

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, April 28, 2008

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Vice Chair Georgie Hilker	Brian McDaniel Roger Scherer	Peggy Leppik Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Natalie Haas Steffen Daniel Wolter	Mary Hill Smith, Chair	Kirstin Sersland Beach
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, Vice Chair Meeks called the April 28, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Meeks amended the agenda. Business Items 1 & 2 relating to Item 2008-118 will not be addressed at the meeting today. It was moved by Scherer seconded by Hilker to adopt the amended agenda for April 28, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Hilker seconded by Scherer to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2008 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Brian Lamb introduced the following Metro Transit employees who presented their staff with the employee recognition awards:

Bill Porter, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, introduced Andy Lukaszewicz, Director Rail Systems Maintenance, who presented awards to: Garry Lane – Rail Transit Supervisor, Fue Vang – Operator, Dean Alexander – Traction Power Maintainer, and Mike McNamara – Rail Transit Supervisor for their work during the Sunday, March 30th power outage when the rail lost an overhead wire.

Bruce Howard, Director Marketing presented awards to: John Siqveland – Marketing and Development Specialist, Charles Decker - Sr. Graphic Designer, and Kirk Mazzeo – Graphic Designer, for their work on the Go Greener campaign and 21 Hop & Shop, a partnership with businesses on Lake Street.

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

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

- 1) He showed photographs of the Northstar Locomotive production. Locomotive # 501 in production is nearing completion, there are 4 more locomotives coming after this.
- 2) There will be a Northstar ground breaking at the Coon Rapids Station on Tuesday 4/29 and on 5/06 at the Big Lake Station.
- 3) Service Development staff has been visiting the garages this week to interview operators on what works well, as well as problem areas.

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

- 1) An update to the Regional Performance statistics will be coming in members mail slots. If you have any questions, contact MTS staff.
- 2) The potential for Lakeville to join the Transit Taxing District is nearing key dates. This is in conjunction with the UPA. 5/12 is the date that the legislative UPA action must be complete; City of Lakeville is hosting a public meeting on 4/29 and is scheduled to vote on 5/05 and the Legislature is scheduled to vote on the UPA enabling language on 5/06. Two Lakeville park and rides are included in the UPA projects, and staff is also working with MnDOT on the extension of the HOT Lane on I-35.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2008-122 Rejection of Formal Bids on Excess Hiawatha Corridor Land – specifically 32nd St. and Hiawatha

Guy Peterson, Director Community Development, presented this item to the committee and explained that there was only one bid received and it was significantly lower than the appraised value of the property. There is a possibility that a party may submit an unsolicited bid after this rejection, this would be an item at the 5/12 Transportation Committee meeting.

Motion by Leppik seconded by Hilker,

Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to reject the formal bid of \$500,100 for the sale of public land on 32nd Street at Hiawatha, Hennepin County, MN.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair Meeks stated that this item could move forward to the full Council as a consent item, if necessary. Brian Lamb will check with the Regional Administrator and General Counsel to determine if the item needs to go to the full Council.

2008-117 Authorization to Purchase 30' Gilligs

Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik,

Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Gillig for three 30' buses, to be operated by regional transit providers in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Motion passed.

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

2008-121 Authorization to Purchase Large Cut-Away Buses for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Service

Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager, presented this item to the committee. A question was asked about service to Landfall, and was answered by John Levin from Metro Transit.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach,

Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Gillig for three 30' buses, to be operated by regional transit providers in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Motion passed.

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

INFORMATION

1. Performance Measures Report for February

Bill Porter, Metro Transit, gave the performance report for bus and rail for March 2008; and Dave Indrehus, Metro Transit Police, reported gave a report of same from the Police Department.

2. Monthly Ridership Report for February

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit, and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing, gave the ridership reports for March 2008. Petrie stated that the first quarter 2008 ridership is the highest since 1984. Howard stated that the “carbon counter” is new on the website. It shows the pounds of CO2 that are not produced as people ride the bus or share rides. May 3 & 4 is the Living Green Expo at the State Fairgrounds.

3. I-35W Response Transit Service Update

John Levin, Metro Transit Service Development, reported on this item. He provided an update as to the various P & R locations, new and expanded express routes, local service changes and new routes, as well as the transit advantages instituted and fleet expansions made. Hilker suggested that Levin mail the Rte 219 marketing information to Representative Swales as a follow-up to her requests to serve the City of Landfall.

4. Update on 2030 TPP Revision

Connie Kozlak, Manager Systems Planning MTS, gave an update on the 2030 TPP Revision. MTS staff has met with the 7 Regional Rail Authorities to receive input. Kozlak highlighted the policy changes as provided in the members packets for feedback. Staff is working on making this plan more “web” friendly and easier to find specific topics. Kozlak also briefed the committee on the proposed schedule: end July – Draft TPP ready to go to TAC & TAB for their August meetings; Sept - Draft TPP to Council; public hearings on draft in October and deadline goal to adopt the TPP – end of December.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m., April 28, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary