

Minutes of the

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

August 23, 2021

LOCATION: Due to COVID-19 this meeting was held electronically.

Committee Members Present: Reva Chamblis, Molly Cummings, Christopher Ferguson, Kris Fredson, Phillip Sterner, Raymond Zeran

Committee Members Absent: Deb Barber, Francisco Gonzalez

TAB Liaison Present: Peter Dugan

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Vice Chair Chamblis called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00p.m. on Monday, August 23, 2021.

AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings to approve the minutes of the August 09, 2021 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Barber, Gonzalez

TAB REPORT

Dugan shared agency reports and stated the main item of business was the update on Regional Solicitation. Dugan stated there was one action item (public comment report for TIP) which will be brought to the September 13th Transportation Committee.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS

Metropolitan Transportation Services Acting Director Amy Vennewitz had no report.

Metro Transit General Manager Wes Kooistra reported:

COVID

Patterns being seen with COVID-19 infections in the workforce is mirroring the increase in infections being reported in the state. Metro Transit had 2 cases in June, 14 in July and since the August 9th meeting there have been 22 cases. Last week the Regional Administrator announced that beginning October 11th all Metropolitan Council employees must be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. The COVID Incident Command is working to operationalize this new requirement.

BUSINESS

Consent Items:

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items:

1. **2021-201:** Metro Transit Uniforms, Contract 21P063

Metro Transit Acting Director, Bus Transportation Steve McLaird presented this item. Metropolitan Council Procurement Director Jody Jacoby added that Procurement staff connected with Galls, LLC to talk about the Council's interest in subcontracting some of this work to targeted vendors and Galls, LLC indicated they are more than willing to work with Council staff to incorporate some MCUB subcontracting options into the contract. Jacoby continued that OEO provided a MCUB vendors from the directory to Galls, LLC, who upon the execution of this contract will continue to work with Council staff on this effort. Zeran asked that because we have agreements with ATU to provide these uniforms, are we in jeopardy of not fulfilling this contractual agreement. McLaird responded that the current contract originally ended December 2020 but that it was extended through the end of September 2021. McLaird confirmed we do have contractual agreements with ATU/TMSA and we are approaching the total contract amount and time limit, so if the contract wasn't to pass Council approval staff would have to find some alternatives. McLaird added that October/November/December are the heaviest months of purchasing and because we are aggressively trying to hire bus operators and it's important for new staff to have uniforms when they step on the bus.

Motion by Zeran, seconded by Sterner:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 21P063 with Galls, LLC to supply uniform items for Bus Operators, Rail Operators and, other represented employees in an amount not to exceed \$3,750,000.

Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 2 Barber, Gonzalez

2. **2021-209:** METRO Purple Line BRT Historic Preservation (Section 106) Memorandum of Agreement

Metro Transit Small Starts Environmental Lead Chelsa Johnson presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Cummings:

That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Historic Preservation (Section 106) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) developed jointly between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (MnSHPO), the Council, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the METRO Purple Line (formerly Rush Line) Bus Rapid Transit Project ("Project").

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

Aye: 6 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran
Nay: 0
Absent: 2 Barber, Gonzalez

3. **2021-220:** METRO Purple Line Master Funding Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation

Metro Transit Purple Line Project Director Craig Lamothe 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 the Master Funding Agreement #211147 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the METRO Purple Line (formerly Rush Line) Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Project”).

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

Aye: 6 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Barber, Gonzalez

4. **2021-216:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Kimley-Horn Contract Amendment No. 2 for Construction Management Support Services, Contract 17P060
Metro Transit SWLRT Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Fredson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 2 to Contract 17P060 with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., for Construction Management Support Services (CMSS) to add \$5,500,000 for a total contract amount of \$14,000,000.

Motion carried.

Aye: 6 Chamblis, Cummings, Ferguson, Fredson, Sterner, Zeran

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 Barber, Gonzalez

INFORMATION

1. Metro Transit Operations Update

Metro Transit Acting Chief Operating Officer Brian Funk presented this item. Sterner asked if operators who had previously been let go could be rehired and how do we try and retain drivers. Funk responded that former employees are encouraged to re-apply, each will be looked at case by case for re-hire and that there are several programs to help retain and grow operators such as Operator Apprenticeship, peer support, Red Kite, yearly POD training and Safety Keys. Sterner asked with the state initiatives to reduce the carbon footprint if we are looking for options other than diesel in our next bus purchases. Funk answered this is being actively worked on and earlier this spring the Council approved series of workorders which included the zero emissions bus transition plan. Funk continued that this will help inform the types of technology, applications, guiding principles we will use for where the buses will be dedicated and the overall cost; by end of this year and certainly by state-required deadline in February the plan will be ready for additional review. Zeran asked if the 8 electric buses were in operation and the charging systems functional. Funk responded that they aren't in operation as we don't have the replacement chargers at our facilities yet; chargers continue to undergo factory acceptance testing and review and staff can provide another update at a later meeting.

2. 2021 Second Quarter Ridership Report

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Transit Services Manager John Harper presented this item. Sterner ask about how we are marketing Northstar and Vice Chair Chamblis wanted to know how we are promoting our service changes. Harper stated that was related to Metro Transit and staff would follow up with answers.

3. Regional Solicitation

Metropolitan Transportation Services Transportation Planning Manager Steve Peterson and Acting Director Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Fredson asked the process if the Council wanted to make any changes. Vennewitz responded that TAB will be voting on September 15th, so this information item is an opportunity for the Council to send back comments but also after the regional solicitation is released for public comment, there will be another opportunity for changes before final adoption in December. Chair Chamblis asked that staff work with Barber to provide suggestions back to TAB in regard to additional points in the bonus range.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:38p.m.

Becky Gorell
Recording Secretary