

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, June 09, 2008**

Members Present Mary Hill Smith, Chair Brian McDaniel Peggy Leppik
 Georgie Hilker Roger Scherer Richard Aguilar
 Peterson, Craig Kirstin Sersland Beach Natalie Haas Steffen
 Daniel Wolter

Members Absent Annette Meeks, Vice Chair

Staff Presiding Brian Lamb, General Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan
 Manager Metro Transit Transportation Services

TAB Liaison David Gepner

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, M.Hill Smith called the June 9, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M.Hill Smith amended the agenda to move Business Item #7 to the 2nd item, and to move Information Item #1 to the last item on the agenda. The amended agenda for June 9, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting was adopted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the May 12, 2008 regular Transportation Committee meeting were approved. The minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting were amended to show that member Beach was present, and were approved.

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

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

- 1) A UPA Stakeholders Workshop will be held from 8:00 – noon on Wednesday 6/10 at the Best Buy Headquarters. Members were notified earlier.
- 2) The Annual Transportation Alliance Fly-In will be held in Washington D.C. this week. Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning MTS will be attending. The UPA will be presented and discussed at that forum.

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

- 1) Ridership numbers for May are up about ½ million over yearly budgeted level. A new “Drive Less” campaign is being launched today, featuring a calculator on the webpage to calculate costs and carbon contributions based on driving habits, size of car, etc. Radio spots and banner ads will also be used. The pump price of diesel fuel has significantly increased since last week. Metro Transit has 85% of fuel purchases with futures, and has a locked-in price to the end of the year.
- 2) Last week, HLRT had a 2-day planned shut-down for replacement of switch machines, insulator replacement, repairs to tactile warning strips at some stations, crosswalk painting and sectionalization of the cantenary system.
- 3) The Secretary of Transportation is scheduled to come on Thursday 6/12 for a ceremonial signing of the UPA agreement with the Governor. Details are forthcoming. There will be a bus tour, with presentations aboard the bus.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

SW 008-152 2008-2013 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget Amendment - Urban Partnership Agreement

Ed Petrie and Craig Lamothe, Metro Transit, presented this item. Lamothe answered questions regarding the timeline for purchasing buses.

Motion by Wolter, seconded by McDaniel,
That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2008 Authorized Capital Program (Multi-year authorization) by adding specific authority to the Transportation Division as follows:
Metro Transit: \$103,450,000
- Amend the 2008 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing spending authority to the Transportation Division as follows:
Metro Transit: \$69,311,500

Motion passed.

2008-158 Northstar Subordinate Funding Agreement #5 – Big Lake Turnout Improvements and Intertrack Fencing Construction

Rich Rovang, Asst. General Manager – TSD, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

To negotiate and execute a funding agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, for reimbursement of costs incurred by the Metropolitan Council for payments to BNSF Railway Company for the construction of turnout improvements at the Big Lake station platform and intertrack fencing at the Northstar stations.

Motion passed.

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

2008-154 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.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by McDaniel,

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2008 Authorized Capital Program (Multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority to the Transportation Division as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 92,986,807
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 40,912,284
- Amend the 2008 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing spending authority to the Transportation Division as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 19,096,502
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 11,424,657
- Approve new projects and transfers between capital projects as detailed in Attachment 1 of the Business Item.

Motion passed.

2008-163 Authorization to Execute Agreements with SouthWest Transit, MVTA and NCDA
 Cole Hiniker, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Wolter,
 That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute agreements with the following agencies for the amounts and purposes listed:

Agency	Purpose	Existing Agreement	New Agreement
NCDA	Northstar Commuter Coach Lease	\$295,732	\$363,922
SouthWest Transit	Certificate of Participation – Station	- New -	\$400,000
MVTA	Certificate of Participation – Garage	- New -	\$400,000

Motion passed.

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

2008-157 Right of Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF) 2008 Annual Program Plan
 Ann Braden, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Steffen,
 That the Metropolitan Council approve the 2008 Annual RALF Program Plan.

Motion passed.

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

2008-144 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: Metro Transit Park and Ride for Rosedale Replacement/Expansion
 (TAB Action 2008-15)

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item. There were not questions from committee members

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Leppik:
 That the Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add 5307 FTA Formula Funds for the Rosedale park and ride replacement/expansion in program year 2008.

Motion passed.

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

2008-145 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: Phase 3 of TH 610 Right of Way and Construction in Brooklyn Park (TAB Action 2008-16)

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scherer:
 That the Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add HPP project 2771-38T21 for construction and right of way purchase for Phase 3 of TH 610 in Brooklyn Park in program year 2009.

Motion passed.

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

Regarding the TIP amendments above, Ohrn stated that the TAB is working on streamlining the TIP Amendment approval process for non-controversial projects. That process will come before the Transportation Committee for review and approval in a few months.

2008-159 Authorization to Purchase Light Rail Vehicle Parts

Chris Gran, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase light rail vehicle parts in accordance with Council specifications from Vulcanite Australia in the amount of \$799,512, contingent on the Federal Transit Administration granting a waiver of the Buy America waiver provision.

Motion passed.

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

INFORMATION

1. 2008 Public Hearings – Possible Transit Fair Adjustments

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit, gave an update of options that the staff has been working on for a possible fare increase, as well as the public hearing timeline and answered questions from committee members. The recommendation will appear before the Transportation Committee on 6/23 and Council on 6/25 for approval, and then move forward to the Public Hearings.

2. Rail Lubrication

Vince Pellegrin and Andy Lukaszewicz, Metro Transit, presented this item with photo examples of rail/wheel wear and applicators and samples of the lubrication product that is being used. Lukaszewicz also had a video of the train that Hill Smith suggested that he show at a full Council meeting (possibly 6/11).

3. Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Update – Existing System & Issues

Amy Vennewitz, Metropolitan Services presented the draft TPP and explained new layout and plans to provide interactive document on the webpage, with links to parts of the document and possible feedback on the Draft TPP available on the web. She covered the Policies and Strategies section in depth, due to time constraints the Transportation and Land Use section will be presented at a later meeting. Staff complimented her and staff on the new “user-friendly” layout.

OTHER BUSINESS

Hearing no objections, M.Hill Smith stated that all Transportation Committee meetings will be held at Metro Transit’s F.T. Heywood building in Minneapolis from June 23 until September 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m., June 9, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary