

Metropolitan Council
Metropolitan Council Offices, 390 North Robert St., St. Paul 55101
Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, March 28, 2011

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Jennifer Munt	Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair Edward Reynoso Roxanne Smith	Adam Duininck John Đoàn
Members Absent	James Brimeyer	Jon Commers	
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, GM, Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Dir., Metropolitan Transportation Services	
Others Present	David Gepner, TAB Liaison		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present, Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on March 28, 2011 at Metro Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Duininck to adopt the agenda for the March 28, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Duininck, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes from March 14, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Brian Lamb, MT General Manager, opened the employee recognition by stating that there are five employees to be recognized. Two employees (Jill Hentges and Larry Klein) were not able to be at this meeting and will be recognized at a Metro Transit Senior Staff meeting in the future. These employees are being recognized for their work on the 46th and 35W BRT Transit Station.

Pat Jones recognized employee Mac Sweiden, Project Manager.

Christy Bailey recognized employee Bob Benson, South Garage Coordinator.

John Levin recognized employee John Dillery, Principle Planner.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT and METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

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

Co-Sponsor with Twins Activity

Metro Transit is once again joining with the Twins to co-sponsor activities. Lamb handed out Twins game schedules and pens with Metro Transit station locations on them.

St. Patrick's Day Free Ride Promotion

Metro Transit partnered with MillerCoors Brewing Company for free rides on St. Patrick's Day. This year was another success story for a safe driving alternative – customers boarded buses and trains 56,022 times during the free-

ride period that evening – whereas, bus and rail average about 30,000 rides on a normal weeknight. This is an increase of 5.5% over last year's promotion.

University Avenue Roadway Construction Update

Major traffic control changes have begun on University Avenue to facilitate the start of heavy civil construction of Central Corridor light rail. This impacts our bus operations, high frequency Route 16, and other routes, as bus stops are closed or relocated. Customers are directed to a new web page metrotransit.org/construction for updates on how construction will affect trips in this corridor as well as areas of the University and downtown St. Paul. Visitors to the website can also view safety tips and video simulations of how light-rail trains will operate on the new line. Mark Fuhrmann and Rich Rovang from the Project Office will be providing a comprehensive project overview later on today's agenda.

Lakeville's Route 467 Ridership Steadily Increasing

Ridership from the Park-and Ride-at Kenrick Avenue in Lakeville has essentially doubled on the Express Route 467 since it began in September 2009. The 21-mile route offers 18 trips per weekday on coach buses and had an average of 613 rides per day in February. When the service began, it had just 12 weekday trips; in October 2009 it had an average of 305 riders each weekday. Vehicles for the service and the park-and-ride lot itself were funded by the Urban Partnership Agreement. That project also funded the enhancements for express bus service on Marquette and 2nd avenues in downtown Minneapolis on which Route 467 and many other routes also operate.

Commuter Challenge Kicks Off this Friday, April 1st

Metro Transit and the region's Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) are ready for the annual campaign to encourage metro residents to drive alone less often and try new ways of getting around. Starting this Friday, commuters can sign up at hundreds of commuter fairs throughout the region hosted by employers and staffed by Metro Transit and TMOs or the commuter challenge website mycommuterchallenge.org and make their pledge to replace drive-alone trips. They will be entered into drawings for prizes. To extend their challenge, they can also record their trips on the website and track their commuting habits into savings on gas and carbon emissions. Last year, thousands of participants reduced driver-alone miles by tracking more 2.2 million miles online.

February On-Time Performance

On-time performance in February was solid for all modes. Despite a major snowstorm and narrowed roadways throughout the region, bus on-time performance was 87.3 percent, just 0.2 percent below goal. The Hiawatha Line slightly exceeded a goal of 95 percent. Northstar was on time 96.9 percent of the time – beating the February goal by nearly 1 percent.

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

She added to Lamb's report on Route 467 above: The Lakeville park-and-ride was part of the Urban Partnership Agreement and the match was from State Bonds. Fifty-percent of the operating costs are from Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB).

MnDOT Minnesota GO Project

McCarthy also stated that MnDOT has launched a 50-year Transportation Visioning effort called "Minnesota GO". There has been a 29 person steering committee (some members from TAAC, TAB, and McCarthy). Public forums are planned for May. The project is anticipated to be completed in one year.

Legislative Items

McCarthy called attention to a letter from MC Chair Haigh to Senator Beard in response to legislative budget proposals. The letter outlines the consequences to transit in the event of a funding reduction.

BUSINESS

2011-35 Approval of Transportation Committee 2011 Work Plan

This item was presented at the last Transportation Committee (3/14); members were given the intervening time to study the item. Munt asked whether this Council will have an opportunity to set priorities, as some of the priorities were set by the previous Council. Lamb responded that there is an interest on the Chair's part to pull the Council together to establish priorities and approaches, and opportunities for all Council members to express their opinion(s). McCarthy reminded the committee that this work plan can be modified and amended throughout the year, per Council direction.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee approve the attached plan as its Work Plan for 2011 (attached to BI 2011-35).

Motion passed.

This item does not need to proceed to the full Council.

2011-69 Software Support Services for Hiawatha Light Rail

Bruce Fenlason, MT Director Rail Systems, presented this item.

Reynoso questioned whether Metro Transit employees could be trained to provide the software support included in this item. Fenlason stated that this option has been looked at, and the system is very sophisticated and that would not be the most cost effective solution.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to extend the current contract with HSQ Technology for support of the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Control System for up to three additional 1 year terms (an addition of \$500,496). This brings the maximum contract value to \$795,696 over the entire five year period.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2011-73 SMARTCoM Maintenance Agreement with Trapeze

Pat Jones, Metro Transit Assistant Director Facilities Engineering, presented this item.

Jones answered questions from Doan as to the completeness of the system, how many buses are equipped with the technology. Lamb added that this system has been beneficial in making real-time decisions in the event of congested rush hour traffic or snow events. McCarthy also added that the system tracks actual data for routes and is essential for service planning and schedules.

Motion by Doan, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a five-year, sole-source, maintenance agreement with Trapeze ITS U.S.A. LLC for ongoing maintenance and support services of installed software and hardware.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2011-78 Regional Automatic Vehicle Location (RAVL) System Interagency Agreements

Pat Jones, Metro Transit Assistant Director Facilities & Engineering, presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute interagency agreements with the Regional Transit Providers for the Regional Automatic Vehicle Location System

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2011-87 Authorization to Amend Contract for Diesel Fuel Supply

Micky Gutzmann, Acting Director Contracts & Procurement, presented this item. Gutzmann answered questions explaining types of circumstances that would determine that bidders were either "not responsive" or "not responsible". She explained to committee members the changes that staff will make to bid language, and re-emphasize to bidders, and at pre-bid meetings to attract responsive and responsible bidders in the future. Chuck Wurzinger, Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance, addressed the committee to further explain diesel fuel specifications and certifications to allow the buses to operate correctly and efficiently.

Committee members expressed interest in hearing more about fuel purchases and “hedging” strategy. Lamb stated that staff could present on this topic at a future Transportation Committee meeting.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Doan:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to reject all bids received under IFB #11P002 for supplying diesel fuel to the Council and that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the diesel fuel supply contract with Western Petroleum to increase the maximum total from \$100,000,000 to \$107,500,000 and extend the contract term through September, 2011.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2011-82 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Include metro Transit FTA 5309 Funds for Real Time Transit Arrival Signs and Transit Signal Priority (TAB Action 2011-29)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Duinick, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include Metro Transit: FTA 5309 Funds for Real Time Transit Arrival Signs and Transit Signal Priority.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

22011-83 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Metro Transit SP#CMT-09-07: Maplewood Mall Transit Center Expansion (TAB Action 2011-30)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Duinick:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that splits the CMAQ-funded Maplewood Mall Transit Center expansion and advances the \$4,129,070 park and ride construction portion of the Maplewood Mall Transit Center from program year 2013 to 2011 and maintain the balance of the original CMAQ award (\$3,010,930) for bus purchases and bus service in 2013.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2011-84 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Add metro Transit FTA 5309 Funding for Construction of New Paint Booth (TAB Action 2011-31)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no question from committee members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Duinick:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that adds Metro Transit FTA 5309 funding for Construction of a new paint booth at the existing Overhaul Base Maintenance Facility.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2011-85 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: FTA Section 5310 Projects for Transportation for Elderly and Persons with Disabilities (TAB Action 2011-32)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Doan:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that adds projects selected by MnDOT to receive FTA Section 5310, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program funds.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2011-86 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Dakota County SP#091-090-048: Mississippi River Trail from Cahill to

Pine Bend Bluffs Trailhead (TAB Action 2011-33)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members

Motion by Duininck, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt an amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that adds additional local funds to Dakota County SP#091-090-48: Mississippi River Trail from Cahill to Pine Bend Bluffs Trailhead.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2011-92 Rescission of BI 2010-302 and Authorization to exercise Contract Options with Motor Coach Industries

Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members about the business item. Doan requested a future information item on the agenda presenting on the fleet management, i.e. type of buses for certain needs. McCarthy noted that the Regional Transit Policy and Procedures that were passed by the Council in Sept. 2010 discuss this. She committed to an information presentation on this at a future Transportation Committee meeting.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Doan:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Rescind Business Item 2010-302 authorizing the Council to enter into a grant agreement with SouthWest Transit to purchase one double-decker bus; and
2. Authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an existing contract option on contract #08P114 with Motor Coach Industries to purchase one coach bus in an amount not to exceed \$550,000.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

INFORMATION

1. Park-and-Ride Survey Update

Maurice Roers, Metro Transit Manager Facility Planning, and Andrea Long, Metro Transit Intern from the Humphrey Institute, gave an overview of the Park-and-Ride survey and results, including total spaces, number of Park-and-Rides and Park-and-Pool lots, savings in vehicle miles, how demand is projected and determined, etc.

2. Central Corridor Light Rail Project Overview

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, and Rich Rovang, Metro Transit Deputy Director, presented on the Central Corridor Light Rail Project, including project overview, upcoming policy issues, construction schedule, budget and FFGA schedule, etc.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Duininck, seconded by Smith and passed, to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. March 28, 2011.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary

March 28, 2011 Transportation Committee Meeting