

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, November 10, 2008

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

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on November 10, 2008, at Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to remove information item #2, Streamlined Process for Certain Transportation Improvement Program Amendments, from the November 10 agenda and to insert an item concerning the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan prior to the staff reports. It was then moved by Steffen, seconded by Scherer to adopt the amended agenda for the November 10, 2008 meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Transportation Policy Plan Update

Arlene McCarthy provided a summary of Transitway Recommendations to be included in the Metropolitan Council 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). The final draft of the TPP will be sent out in mid-December for review by the committee prior to its meeting on January 12, 2009.

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

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

- 1) Metro Mobility ridership in October 2008 showed an increased of 3% over October 2007, although overall ridership is still down approximately 8% from earlier in 2008. Also, while the number of rides has decreased, the number of customers using the service was higher in October than in prior months.

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

- 1) Metro Transit will offer reduced service on three days during the coming holidays. Regular weekday bus schedules will be cut back on the day following Thanksgiving and on the day before and the day after Christmas. Our customers will learn about these adjustments route-by-route through the TakeOut editions hanging on bus and rail.
- 2) Transit Police officers rode buses for 1,240 hours last month, 24 percent more than their October goal of 1,000 hours. The hours include shifts dedicated to on-board patrolling as well as required riding by officers who routinely patrol in squad cars and on foot.

- 3) Through the first nine months of the year, Metro Transit is close to reaching its goals of responding to customer inquiries in a timely manner, according to a report from the Customer Relations Department. The goals are 88 percent within three business days, 94 percent within five days and 100 percent within 10 days. The three- and five-day marks have been achieved between January and September. The 10-day performance is at 99 percent.
- 4) Since the weather outside is getting cold, it's appropriate that we have begun distributing our annual Snow Reroute brochure to customers. We analyze each route and establish predetermined detours that we would implement in periods of heavy snow and ice. If we implement the Snow Reroutes, we tell the media, post the notice on our website and NexTrip, our automated schedule system will play the reroutes for callers.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2008-310 Contract with Safe Travel Inc.

Item was presented by Andrew Krueger of Metro Mobility. In response to a committee member question he verified that the only change in the new contract was a different name for the same entity as in the previous contract. There were no other questions.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. Terminate the existing contract with Safe Travel, a sole proprietorship wholly owned by Deena Smith.
2. Execute a contract with Safe Travel Inc., a Minnesota Corporation established by Deena Smith in an amount not to exceed \$385,260. The term of the contract shall not extend beyond January 31, 2011.

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

2008-311 Authorization to Award Contract for 30-foot Transit Buses

Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager, presented this item. A question was asked about whether these were expansion or replacement buses. He replied that they are replacement buses using JARC funding.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by McDaniel,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Gillig Corporation for eight 30-foot low floor transit buses, with an option for up to an additional 25 buses, in accordance with the Council's specification and Gillig Corporation's Best and Final Offer dated October 14, 2008.

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

2008-290 Contract for Bus Schedule Printing and Warehousing Services

Bob Gibbons, Metro Transit Director of Customer Services, and John Howley, Transit Information Center Manager, presented this item. They responded to questions from committee members concerning satisfaction level with current service and potential for discounts by combining services.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Peterson,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a two-year contract with an option to extend for one additional year with American Financial Printing, Inc. AFPI to print, warehouse, and deliver bus schedules in an amount not to exceed \$546,662.

Said contract combines printing, warehousing and delivery services under one contract. These services were formerly under separate contracts, with different contractual periods and sometimes different vendors.

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

Metro Transit Marketing Director Bruce Howard presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the regional administrator to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to receive up to \$500,000 to be used for UPA telecommuting outreach activities by the Council and four regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) during 2009 – 2010.

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

SW 2008-305 Facility Lease at Hoover Street NE, Minneapolis

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Director of Facilities and Engineering, presented this item and answered questions from committee members regarding alternatives, pricing structure and construction schedule.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Peterson,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a lease agreement with Industrial Equities, LLC, for the industrial warehouse space located at 630 Hoover Street NE, Minneapolis, for a five-year term, with one optional five-year extension.

Motion passed, with Meeks voting no.

SW 2008-315 Acquire Property at I-35W and County Road C in Roseville

Tom Thorstenson presented this item and responded to questions from committee members concerning further clarification of the title issue.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Meeks,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to acquire fee title to that portion of the property, together with temporary easements, at 2750 Cleveland Avenue in Roseville by eminent domain in accordance with the attached resolution.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION (continued)

2. Third Quarter 2008 Regional Ridership Report

Elaine Koutsoukos, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item and answered general questions from committee members.

3. On-Time Performance Committee

Christy Bailly, Metro Transit Assistant Transportation Director – Field Operations, presented an overview of Transit's On-Time Performance Committee. Bailly explained the rationale and goals of the committee and provided data issues, strategies and resulting service improvements to date.

4. Northstar Operations Update

Ed Byers, Metro Transit Senior Manager for Northstar, briefed the committee on the current status of development activity for the Northstar Commuter Rail and provided an outline of the project schedule for 2009.

5. Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act

Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director of the Council's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, presented an overview of the federal Title VI provisions including history, current requirements and impact on how the organization conducts its business.

OTHER BUSINESS

After discussion by committee members it was determined that the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee scheduled for December 22, 2008, will be canceled.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m., November 10, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary