

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee

Monday, December 14, 2009

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

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. December 14, 2009, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Peterson seconded by Aguilar to adopt the agenda for the December 14, 2009, Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Peterson seconded by Aguilar to approve the minutes from the November 23, 2009, regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Three Metro Transit employees were recognized before the Transportation Committee this month:

Bill Porter, who retired in 2008 as the Deputy Chief of Bus Operations, was brought back on a part-time basis to assist with the startup of the Northstar commuter rail. Ed Byers, Director of Northstar operations, praised Porter's hard work, guidance and leadership in ensuring the successful launch of the region's newest transit option.

Bob Peterson, supervisor of Electronic Revenue Equipment Repair, was selected for recognition for his efforts in managing the installation of revenue collection equipment on the Northstar rail line, including all ticket vending machines and rail smartcard validators. Nick Eull, Manager of Revenue Processing, cited Peterson's efforts and those of his entire team in installing 19 TVMs and 32 validators. Their knowledge, experience and dedication resulted in a significant cost savings over previous installations performed by the equipment manufacturers.

Bus Operator Michael Wallerius is being recognized for his dedication, professionalism and exemplary work record. Mark Johnson, M.J. Ruter Garage Manager, reported that during his five-plus years of employment with Metro Transit Wallerius has not once been absent from or late for work and has not had a single accident or customer complaint. In addition, he has had many customer commendations during his career with Transit.

Chair Meeks and GM Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations to the three individuals and presented each with a certificate of achievement.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, offered a reminder that the December 28, 2009, meeting of the Transportation Committee is canceled and that beginning in January the regular meetings will

be held in the Council Chambers at Robert Street. McCarthy also reported the following:

There have been recent media reports of data, collected via TomTom portable GPS units in automobiles, showing Minneapolis-St. Paul having the lowest traffic congestion levels among the 30 urban areas studied. This would seem to contradict the results of the annual study conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute. However, it was noted that the discrepancy could be due to wait times at metering lights, which only some of the cities in the study currently use. McCarthy noted that as more technology becomes available it is likely that testing measurements and methodologies will evolve to take advantage of it.

Gerri Sutton, Assistant Director of Contracted Transit Services, provided an update on new dial-a-ride service, listed as Information Item #1 on the agenda – Sole Source Agreements with Trapeze Software Group. Sutton noted the following:

- Goal was to start Transit Link service in Hennepin County on February 1, 2010. It will likely be pushed back a week or two.
- This delay will not impact current riders because MTS has contracts in place that can deliver service through February if necessary until Transit Link begins.
- MTS is working with Trapeze Software Group to add Transit Link to the Metro Mobility computer system.
- Council is entering into two sole source agreements to expand the Trapeze system.
 1. Additional Licenses and annual Maintenance fees; current contract will be amended. The cost is \$116,000 with an ongoing annual fee of \$36,000. This cost will be reflected in future IS sole source budgets.
 2. Training of contractor staff, data conversion and all IT tasks leading up to and including the “go live” efforts. This can include up to eight contractor sites in an amount not to exceed \$180,000.
- Procurement advised that these contracts should not be combined into one contract for two primary reasons
 1. The ongoing maintenance and training will be managed by two different departments at the Council.
 2. Licenses and maintenance have an ongoing financial commitment while the training is a one time expense.
- Because each contract is less than \$250,000, no Council action is required.

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

December 14 marked the opening of the substantial transit improvements on Second and Marquette Avenues (“MARQ2”) in downtown Minneapolis. Some 26,000 express bus customers will use the faster service now available on these two streets. A grand opening event on December 11 also went very well. Chair Peter Bell, Mayor Rybak, Arlene McCarthy, as well as representatives of the Minneapolis Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), Suburban Transit Area Providers (STAPs), and Minnesota Department of Transportation made presentations and remarks about how the cooperative efforts of all the participating agencies and stakeholders have made and will make the implementation of MARQ2 a success. Vince Pellegrin and Bob Gibbons provided Metro Transit’s demonstration articulated bus and greeted attendees who then rode buses and viewed the features of the project

A new park-and-ride also facility opened December 14 in Roseville near County Road C and I-35W, and Route 264 service was inaugurated from that location, offering a short 20-minute ride to the heart of downtown Minneapolis.

A team from the Federal Transit Administration and its consultants visited Metro Transit last week to conclude its assessment of the financial capacity of the Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit and its funding partners to successfully build and operate the Central Corridor light-rail line. An opening session along with 9 one-hour interview sessions were conducted. Staff answered many questions and anticipate a follow-up list of questions from the consultants this week.

Metro Transit mechanic technicians participated last week in a Maintenance Roadeo competition at the Overhaul Base in Saint Paul. The top three winners Dan Aasen and Josh Daniels from Heywood Garage and Ryan Munn from East Metro. If funding is available and approved for Roadeo travel, they will go to the 2010 International Bus Roadeo in Cleveland, Ohio, scheduled for April 30 thru May 5, 2010.

Saturday, December 12, was Metro Transit night at Minneapolis’ Holidazzle Parade. Free bus and light-rail train

rides were offered from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Free Northstar rides were not included.) Metro Transit's Twinkle Bus led the parade at 6:30 p.m. on Nicollet Mall between 12th Street and 4th Street.

The Sales Operations department reports that, as of December 1, 233 employers are enrolled in the Metropass program. Metropasses are held by 32,732 of the 175,450 eligible employees at these companies. Through October, Metropass holders took 6.8 million rides, 2.2 percent higher than the same period last year.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2009-432 Authorization to Award Contract for Washington/SE Ramsey County Transit Link Service
Bruce Dreier, MTS Project Administrator, presented this item. Staff answered questions from Councilmembers Steffen and McFarlin with regard to funding of the service and timelines for startup.
Motion by Leppik, seconded by Peterson:

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 Washington County and southeast Ramsey County beginning March 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$ 5,943,430.

Motion passed.

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

2009-452 Authorization to Accept Federal 5311 Operating Funds from Mn/DOT

Gerri Sutton, MTS Assistant Director of Contracted Transit Services, presented this item. She responded to Council Member Steffen's question on how this money would be used to support Transit Link.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to accept an award of \$1,028,000 in 5311 Non-Urbanized Area formula funds for 2010 and enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) to receive those funds.

Motion passed.

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

2009-453 Authorization to Accept Federal 5311 ARRA Capital Funds from Mn/DOT

Gerri Sutton of MTS presented this item. There were no questions and no further discussion.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to accept an award of \$1,600,000 in 5311 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to purchase twenty-two replacement buses and to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) to receive those funds.

Motion passed.

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

2009-428 Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Public Artists

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann provided an overview of the project status and background for this action. Following discussion on the FTA process, this action was approved by the Committee.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to each of the contracts with the five public artists to advance preliminary design work for public art for the CCLRT project through February 2010.

Motion passed, with Steffen opposed.

2009-434 Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Engineering Services
Consultant

Mark Fuhrmann provided an overview of the project status and background for this action. Fuhrmann addressed questions from the Committee whether this increased amount was contemplated and advised that the requested additional contract amount has been budgeted.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute an amendment to the professional services contract with AECOM USA, Inc. to increase the contract spending authority to an amount not-to-exceed \$65.2 million to continue the advancement of Preliminary Engineering and
- To issue a Notice-To-Proceed (NTP) to AECOM USA, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$7.0 million to continue advancing Preliminary Engineering. The total contract spending authority with this NTP shall not exceed \$65.2 million.

Motion passed, with Steffen opposed.

2009-447 Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Assistant Project Director
Consultant

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item to the committee. He stated that once FTA approves entry to Final Design, expected in March 2010, there will be one more contract amendment required for Final Design activities with an estimated cost of \$60,000.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute an amendment to the Assistant Project Director consultant contract with Gary Erickson to increase the contract amount by a not-to-exceed \$40,000 for a total amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$552,000 to continue to support the advancement of Preliminary Engineering and
- To issue a Notice-To-Proceed (NTP) to Gary Erickson in an amount not-to-exceed \$40,000 for services related to the continued advancement of Preliminary Engineering.

Motion passed, with Steffen opposed.

INFORMATION

2. MHSIS – Metropolitan Highway System Investment Strategy – Update

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented an overview of the joint study by Mn/DOT and the Met Council for the purpose of developing a 50-year vision for the metro highway system. He provided background information and outlined guiding principles, goals, structure and anticipated timeline.

3. UPA Quarterly Update

Craig Lamothe, Metro Transit's UPA Project Manager, gave a presentation highlighting UPA projects completed to date, including the two which officially opened today (December 14). He also outlined the projects scheduled for completion by April 2010 and provided a breakdown of financial and DBE figures and reported on key performance results.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Steffen, seconded by McFarlin to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. on December 14, 2009. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary