

Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 No. Robert St., St. Paul, Mn. 55101

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, April 13, 2009**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair	Richard Aguilar
	Georgie Hilker	Peggy Leppik	Kirstin Sersland Beach
	Roger Scherer	Craig Peterson	
Members Absent	Natalie Haas Steffen		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, GM Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	Robert Lilligren		

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on April 13, 2009 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Scherer to adopt the agenda for the April 13, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Peterson seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2009 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services**

Gerri Sutton, MTS Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services, introduced Matt Yager, Metro Mobility Business Systems Analyst, who received an employee recognition award for his work with LCA staff to design, build and implement a web application for the Council’s Research Unit.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported that Gerri Sutton will be on a panel this Thursday at the Minn. Area Agency on Aging board meeting and will explain the Dial-a-Ride restructuring as a part of her presentation. The Regional Solicitation (approved at the 4/08 Council meeting) was sent out to applicants. Applications are due June 15, an information session for applicants will be held on Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, gave a the following updates:

Northstar project - Work continues on stations, and track work adjacent to the Downtown Minneapolis Ballpark Station.

Hiawatha LRT - Construction has begun on the three-car train platforms.

Central Corridor – Key agreements have been reached with MPR and the City of St. Paul.

The new Free Ride coupon has an anti-theft watermark on it to prevent loss. The new pass will roll out this month.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

2009-117 Authorization to Execute Agreements with MVTA, Northstar Corridor Development Authority and Plymouth

Sean Pfeiffer, MTS Financial Analyst, presented this item and staff responded to a question about the Northstar Corridor Development Agency agreement. Committee members were told that the commuter coach lease agreement expired in November, 2009, with the start-up of Northstar Commuter Rail operations. NCDA has not yet made any decisions regarding how the existing commuter coach lease and route will be affected by the rail operations opening.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. Execute an agreement with the Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA) to provide \$443,000 for the lease of a coach bus.
2. Execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) to provide \$346,000 for facility repairs and improvements.
3. Execute an agreement with the City of Plymouth to provide \$300,000 for park-and-ride repairs.

Motion carried.

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

2009-118 Authorization to Execute Contract with Verint Systems, Inc.

Andrew Krueger, Metro Mobility Customer Services Manager, presented this item. He and Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, answered questions from committee members clarifying that the buses to be fitted with these cameras are in the existing fleet and stated that in the future, new buses will have the cameras installed prior to delivery.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Verint Systems Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,116,000 for the purchase of a digital video system to be installed on up to 257 contracted fixed route and Metro Mobility dial-a-ride vehicles.

Motion passed.

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

2009-121 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, and Sean Pfeiffer, MTS Financial Analyst, presented this item. Chair Meeks asked whether the purchase hybrid buses for Metro Mobility had been planned prior to the availability of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds. Staff informed her that Metro Mobility had been researching them as potential, but a decision to do that had not been previously made.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2009 Authorized Capital Program (Multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority to the Transportation Division as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 19,032,023
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 1,492,728
- Amend the 2009 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing spending authority to the Transportation Division as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 2,110,855
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 1,492,728
- Approve changes as detailed in Attachment 1 - attached to the Business Item.

Motion passed.

2009-115 Authorize Extending the Time Period for Preliminary and Advanced Preliminary Design Work for Public Art for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented this item and answered questions from Chair Meeks regarding the communities' desire to choose their own artists and the outreach meetings and neighborhood sessions that have been held with the artists. Because it is not clear at this time, Councilmember Scherer asked that staff stay abreast of whether some of this work can be covered under the newly passed "legacy amendment" to fund arts with taxpayer money.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To extend the time period for preliminary and advanced preliminary design work for public art for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) project through October 2009.

Motion passed.

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

2009-125 Phase II Environmental Site Assessment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented this item. Fuhrmann called Kathryn O'Brien, Principal Contract Administrator CCPO, forward to answer a question about how Braun Intertec compared to other bidders as to price. O'Brien explained that the bidding process was based on the best responsive bidder and the dollar value was looked at after they qualified. Other bid prices weren't looked at, this is part of the process.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute professional services contracts with Braun Intertec to conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, in an amount not to exceed \$1,301,898.
- To issue a Notice-To-Proceed to Braun Intertec to conduct a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment.

Motion passed.

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

2009-126 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Memorandum of Understanding with the City of St. Paul

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented this item and answered questions from committee members regarding the difference in track length between the original O&M facility site and the new Diamond Products site for the O&M facility, and also regarding upcoming sector studies.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Metropolitan Council and city of Saint Paul addressing impacts of project delivery within Saint Paul.

Motion passed.

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

## INFORMATION

1. Minneapolis Multi-Modal Station (Arlene McCarthy, Phil Eckhert-Hennepin County)  
Phil Eckhert, Hennepin County, gave an update of the Minneapolis Multi-Modal Station Study performed by HDR Engineering.

2. Non-Motorized Access to Transit Planning Study

James Andrew, MTS Planner, presented the results of a study commissioned by Metro Transit (Craig Lamothe). This study evaluated bus stops for better access for cyclists and pedestrians.

3. Leadership Academy, Employee Development

Mike Murphy, LOD Consultant, gave a presentation on the Leadership Academy offered by LOD. This training is a result of the need to build the workforce looking forward to the large amount of employees reaching retirement eligibility, and in order to maintain the diversity in the workplace.

4. Commuter Challenge

Bruce Howard, Director Metro Transit Marketing, presented this year's commuter challenge promotion, schedule and goals.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Leppik, seconded by McFarlin, and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. April 13, 2009.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary