

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

Meeting of the Transportation Committee

Monday, November 9, 2009

Members Present	Robert McFarlin, Vice Chair Georgie Hilker Craig Peterson	Roger Scherer Natalie Haas Steffen Kirstin Sersland Beach	Richard Aguilar Peggy Leppik
Members Absent	Annette Meeks, Chair		
Staff Presiding	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Acting Chair McFarlin called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. November 9, 2009, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Scherer seconded by Steffen to adopt the agenda for the November 9, 2009, Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Steffen seconded by Leppik to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2009, regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORT and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported the following:

There will likely be a reduction in one type of funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The Met Council has received Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds from Mn/DOT for the last two years, used to help support the VanGO! Program. There has been an increase in applications for this funding from other entities which may better fit the criteria in the future. However, the Council may carry any 2009 funds not yet collected into 2010. The Council has also been granted federal 5311 funds for rural transit, in an amount exceeding what was projected in the 2010 budget.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported the following:

Northstar commuter rail line begins revenue operations on Monday, November 16. Two celebrations are planned prior to that, with community-hosted "Welcome Northstar" events at each of the stations on Saturday, and an inaugural ride on Friday hosted by NCDA and CTIB for public officials. Staff members from Transit Information and Customer Relations began orientation visits to Target Field Station last week in preparation for the launch. Representatives are getting familiar with Northstar-Hiawatha connections and are learning about Northstar distance-based fare payment options so they can help callers learn about the new service.

Transit Police officers rode buses for 1,188 hours in October. This monthly total is lower than the January-October average of 1,437 hours, reflecting the end of the summer-long Safe Zone initiative.

Three ramps have joined the Fifth Street garage as locations where bus operators will tap their horns to alert pedestrians. Bus operators will honk when entering and leaving both the Leamington and Gateway ramps in Minneapolis and Smith ramp in St. Paul. The action impacts 55 routes.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2009-398 Authorization to Award Contract for Hennepin County Transit Link Service

Bruce Dreier, MTS Project Administrator, presented this item. Staff responded to a Council member question about reservations and routing using different transit modes.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a five year contract with Midwest Paratransit Services Inc. to provide Transit Link dial-a-ride service in Hennepin County beginning February 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$ 5,428,178.

Motion passed.

2009-395 ADA Transit Assistance Agreements 2010-2011

Dana Rude, Metro Mobility Project Administrator, presented this item and answered questions about service areas and funding.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service with two transit providers not to exceed the following amounts for the period January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011:

DARTS - \$3,685,500

Humans Service, Inc. (H.S.I.) - \$ 665,875

Motion passed.

2009-396 Procurement of Metro Mobility Vehicles

Dana Rude presented this item. In response to committee member questions, staff provided the rationale behind the choice of vehicles to purchase.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreements with Hogle Bus Company Inc. (State of MN Contract 440473) for up to seven buses in an amount not to exceed \$478,500; and with Elk River Ford (State of MN Contract #439865) for up to eighteen automobiles in an amount not to exceed \$540,000.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair McFarlin stated that this item could move to the full Council as a consent item.

2009-393 Contract Authorization for Rush Line Pass Through Agreement

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented the item. She explained that the Council was providing these flexible federal funds to the Rush Line Task Force for its demonstration Rush Line bus service operations concurrent with the task force providing an equal amount of less flexible Rush Line federal funds to the Council to use toward constructing the Maplewood Mall park-and-ride expansion. This will allow the Rush Line Task Force and the four county funding partners to implement its demonstration bus service.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority to pass through federal funding in an amount not to exceed \$419,222 for demonstration peak express coach bus service from Forest Lake & Columbus to downtown St. Paul.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair McFarlin stated that this item could move to the full Council as a consent item.

2009-397 Authorization to Execute 2010 Operating Funding Grant Agreements with SouthWest Transit and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

Sean Pfeiffer, MTS Financial Analyst, presented this item. Staff responded to a question about how these funds would have been used otherwise, explaining that these funds were a planned use within the 2010 operating budget and if they had been available they would have been used to help address the SFY10-11

transportation deficit through reductions to the use of Livable Communities balances or use of General fund levy.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grants in the amounts of \$1,025,000 with SouthWest Transit (SWT) and \$1,950,000 with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) to provide supplemental transit operating funding during CY2010.

Motion passed.

2009-400 Request for Increased Authorization to Business Item 2009-361

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented this item, explaining it was correcting a typographical error in a previous Council authorization.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to increase the not to exceed amount of Business Item 2009-361 by \$100,000 for an amended total of \$810,000.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair McFarlin stated that this item could move to the full Council as a consent item.

2009-392 Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility Expansion, Project 64910

MarySue Abel, Lead Project Manager for Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, and Tom Thorstenson, Director of Engineering and Facilities, presented this item and responded to questions from committee members about construction funding.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a professional services contract with TKDA for design and construction support services of the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (HLRT) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Facility Expansion at a cost of \$1,590,000.

Motion passed.

2009-394 Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Engineering Services Consultant

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. Staff answered committee member questions regarding how this amendment would affect the schedule, scope and budget of the project, and whether the University of Minnesota (U of M) issue(s) would cause delay in approvals. Brian Lamb and Mark Fuhrmann responded by saying that the preliminary design engineering phase would be extended, with approval to final design expected in early 2010. The U of M challenge is the biggest obstacle, but secondary issues include some Title VI complaints from University Avenue businesses/residents.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council

- Execute an amendment to the professional services contract with AECOM USA, Inc. to increase the authorized contract spending authority by \$5.9 million to an amended total not to exceed of \$58.2 million to continue to advance Preliminary Engineering and
- To issue a Notice-To-Proceed (NTP) to AECOM USA, Inc. to advance Preliminary Engineering accordingly.

Motion passed, with Steffen opposed.

2009-399 Authorization to Amend Contract for 314 Transit Buses

Jan Homan, Metro Transit Director of Bus Maintenance, presented this item. Councilmember Peterson asked if the price difference for hybrids justified the change and if the new buses would be low-floor. Staff responded that with consideration of relevant factors (environmental, capital and operational cost, fuel prices and reliability), the best decision was to replace all buses at 12 years. All of these buses will be low-floor Gilligs.

Councilmember Leppik asked if there was still a plan to purchase 150 hybrid buses. In the presentation, staff explained that there are currently 67 hybrids in service, 30 hybrids are scheduled for delivery in 2010, and 46 hybrids are planned for purchase in 2012, for a total of 143 hybrids. It was also explained that both the standard and hybrid buses are scheduled for replacement at 12 years.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend Contract 07P162 with Gillig Corporation to change the number of forty-foot standard drive clean diesel base order buses from 164 to 239 and reduce the number of forty-foot hybrid diesel-electric base order buses from 150 to 75.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair McFarlin stated that this item could move to the full Council as a consent item.

2009-401 Amendment to Interagency Cooperative Agreement with Northstar Corridor Development Authority for Staff Resources

Chris Weyer, Director of Transit Systems Design and Construction, presented this item and answered questions regarding funding sources and stated that there would be no impact on the existing budget.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute amendment #6 to the Interagency Cooperative Agreement with the Northstar Corridor Development Authority relative to the provision of Council staff resources in 2010, valued at \$430,000.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair McFarlin stated that this item could move to the full Council as a consent item.

INFORMATION

1. I-94 Managed Lane Study Update

John Levin, Metro Transit Director of Service Development, and John Griffith, Mn/DOT Manager of Program Delivery, reported on the progress of the I-94 Managed Corridor project. They explained the goals of the study and outlined current and projected transit usage of the corridor.

2. Quarterly Regional Ridership Report

MTS Project Administrator Beck McBride reported on regional ridership levels for the quarter ending September 30, 2009, including a breakdown by type of service and comparisons to levels in previous years.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Beach to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:10 p.m. on November 9, 2009. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Maday, Recording Secretary