

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, February 25, 2008**

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair	Annette Meeks, Vice Chair	Peggy Leppik
	Georgie Hilker	Russ Susag	Richard Aguilar
	Daniel Wolter	Kirstin Sersland Beach	
Members Absent	Roger Scherer	Natalie Haas Steffen	Brian McDaniel
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	None present		

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Mary Hill Smith, Chair called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on February 25, 2008 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Smith seconded by Hilker to adopt the agenda for February 25, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Smith seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2008 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Vince Pellegrin, sitting in for Brian Lamb, introduced Bob Gibbons who presented the following employee recognition awards to:

Art Brakob for his work on the Web-based mapping capability on the Trip Planner.

C.A.P. Rail Program (Career Advancement Program at Hiawatha Rail Operations & Maintenance Facility) Graduates: Adam Hernandez, Brian Sparks, Dale Heidelberger, Debbie Serrine with Paul Swanson, Instructor. Gibbons stated that these students devoted 3 hours/night on 3 days/week for a total of 450 hours of their personal time in the program.

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

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that 5 new full-time Transit Police Offices have been hired this week and will be introduced at a later meeting.

He also stated that the I-Beams have been placed on the 5<sup>th</sup> St. extension over I-35W.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported that this afternoon the House got the necessary votes to override the Governor’s veto on the Transportation Bill and the bill is now in the Senate. Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. MTS Finance and Planning, gave an overview of the bill with the changes that have occurred during the debates at the Legislature. McCarthy stated that a more detailed update may be given at a future Council meeting.

McCarthy also reported that she received verbal notice that Hennepin County received the go-ahead from FTA to move into the DEIS Phase on the Southwest Transitway. Members can look for the details in

upcoming RA notes that are reported to Councilmembers.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

### 2008-46 Disposition of Surplus Hiawatha Corridor Property

Guy Peterson, Director Community Development, presented this item to the committee. There was discussion about the results of bids and that staff is evaluating other “lower-than-appraised-value” bids on two other parcels. Peterson answered question from Leppik regarding why the appraisal is so much lower than the bids. Peterson answered that the appraiser gave strong consideration to stormwater management mitigation constraints required by the city in determining the appraised value of the parcel.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to proceed with the sale of a property previously deemed surplus by the Metropolitan Council on February 6, 2006, located at 46<sup>th</sup> Street and Hiawatha Avenue to Oaks Properties for \$1,034,000.

Motion passed.

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

### 2008-48 Purchase Property Adjacent to the I-35W at 95<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Park and Ride in Blaine

Tom Thorstenson, Dir. Engineering & Facilities Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee and gave background.

At this point in the meeting, Wolter made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Meeks and passed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05 *MEETINGS HAVING DATA CLASSIFIED AS NOT PUBLIC*.

Discussion regarding this item took place during closed portion of the meeting.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Susag and passed, to re-open the meeting to the public.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and purchase the property at 9641 Naples Street Northeast in Blaine to facilitate expansion of the existing park-and-ride facility, as directed in the closed session of this item discussion.

Motion passed.

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

### 2008-49 Design Services for the I-35W and 95<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park-and-Ride Expansion in Blaine, Project 63740

Tom Thorstenson, Dir. Engineering & Facilities Metro Transit, presented this item and noted one correction to the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph under “background”. The amount of \$800,000 should be changed to \$700,000 in this paragraph. There was no further discussion.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Hilker:

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 I35W and 95<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park-and-Ride expansion in Blaine.

Motion passed.

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

### 2008-53 Hiawatha Land Assembly Timing Revision

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, presented this item to the committee. Mike Christenson from the City of Minneapolis was also present to answer questions from the committee and addressed the committee. There were no questions.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Susag:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to extend the deadline for closings on property acquisitions assisted by Hiawatha LRT Land Assembly Grants previously awarded by the Metropolitan Council from March 31, 2008 to August 1, 2009.

Motion passed.

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

2008-40 2008-2013 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget Amendment  
Amendments to Metro Transit (MT) and Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) capital budgets were presented to the Committee by Ed Petrie - Metro Transit and Sean Pfeiffer – MTS; there was no further discussion or questions.

One formula error in Attachment 1 was brought to the Committee’s attention by Pfeiffer. The error did not result in any changes or errors in the reported amendment amounts, 2008 capital budget, or multi-authorization and will be corrected when the item goes to the full Council.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Meeks,

That the Council:

- Amend the 2008 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding and removing spending authority as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metropolitan Transportation Services	
Additions to ACP	\$ 3,850,000
Removal of Closed Projects	(\$18,450,082)
Net Change to MTS ACP	(\$14,600,082)
Metro Transit	\$ 0

- Amend the 2008 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by adding or reducing appropriation as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 3,850,000
Metro Transit	\$ 220,000

- Approve transfers between capital projects as detailed in Attachment 1 to this business item.

Motion passed.

2008-39 2008 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

Four amendments to Metropolitan Transportation Services’ operating budget were presented to the Committee by Sean Pfeiffer – MTS Financial Analyst; there was no further discussion or questions.

Motion by Wolter, seconded by Meeks:

That the Council:

- Amend the 2008 Operating Budget in accordance with the table attached to the business item.

Motion passed.

**SW** 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: MnDOT Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Funding, TAB  
2008-50 Action 2008-06

Carl Ohrn MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee and answered questions as to the need for Same Week item. The timeline is potentially critical to move the highway portion into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and subsequently the STIP, which is contingent upon legislative funding.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the remaining \$45.8 million in federal UPA funds (VPP, IMD, TCSP and RITA) contingent upon receipt of state enabling legislation and the local funding match and that:

Federal funding sources can be changed without amending the TIP;  
MnDOT holds the TIP approval letter from the Metropolitan Council until the enabling legislation and local match are approved.

Motion passed.

2008-51 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: Scenic Byway Funds, TAB Action 2008-07

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no further questions from committee members. Motion by Leppik, seconded by Susag:

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That the Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to identify Scenic Byway Funds received in the 2007 Appropriation Act for the Minnesota Great River Road and Minneapolis Grand Rounds Projects.  
Motion passed.

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

2008-52      2008-2011 TIP Amendment: SP 62-672-04, Century Avenue Reconstruction, TAB Action  
2008-05

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from Committee members. Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach:

That the Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to indicate that Ramsey County is the lead agency for the project and that the total project cost is increased to \$15,250,000.

Motion passed.

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

## **INFORMATION**

Hearing no objection, M.Hill Smith asked that Information Item #3 on the agenda be moved to Item #1.

### **1. New Vehicle Graphics for Bus and Rail**

Bruce Howard and Charles Decker, Metro Transit, appeared before the committee to present the design for Bus, LRT and Commuter Rail that is being recommended by staff and the graphics group, of which Scherer, Hilker, Leppik and Smith were members. The recommended design is being presented today for input and discussion, and approval and implementation will be an item at the next Transportation Committee.

Following discussion, the committee majority directed Howard/Decker to move forward with approval of a solid blue rear on the locomotive.

### **2. Performance Measures Report for January 2008**

Vince Pellegrin, Metro Transit, gave the performance report for bus and rail for January 2008; and Dave Indrehus, Metro Transit Police gave a report of same from the Police Department.

### **3. Monthly Ridership Report for January 2008**

Ed Petrie and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit, gave the ridership reports for January 2008. Petrie introduced the new "slogan" for 2008 along with his ridership numbers. Howard reported on Travel Demand Management items and gave a marketing update.

### **4. Regional Solicitation Funding Alternatives**

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) acted on the Regional Solicitation Funding Alternatives at their meeting on 2/20/08. The projects that were approved will be put into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP will follow the required public prior to approval by TAB and Metropolitan Council in the fall of 2008. Committee members will be notified when the information is available on the website.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m. February 25, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary

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