

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**  
**Monday, October 13, 2008**

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Georgie Hilker Richard Aguilar Peggy Leppik	Annette Meeks, Vice Chair Craig Peterson Natalie Haas Steffen Brian McDaniel	Roger Scherer Daniel Wolter Kirstin Beach
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Members Absent (None)

Staff Presiding	Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit
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Others Present David Gepner, TAB Liaison

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Chair Mary Hill Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on October 13, 2008, at Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was amended to place information item #1, Minneapolis Intermodal Station, before presentation of the business items and to modify the presentation of information item #2, Metro Mobility Logo/Branding, to consist only of a handout to committee members. It was then moved by McDaniel, seconded by Beach to adopt the amended agenda for the October 13, 2008 meeting. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services**

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director of MTS Planning & Finance, introduced Rachel Wikel and Dave Vessel of MTS and recognized them for their contributions to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan including graphics, maps, photos and layout. John Harper, Supervisor Contracted Transit Services, introduced Bruce Dreier, MTS Project Administrator, and recognized him for his work managing the contracted service adjustments required before and during the Republican National Convention in September.

Chair Smith and Vennewitz offered their thanks and congratulations and presented each employee with a certificate of achievement.

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

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported on the following:

- 1) Five of the six planned open houses have been held to receive feedback on the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan. The final open house is scheduled for October 16 in St. Paul, and the public hearing will be held as part of the October 22 Metropolitan Council meeting.
- 2) The Grant Evaluation and Ranking System (GEARS) committee of the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) will meet on October 15 to review the project applications submitted. Seven of the 10 applications submitted are from the Met Council. The GEARS committee will then forward its recommendations to the full CTIB on October 29 for final approval of the projects.

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

- 1) Customers planned nearly 580,000 transit itineraries online in September, the highest total since the web-based tool's inception. This total is 38 percent higher than in September 2007.
- 2) Go-To card usage accounted for a record 31.1 percent of all rides taken in September. The goal for the month was 26 percent, and usage in September 2007 was 20.3 percent.
- 3) Ridership continues strong for Vikings football games. There were 15 articulated buses and 18 light rail cars used for the October 12 game, and the Fort Snelling park-and-ride lot was full while the 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue lot and ramp were used by 689 vehicles.
- 4) An informational open house will be held on October 15 at the Lakeville Water Treatment Plant to review the design of a new park-and-ride ramp to be built on Kenrick Avenue near I-35 and Hwy 5/50. The Lakeville ramp will have 500 spaces (with the potential for an additional 250) and is part of the Urban Partnership Agreement with the US DOT.
- 5) On October 25 buses will replace trains along the entire Hiawatha light-rail line between 2:00 am and noon to allow for maintenance to be performed on the system. Rail and bus staff will be available at key stations to assist customers with accessing interim service.

## INFORMATION

### 1. Minneapolis Intermodal Station

Phil Eckhart, Director of Hennepin County Environmental Services Department, presented an overview of the study performed in preparation for the construction of an intermodal transit station in downtown Minneapolis. He answered questions from committee members regarding timelines and the nature of surrounding development.

## BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2008-278            Transit Provider Assistance Agreements for Calendar Year 2009

Item was presented by John Harper, Supervisor of Contracted Services. Member Hass Steffen asked why two programs are no longer included in the annual request. Harper explained that MTS severed ties with one provider as a result of a 2007 program audit. MTS procured an hourly-rate contract to replace the service lost and the City of Edina and Senior Transportation Program joined MTS' procurement. Therefore, MTS shows expenditures for this contract in the contracted services budget and receives funding assistance from the two programs. Hass Steffen also asked for clarification on any additional funding impacts from the 2007 audits. Harper clarified that all other programs are included in the 2009 agreements.

**Motion** by Hilker, seconded by Meeks,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute transit assistance agreements with transit service providers, not to exceed the amounts listed in Attachment A. The agreements shall be effective for the period January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

Motion passed.

2008-279            Authorization to Execute Agreement with Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority, SouthWest Transit, Plymouth and University of Minnesota

Cole Hiniker, MTS Financial Planner, presented this item. One question was raised about the operating efficiency of hybrid buses as it compares to standard propulsion. Brian Lamb discussed the hybrid buses fuel efficiency and maintenance records.

**Motion** by Scherer, seconded by Leppik,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute agreements with the following agencies for the projects and amounts listed:

Agency	Project	Amount
Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority	Union Depot Federal Design Grant	\$781,994

University of Minnesota	Hybrid Bus Purchase	\$676,859
Plymouth	Park and Ride Repairs	\$300,000
Southwest Transit	Garage Generator	\$250,000

Motion passed, with Wolter abstaining.

2008-280 Authorization to Execute Amended Agreement with Dakota County Regional Rail Authority

Peter Hanf, Metropolitan Council Office of General Counsel, presented this item. Council members raised questions about the final settlement figure (\$5.4 million) in light of the economy and in light of the fact that the original appraised value of the property was \$830,000 less than the settlement amount. Council staff explained that the land sales in the area supported a higher price per square foot than the original appraisal. Council staff reported that DCRRA’s appraiser determined that the higher \$/sf could be justified and that the DCRRA Board approved the settlement figure.

Council members wanted to know if the new grant amount covered the entire costs of the acquisition and if this condemnation fell under the new or the old condemnation laws. Council staff reported that the new eminent domain legislation became effective in 2006 and, as such, the condemnation would be subject to the new law. Council staff told the Council members that there were no additional costs and that the \$5,507,350 represented the entire costs for the acquisition - \$5.4 million for the land and \$107,350 for relocation.

In the future, Council members would like any previously authorized business item to be included as an attachment to the new proposed action.

**Motion** by McDaniel, seconded by Scherer,  
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amended agreement with Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) for \$5,507,350 for the final purchase of Watson’s property adjacent to the Apple Valley Transit Station.

Motion passed.

2008-281 Airlake Airport 2025 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan Review

Chauncey Case, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. A question was raised as to why the runway extension defined in the preferred airport development alternative had to be extended in the southeast direction, requiring relocation of Cedar Ave.

Extending the runway to the northwest would require relocation of an active railroad, and road relocation appeared more feasible. The Council will have additional opportunities to review this project. Before actual construction of the runway an EIS would be prepared, addressing all alternatives. After this environmental analysis, the Council would review the project as part of the annual MAC CIP. By approving the LTCP showing the proposed runway extension now, it allows the MAC, County, Communities and landowners to coordinate and negotiate on reserving a right-of-way and preserving the extension option for the long-term. Since Airlake Airport will serve most of Scott and Dakota Counties, it is important to the system to preserve this future development option.

**Motion** by McDaniel, seconded by Beach,  
That the Metropolitan Council:

- Determine that the Metropolitan Airport Commission’s (MAC) Airlake Airport 2025 Long-term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) is consistent with the Metropolitan Council’s development guide.
- Recommend MAC establish a joint airport zoning board with Dakota County and affected communities of Lakeville, Farmington and Eureka Township to prepare an airport zoning ordinance as defined under state requirements and the airport’s system role.

- Recommend MAC continue coordination with communities of Lakeville and Eureka Township in provision of sanitary sewer and water service to the airport.
- Recommend MAC continue coordination concerning land use compatibility for communities affected by aircraft noise operations at the Airlake Airport.
- Recommend MAC continue coordination with the City of Lakeville and Dakota County in efforts to relocate Cedar Ave., thus allowing for runway extension at Airlake Airport in the long-term.
- Recommend amendment of the LTCP and review by the Council when parcels on airport property are developed for non-aviation uses.

Motion passed.

2008-282            Crystal Airport 2025 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan Review

Chauncey Case, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. The Crystal Airport LTCP evaluated closure of the facility, but the preferred alternative is to remove two runways and keep two runways, retaining the facility. A question was raised if the affected communities were agreeable with this outcome. It was indicated that the MAC had coordinated with the communities, users and agencies and had adequately addressed views and concerns of all affected parties. The communities still desire to have the airport closed in the long-term but accept the preferred development alternative as an initial step to such an outcome.

A concern was raised about expending approximately \$1M on a runway that was going to be “removed”. It was clarified that the runway will become a parallel taxiway and would no longer be a runway. The expenditure was primarily for rehabilitation of the pavement and federally funded.

**Motion** by Leppik, seconded by Scherer,

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Determine that the Metropolitan Airport Commission’s (MAC) Crystal Airport 2025 Long-term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) is consistent with the Metropolitan Council’s development guide.
- Recommend MAC establish a joint airport zoning board with Hennepin County and affected communities of New Hope, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, and Robbinsdale in preparing an airport zoning ordinance as defined under state requirements and reflecting the airport’s system role.
- Recommend amendment of the LTCP and review by the Council when parcels on airport property are developed for non-aviation uses.

Motion passed.

2008-283            Lake Elmo Airport 2025 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan Review

Chauncey Case, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item to the committee. No concerns or questions were raised. Case stated that the “background” paragraph of the Business Item (Page 2 – review, Annual Aircraft Operations in 2007) should read 38,617. The business item will be corrected to reflect this change.

**Motion** by Meeks, seconded by Peterson,

That the Metropolitan Council

- Determine that the Metropolitan Airport Commission's (MAC) Lake Elmo Airport 2025 Long-term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) is consistent with the Metropolitan Council's development guide (TPP).
- Recommend MAC establish a joint airport zoning board with Washington County and affected communities of Lake Elmo, Baytown and West Lakeland to prepare an airport zoning ordinance as defined under state requirements and airport's system role.
- Recommend MAC continue coordination with communities of Lake Elmo and Baytown to provide sanitary sewer and water service for the airport.
- Recommend MAC continue efforts with City of Lake Elmo in land use planning to coordinate city development plans in the Old Village area with airport safety zoning and aircraft noise considerations resulting from the LTCP 2025 preferred development alternative.
- Recommend amendment of the LTCP and review by the Council when parcels on airport property are developed for non-aviation uses.

Motion passed.

2008-285            Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) Project Grant Application Consistency with the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS, presented this item. A question was asked regarding the process for CTIB grants being approved. It was stated that the GEARS (Grant Evaluation and Ranking System) committee would be meeting in the Council Chambers on October 15<sup>th</sup> to approve a recommendation for projects to receive funding during CY 2009. The GEARS recommendation moves to the full CTIB on October 29<sup>th</sup> for final approval of the projects.

**Motion** by Leppik, seconded by Scherer,

That the Metropolitan Council finds the 10 project grant applications submitted to the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for CY 2009 funding to be consistent with the adopted 2030 Transportation Policy Plan.

Motion passed.

2008-275            Award Public Art Contract for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrmann and Robin Cauffman of the Central Corridor project. Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, discussed the procurement process.

Anne White, Chair of the District Councils Collaborative of St. Paul and Minneapolis, addressed the committee and expressed concerns related to the artist selection process.

After discussion by Council members and response by staff, the item passed by a 5 to 3 vote. Committee members Aguilar, Scherer, Wolter, Leppik and Peterson voted to approve the recommendation. Committee members Steffen, Meeks and Beach voted against the recommendation.

**Motion** by Scherer, seconded by Leppik,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute professional services contracts with Myklebust and Sears, Roberto Delgado, Janet Lofquist, Seitu Jones and Nancy Blum to design, fabricate and install public art on the 15 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) stations, in an amount not to exceed \$560,000 per artist. The cumulative amount of the contracts is not to exceed \$2.8 million.
- To issue notices-to-proceed to the artists for preliminary and advanced preliminary design work through April 2009, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per artist. The cumulative amount of the notices-to-proceed is not to exceed \$500,000.

Motion passed.

**INFORMATION (continued)**

## 2. 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program

Brian Lamb and Amy Vennewitz presented this item and answered general questions from committee members.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m., October 13, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary