

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, November 24, 2008

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Hill Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on November 24, 2008, at Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis. While awaiting a quorum, Chair Smith requested that staff proceed with the Employee Recognition.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Kathy Casey, Assistant Manager of MJ Ruter Garage, introduced Metro Transit bus operator Joyce Murschel. Murschel is being recognized for her 30 years of service and for achieving the additional milestone of 30 years of accident-free driving. Casey noted that Murschel is the first woman in Metro Transit history to reach this safe-driving goal.

Chair Smith and GM Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations and presented Murschel with a certificate of recognition.

A quorum being present, Chair Smith continued with the regular order of business.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Hilker, seconded by Peterson to adopt the agenda for the November 24, 2008 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Beach, seconded by Leppik to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

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

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

- 1) Metro Transit will again be part of the 2008 Holidazzle Parade which begins November 28 and runs every Thursday through Saturday night through December 21. In addition, free bus and rail rides to and from the parade will be offered on Saturday, December 13, and Saturday, December 20, from 4 pm to 8 pm. Council members are as always invited to ride Transit's Twinkle Bus in the parade.
- 2) The theft of a laptop computer was reported by a Metro Transit bus customer on November 18. The customer, who is blind, believes that the Braille computer was stolen from her backpack by another passenger. Based on witness reports and video from the bus and the transit center, police have identified a person of interest in the case and are investigating; staff are working with the police and the media to assist in the investigation.

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

- 1) The city of Columbus recently voted not to be included in the transit taxing district (TTD), although ridership on route 288 between Forest Lake and Minneapolis continues to be strong. Counties including Anoka, Washington and Chisago are planning to meet to determine their options for ensuring that this route service continues.
- 2) Negotiations are underway to regarding funding levels from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for Washington County. Under discussion is an increase in the minimum guarantee since the discontinuation of the federal funding resulting from the I-35W bridge collapse.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2008-338 CY 2009 Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) Grant Agreement for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Peterson,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a CY2009 grant agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) capital project for Preliminary Engineering and Final Design in the amount of \$26,011,818 approved by the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) on October 29, 2008.

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

2008-340 Cooperative Funding Agreement for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit for Final Design and Preliminary Engineering with Ramsey County and Hennepin County Regional Rail Authorities

Mark Fuhrmann 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 negotiate and execute a Cooperative Funding Agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Preliminary Engineering and Final Design with the Ramsey County and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authorities (RCRRA and HCRRA).

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

2008-341 Issue Notice-to-Proceed to DMJM Harris for Professional Engineering Services Contract to Advance Preliminary Engineering for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to issue a Notice-To-Proceed to AECOM USA, Inc. to advance Preliminary Engineering for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) in an amount not to exceed \$15.8 million for a total contract authority not to exceed \$51.3 million.

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

2008-339 Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 3 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 3 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT) in the total amount of \$3,086,454 for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project.

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

SW 2008-342 Issue Notice-to-Proceed to the Assistant Project Director Consultant for Advancing Preliminary Engineering in 2009 for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to issue a Notice-To-Proceed to the Assistant Project Director Consultant, Gary Erickson for advancing Preliminary Engineering in 2009 in an amount not to exceed \$150,512.

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

SW 2008-324 Intergovernmental Agreement with Hennepin County for Washington Avenue Pedestrian Deck Bridge Column Retrofit Analysis

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Hennepin County in the amount of \$194,000 to allow for the transfer of funds between Hennepin County and AECOM USA, Inc. through the Met Council.

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

SW 2008-343 Amendment No. 1 to Northstar Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 7 – BNSF Railway Company Flagging Costs

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. Chair Smith questioned whether staff felt the flagger rate was set at a reasonable amount. Mark Fuhrmann responded that it had been determined to be reasonable, noting that the project is also required to pay for travel time to Northstar construction sites.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in an amount not to exceed \$385,000, for reimbursement of costs incurred by the Metropolitan Council for payments to BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) for flagging costs associated with the construction of the Northstar stations.

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

SW 2008-344 Amendment to Interagency Cooperative Agreement with Northstar Corridor Development Authority for Staff Resources

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Amendment No. 5 to the Interagency Cooperative Agreement with the Northstar Corridor Development Authority relative to the provision of Council staff resources in 2009, valued at \$1,296,000.

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

SW 2008-325 2008-2013 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget Amendment

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie and MTS Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Hilker,

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	\$ 2,942,156
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 8,205,000

- Amend the 2008 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing spending authority to the Transportation Division as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 2,942,156
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 0

- Approve changes as detailed in Attachment 1

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

SW 2008-346 Authorization to Execute Agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) and Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) to Receive Funds for AVTS Construction

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS Planning and Finance, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for \$6,950,000 and Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) for \$1,255,000 to receive funds for construction of the Apple Valley Transit Station (AVTS).

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

SW 2008-347 Authorization to Execute Agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for Transit and Rail Operations Funding

Amy Vennewitz presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) to receive operating funds for CY09 for the following projects:

- Hiawatha LRT - \$7.5 M
- Northstar Commuter Rail - \$3.79 M
- I-35W BRT - \$62,500
- Cedar Ave. BRT - \$22,500
- Metro Council Operating Assistance - \$30.783 M

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

INFORMATION

1. Performance Measures Report for October 2008
Sheri Gingerich, Metro Transit Deputy Chief of Rail Operations, and Metro Transit Police Chief Dave Indrehus reported on bus and rail performance, reliability, safety and security.
2. Monthly Ridership Report for October 2008
Ed Petrie and Metro Transit Director of Marketing Bruce Howard presented ridership figures and a marketing update for October.
3. Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Projects
Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Director of Facilities and Engineering, provided an update on the development status of park-and-ride facilities in Blaine, Roseville and Lakeville.
4. Presentation and Discussion of Public Hearing Comments on Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)
Amy Vennewitz provided an overview of comments received during public hearings held recently on the draft TPP. Committee members reviewed and discussed specific issues that will require Council action. Vennewitz will distribute updates to all Council Members for their review.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m., November 24, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary