

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, July 14, 2008

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Georgie Hilker Richard Aguilar Peggy Leppik	Brian McDaniel Daniel Wolter Kirstin Sersland Beach
Members Absent	Annette Meeks, Vice Chair Natalie Haas Steffen	Roger Scherer Craig Peterson
Staff Presiding	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit
Others Present	Robert Lilligren, Councilmember City of Minneapolis	

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, M.Hill Smith called the July 14, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:06 pm at Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to allow Information Item #1 to be presented prior to the Business Items. It was moved by Beach, seconded by Wolter to adopt the amended agenda for the July 14, 2008 meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Leppik, seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – MTS

Paul Colton of MTS introduced Business Systems Analyst Matt Yager. Yager is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to the division over the last quarter, including development of new applications for compiling ridership information and processing billing.

Chair Smith and Director McCarthy offered Yager their congratulations on his achievements.

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

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

- 1) An operator with one of the Council’s private contractors was recently charged with misuse of a cell phone and inappropriate contact with a customer. He was removed from service by the contractor made his first court appearance this past week. No further information is available at this time.
- 2) Paul Colton reported on new procedures being implemented by MTS to comply with Special Transportation Services (STS) regulations. He noted that Council vehicles have always met or exceeded STS requirements, but further enhancements are being made to address and track customer feedback. Colton distributed a decal that will be displayed in Metro Mobility and other Council STS vehicles providing contact information for customers with comments or concerns.

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

- 1) The 28th Avenue park-and-ride facility is scheduled to open on July 22, 2008. Lamb showed photographs of the property, which includes a Hiawatha LRT station, 1,450 parking spaces on five levels and approximately 2,000

square feet of retail space on the ground floor.

- 2) A safety fence between light-rail tracks at Government Plaza Station is expected to be in place by the end of August, 2008. The fence will serve to increase safety awareness for pedestrians who routinely cross between Hennepin County Government Center and Minneapolis City Hall. The design of the fence required approval from three separate commissions of elected and appointed officials.
- 3) Metro Transit Police officers have ridden buses for more than 2,000 hours in each of the last two months, logging 2,019 hours and 2,042 hours in May and June, respectively. This significant increase in on-board hours is the result of saturation details which are part of Metro Transit's commitment to the downtown Minneapolis SafeZone initiative.
- 4) The Bike2Benefits program, sponsored by Metro Transit and the region's four Transportation Management Organizations, has in its first seven to eight weeks seen 1,116 participants enrolled. The initial goal was 700 members by the end of 2008.
- 5) The Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government is scheduled to meet on July 29 in the Heywood Chambers to prepare for transit funding issues that will be raised in the 2009 legislative session, including the proposed fare increase and fuel costs. The members are also expected to tour the Heywood Garage.
- 6) Internet sales of Go-To Cards are strong, with over 530 new cards ordered in June. Including transactions adding value to existing cards, 3,566 online Go-To card orders were processed in June, representing sales of nearly \$165,000.
- 7) Over 500,000 trips were planned online in June by customers using Metro Transit's web-based trip planner, representing a 40 percent increase over June 2007 and the highest usage on record so far.

INFORMATION

1. Bottineau Corridor Transit Update (Mike Opat – Hennepin County, Steve Lampi, City of Brooklyn Park)
Hennepin County Commissioner Opat and Brooklyn Park Mayor Lampi provided an update on the progress of the Bottineau Transitway development along County Road 81 in northwestern Hennepin County and outlined future steps in planning.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2008-178 Contract Award for Drain Cleaning and Disposal Services

Wayne Schafer, Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities Manager, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Root-O-Matic for drain and sump cleaning and disposal services at Metro Transit facilities.

Motion passed unanimously. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2008-179 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: Add HPP Project SP #6284-141, I-35W from I-694 to Lexington Avenue – Study for Future Investments (TAB Action 2008-17) (Carl Ohrn 651-602-1719)

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

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Wolter,

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add HPP project SP #6284-141, I-35W from I-694 to Lexington Avenue – study for future investments.

Motion passed unanimously. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2008-180 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: Add HPP Project SP #6215-93, Study intersection redesign on Snelling Avenue at University Avenue in St. Paul (TAB Action 2008-18) (Carl Ohrn 651-602-1719)

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

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add HPP project SP #6215-93, Study intersection redesign on Snelling Avenue at University Avenue.

Motion passed unanimously. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2008-181 Authorization to amend lease agreement between Metropolitan Council and Griggs Midway Corporation

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrmann and Gary Berger of the Central Corridor Project Office. The item passed unanimously without discussion.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik,

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Lease Agreement between the Council and Griggs Midway Corporation to include an additional 6,500 sq. ft. for two years at a cost of \$122,276 for the first year, \$86,443 for one-time leasehold improvements, and \$124,280 the second year.

Motion passed unanimously. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2008-182 Authorization to Purchase Furniture Systems and Computer Equipment for the Central Corridor Project Office (Mark Fuhrmann 651-602-1942)

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrmann and Gary Berger of the Central Corridor Project Office. Questions from committee members regarding standard procedures for acquiring furniture and equipment were answered by staff.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to purchase furniture systems and computer hardware/software for the Central Corridor Project Office (CCPO) in a total amount not to exceed \$704,261 and authorize additional annual operating costs of \$89,427.

Motion passed unanimously. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2008-183 Authorization to Apply for 2009 JARC Funding (John Harper 651-602-1744)

John Harper, MTS Supervisor of Contracted Services, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach,

That the Council approve the resolution authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for 2009 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT).

Motion passed unanimously. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2008-186 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) Publication and Comment (Mark Fuhrmann 651-602-1942)

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrman. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council recognize the publication of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) as approved by the FTA and approve 45-day public comment period including the scheduling of at least three (3) public hearings. Hearings have been scheduled for the following dates and times.

- Monday, August 4, Noon (12:00 p.m.), Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul
An open house will precede the hearing from 11:30 a.m. to noon
- Thursday, August 7, 6:00 p.m., Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis
An open house will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 9, 2:00 p.m., Goodwill Easter Seals, 553 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul
An open house will precede the hearing from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2008-188 Subrecipient Agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and Dakota County (Craig Lamothe 612-349-7690)

This item was presented by Craig Lamothe, Metro Transit Manager of Facilities Planning. Brief discussion and response from staff followed.

Motion by Wolter, seconded by Leppik,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sub-recipient agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and Dakota County for state funds needed to deliver the five Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations as called for in the Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA).

Motion passed unanimously. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

INFORMATION

2. 2009 Transportation Operating Budget
Brian Lamb and Arlene McCarthy presented this item and responded to questions from committee members.
3. Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Update
Amy Vennewitz and Connie Kozlak of MTS provided an update on the TPP and responded to questions from committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m., July 14, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary