

technical specification for the cars. For one evening, the manufacturers also witnessed the daily maintenance activities at the Operations and Maintenance facility. This will provide good grounding to manufacturers to give them an idea how we maintain the vehicles and will help form a long-standing partnership with the manufacturer.

Black History Month Celebration was Friday

Metro Transit staff celebrated the theme “Embracing Change” for Black History Month on Friday (Feb. 20) with the agency’s annual gathering at Heywood Garage. The event attracted about 150 people who enjoyed the popular soul-food buffet and listened to the keynote speaker, *Insight News* Publisher Al McFarlane. During his speech, McFarlane talked about the challenges and opportunities involved in starting his newspaper and urged the audience to commit themselves to embracing change.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, gave a follow up of the Dial-a-Ride service delivery plan from the 2/09/09 meeting. Staff met with providers on 2/17. There was a good turnout, discussion and Q & A. Details are still being worked out. No action will be taken until after the 2/25 Council meeting.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2009-24 Installation of a Transit Customer Information System, Project 63740
SW

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Dir. of Engineering & Facilities, presented this item. There were no further questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Egan Company, for the installation of a Transit Customer Information System (TCIS) at a cost of \$3,036,811.

Motion passed.

2009-61 Authorization to Exercise Options to Purchase Bus Digital Recording Systems

Jan Homan, Metro Transit Dir. Of Bus Maintenance, presented this item and answered questions from committee about the method and length for storage of DVR information and the use of VCR parts to repair remaining units until other buses are retrofitted.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise options to retrofit 178 buses with digital video recording systems from Verint Video Solutions at a total cost of \$870,242.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Meeks said that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2009-79 Northstar Fridley Station Ground Lease Memorandum of Understanding
SW

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented this item. It was questioned whether the maintenance for the Fridley station is in the operating budget, which Mark Fuhrmann responded yes, these costs are included in the current budget.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fridley Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Anoka County Regional Railroad Authority to generally agree among the parties responsibilities for the design, construction, ownership, operation and maintenance of the Fridley Station eastside park and ride and headhouse facilities in support of the Northstar Corridor Commuter Rail Project.

Motion passed.

2009-80 Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Platform Extensions and Grade Crossing Control Upgrades,
SW Projects 6370 & 65651

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Dir. of Engineering & Facilities, presented this item to the committee. He reported that this contract would extend the platforms at nine LRT stations to facilitate the operation of three car trains and through the installation of grade crossing control upgrades, improve the reverse running of trains in both directions. This contract award omitted the construction of the American Boulevard Station, modifications to the Government Station and replacement of tactile strips on platforms all due to funding limitations at the time of bidding.

Committee Chair Meeks asked if staff had considered re-bidding the work. The bid documents outlined that any combination of the three parts of the overall project (Platform Extensions, American Boulevard and Grade Crossing Control Upgrades) could be awarded if funding was available for each individual part to be awarded. In this case, funding was not sufficient for American Boulevard, but was available for funding the low bids on the Platform Extensions and the Grade Crossing Control Upgrades. The project is on a tight timeline for completion about year end. Awarding the platform extensions and grade crossing work at this time, while re-evaluating the American Boulevard design and funding, positions the Council to operate three-car trains by the spring of 2010. It is staffs proposal to re-bid the American Boulevard Station after reviewing the design and assuring that funds will be available to make an award.

Council Member McFarland asked when staff planned to re-bid the American Boulevard portion of the project. Staff is currently evaluating the existing plans in an attempt to reduce project costs. Staff plans re-bid upon completion of any revised plans and cost estimate, and the identification of sufficient funding. Staff anticipates that such re-bidding could begin in about two months.

Council Member McFarlin asked about how the low bid was determined. The low bidder was first determined by summing all three parts of the project. Federal procurement procedures indicated that Council could not pick separate contractors for each part of the project based on the individual bid components. Evaluating the bids for all three parts including American Boulevard, Graham Construction was the apparent low bidder. Graham's cost for American Boulevard was about \$800,000 higher than the funding available. Bid amounts for the American Boulevard Station ranged from about \$3 million to \$3.9 million from the three lowest bidders whereas funding was limited to an award of about \$2.2 million.

Council Member McFarlin asked if we are potentially seeing a trend towards higher bids, even though there is recessionary pressure to lower costs. Unknown "soft costs" associated with working adjacent to an active line with work restrictions may have added contractor risk and cost. Much of the work is expected to be completed during the over night hours and on the weekends. The work that can be completed during the day will require close coordination with rail operations and many stoppages can be expected. These unknown "soft costs" are hard to predict and bidders' costs reflect the inherent risks they run in bidding on such a project. Recent construction bids for more conventional park and ride structures indicated costs significantly below the estimates.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Sheehy Construction, for the construction of the platform extensions and signal upgrades to the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (HLRT) line at a cost of \$10,598,800.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEM

1. Transportation Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Funding

Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning, presented this item to the committee. Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director Finance, was also present to answer any questions. Vennewitz stated that the dollar amounts in her presentation are subject to change, as the final numbers are not yet known. Vennewitz presented the proposed funding breakdown by type of projects and eligibility & geographic area, and the requirements and decision-making process known to date.

2009-84 2009-2012 TIP Amendment: Amend the TIP to include five projects to be funded through the SW Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Program, TAB Action 2009-11

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee.

The Committee had an information presentation on the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Program (ERRP) prior to considering this item. The committee asked that the TIP year be corrected in the action (from 2009-2011 to 2009-2012).

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the following five projects to be funded through the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Program (ERRP).

- SP# 8214-142; TH 5 reconstruction in Oakdale, Lake Elmo, Baytown Twp. and Oak Park Heights.
- SP# 2733-86; TH 100 rebuild lighting system from I-494 to Vernon Ave. in Edina.
- SP# 1981-122; I-35W rebuild lighting system from Cliff Rd. in Burnsville to 106th St. in Bloomington.
- SP# 2780-84; I-94 Fish Lake interchange living snow fence in Maple Grove.
- SP# 2780-83; I-94 rebuild cable median barrier from Fish Lake interchange in Maple Grove to Hennepin/Wright County line

Motion passed.

2009-85 2009-2012 TIP Amendment and Project Scope Change: MnDOT, Include SP#70-00118, Installation of Railroad Crossing Gates at Park Boulevard in St. Lawrence Twp. TAB Action 2009-09

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no further questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#70-00118, installation of railroad crossing gates at Park Boulevard in St. Lawrence Township.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Meeks said that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2009-66 Authorization to Award Contract for Minneapolis & St. Paul Northern Suburban Transit Service

Bruce Dreier, MTS Project Administrator, presented this item to the committee and answered a question from Scherer clarifying the bid amount and award amount.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Lorenz Bus Inc. to provide Minneapolis and St. Paul Northern Suburbs Transit Service from May 30, 2009 to May 31, 2014, in an amount not to exceed \$ 16,887,727.

Motion passed.

2009-77 Amendment to Contract 01P002 with Lorenz Bus Service

John Harper, MTS Supervisor Contracted Services, presented this item to the committee.

Member McFarlin asked whether the service provider is currently operating outside the scope of the existing contract. Harper clarified that the current term and maximum contract amount covers service delivered to this point, but the contract needs the additional funding in order to fund service through the end of May, the contract termination date.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract number 01P002, with Lorenz Bus Service to increase the maximum contract amount by \$360,000 to a new total contract amount not to exceed \$14,693,531.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Meeks said that this item could go forward to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2009-78 Amendment to Contract 04P002 with Laidlaw Transit Services

John Harper, MTS Supervisor Contracted Services, presented this item to the committee. There were no further questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract number 04P002, with Laidlaw Transit Services, to increase the contract amount by \$1,479,934 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$5,260,690.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Transportation Economic Recovery Funding

This item was moved ahead in the agenda in order to inform members prior to the TIP Amendment action items.

2. Monthly Ridership Report for January 2009

Ed Petrie and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit, gave the ridership, marketing and Travel Demand reports for January 2009

3. Non-Motorized Planning Study (Bike and Pedestrian) Update with Transit for Livable Communities

In the interest of time, this item was postponed to a later Transportation Committee date.

4. Customer Survey

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing, introduced John Siqvland, Project Manager Metro Transit Marketing, who gave a report of the results of the Transit Customer Survey that was performed in late October 2009. The last survey of this type was conducted 2 years ago. Siqvland noted the changes/comparison since 2006.

5. 2008 Regional Ridership Report

Elaine Koutsoukos, MTS Senior Planner, presented the 2008 Regional Ridership Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Hilker, and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:10 p.m. February 23, 2009.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary