses and what portion were MCUB businesses.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Jenna Ernst
Recording Secretary