

Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 No. Robert St., St. Paul, Mn. 55101

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, December 10, 2007**

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Georgie Hilker Daniel Wolter Annette Meeks, Vice Chair	Russ Susag Brian McDaniel Kirstin Sersland Beach	Roger Scherer Richard Aguilar Natalie Haas Steffen
Members Absent	Peggy Leppik		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, M.Hill Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on December 10, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Wolter seconded by Susag to adopt the agenda for December 10, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by McDaniel to approve the minutes from the November 26, 2007 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services

Paul Colton Sr. Manager Metro Mobility presented awards to Metro Mobility Customer Services employees Theresa Long, Lucy Rivera, Jim Nieman, in recognition of their willingness to take on extra work duties during a period of short staffing in Metro Mobility.

Paul Colton presented awards to Matt Yager, Sr. IT Integration Analyst, and Joseph Liljedahl, Intern, both Metro Mobility employees, for their work on a web-based customer service module for tracking complaints (types, responses and time). Other agencies and counties will also use this module on-line. The system is new, Metro Mobility will report to the committee after the first quarter of operations.

Amy Vennewitz presented an award to Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, for his long-standing work and working relationships with outside agencies. Carl also took on extra work on the Regional Functional Classification of Roadways, and the Principal Arterial Study.

Hearing no objection, Mary Hill Smith invited Gail Dorfman, Hennepin County Commissioner, and Katie Walker, Hennepin County, to speak about the Southwest Transitway. This is Item #1 from the information items on the agenda. Dorfman/Walker explained the Tier 1 and Tier 2 goals from the Alternatives Analysis Study, evaluation, recommendations thus far, key milestones from 2007 and the activities to come in 2008.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services did not have a report at this meeting.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported several items from Metro Transit.

1. The official signing of the Full Funding Grant Agreement for Northstar will take place on 12/11/07 at the Anoka County Government Center.
2. A 225-space surface Park and Ride lot has opened at Industrial Boulevard and I-35W. Flint Hills Resources and Bituminous Roadways will be recognized for their contributions on next Wednesday.
3. Councilmembers Susag and Hilker attended the Holidazzle parade in the Twinkle Bus last week.
4. Last week marked the 3rd anniversary of the opening of the Hiawatha LRT line. Over 28 million rides have been given since the opening.
5. The first UPA Stakeholder workshop was held in Bloomington this morning. The workshop provided a good opportunity to inform people of the scope of the project and the outreach and needs that will be needed for support of the project.
6. The Metro Transit Vehicle Graphics Workgroup is nearing their first meeting. Councilmembers Smith, Hilker, Steffen and Scherer have agreed to work on this. Tentatively, Tuesday 12/18 from 4:00 – 5:00 is the time scheduled for the meeting.
7. Metro Transit has had interagency workings with St. Cloud Metro (transit system). St. Cloud Metro will be visiting Metro Transit's street operations staff this week to learn from Metro Transit.

BUSINESS –Action Items

SW 2007-407 Principles for Central Corridor LRT Major Scoping Decisions

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services presented this item to the committee.

Discussion:

McCarthy reviewed the need to reduce the CCLRT project scope to meet the federal CEI during the early stages of Preliminary Engineering. While the decision-making timeline is being refined, the Central Corridor Project Office will soon be presenting technical analysis and results to the various Central Corridor stakeholder groups including the Community Advisory Committee, Business Advisory Council, Central Corridor Management Committee as well as the Council. Committee of the Whole meetings will be scheduled in January and February.

The proposed principles will be presented to the Central Corridor Management Committee (CCMC) on Wednesday, December 12 allowing Chair Bell to bring the CCMC's input to the Council later that same day.

McCarthy responded to questions pertaining to the federal CEI annual adjustment, timing to meet the CEI threshold and components of the CEI and Environmental Justice terminology.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Susag and unanimously adopted.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the following principles to be applied when determining the Central Corridor LRT project scope to be continued through Preliminary Engineering:

Primary Principles

- Cost Effectiveness Index Impact
 - Ridership Impact
 - Capital Cost Impact
 - Operating Cost Impact
 - Travel Time Impact
- Safety and Security Impact

Secondary Principles

- Environmental Justice Considerations
- Land Use/Economic Development Considerations
- Deferrable versus One-Time Opportunity

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2007-413 Metro Mobility Peak Demand Service Demonstration Program

Paul Colton, Senior Manager Metro Mobility, presented this item to the committee. He explained that this program is to be used only as needed and will “piggyback” with premium same-day taxi service provided by Airport Taxi. Colton answered questions of Steffen as to the availability of funds in the 2008 budget and from Hilker as to the accessibility of vehicles.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Meeks, motion passed unanimously.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize implementation of a demonstration Metro Mobility “peak demand” taxi program.

Hearing no objection, Mary Hill Smith stated that this item could move forward to the full Council as a Consent Item.

SW 2007-378 Authorization to contract for design services for the Rail Support Facility in Minneapolis, Project 62314

Pat Jones, Manager Facilities Engineering Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee. The professional services contract will include design for shop/offices, vehicle storage, “trail” track (spur) for seasonal maintenance, overall site design. Jones answered questions from Steffen regarding funds received from the property.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract for design and construction support services relative to the Rail Support Facility at 24th and Hiawatha in Minneapolis.

SW 2007-379 Authorization to Award Contract for Transit Vehicle Tire Lease and Service

Chris Gran, Director Metro Transit Purchasing, presented this item and Jan Homan, Director Maintenance, was also present to answer questions that might arise.

Staff presented a summary of the procurement and the recommendation. A representative of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company addressed the committee and expressed Goodyear’s concerns with the contract award recommendation. Committee members asked several questions related to the tire “run-out” provision, budgeting of tire lease costs, the method of procurement, and the calculation of lowest total cost to the Council. Mark Thompson, Metropolitan Council office of General Counsel presented the General Counsel’s opinion on this procurement.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Michelin North America, Inc. for tire lease and service for a five-year term in accordance with the Council’s specifications and Michelin’s bid dated October 24, 2007.

2007-399 Urban Partnership Agreement Sub-recipient Agreements with City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority, University of Minnesota, Dakota County, and Minnesota Department of Transportation

Craig Lamothe, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee. He stated that the overall goal of the UPA project is congestion reduction. There are six different agencies working together: Metro Transit, City of Minneapolis, MVTA, U of M, MnDOT, Dakota County. He presented the overall goals, project scope and budget, and the scope and budget of sub-recipients. Lamothe answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Meeks, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute subrecipient agreements with the five UPA Transit Project Partners: City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA), University of Minnesota, Dakota County, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the FTA Section 5309 Bus and Bus Capital grant as part of the Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) project.

Hearing no objection, Mary Hill Smith stated that this item could move forward to the full Council as a Consent Item.

SW 2007-403 2007-2012 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget Amendment Ed Petrie, Metro Transit, presented this item. He stated that the Full Funding Grant Agreement for Northstar is scheduled to be signed 12/11/07. This item, SW 2007-403, will give budget authority for Item 2007-397 which will go before the Council on 12/12/07 for the procurement of Northstar Locomotive.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scherer, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Council:

Amend the 2007 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding authority as follows: Metro Transit (2007-397 Northstar Locomotive Procurement), \$2,875,000

2007-404 Amendment to Interagency Cooperative Agreement with Northstar Corridor Development Authority for Staff Resources

Chris Weyer, Asst. Dir. Design Construction Metro Transit, presented this item and answered questions from committee. There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to execute amendment #4 to the Interagency Cooperative Agreement with the Northstar Corridor Development Authority relative to the provision of Council staff resources in 2008, valued at \$1,390,000.

Hearing no objection, Mary Hill Smith stated that this item could move forward to the full Council as a Consent Item.

INFORMATION

1. Southwest Transitway Update

Katie Walker/Gail Dorfman, Hennepin County, presented their item earlier in the meeting.

2. Principal Arterial Study Update

Carl Ohrn, Planning Analyst Metropolitan Transportation Services, gave a presentation on the status of the Principal Arterial Study. Because of the detailed content of the presentation, and the discussion that could ensue, Mary Hill Smith will ask Peter Bell if Carl can also present this item to a Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled in the near future.

3. Go-To Card Update

Because of the lack of adequate time at this meeting Ed Petrie, Metro Transit and Tom Randall, Metro Transit agreed to defer this presentation to the January 14, 2008 Transportation Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

M.Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m December 10, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary