

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, May 11, 2009**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair Craig Peterson	Kirstin Sersland Beach Natalie Haas Steffen Roger Scherer	Peggy Leppik Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Georgie Hilker		
Staff Presiding	Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operating Office – Bus & Rail and Acting General Manager MT	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was not present when Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on May 11, 2009 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul. Meeks began the meeting with MTS Director and MT General Manager reports while waiting for a quorum.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported:

- 1.) MTS received notice that the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) will be receiving a communication award for the look of the report; staff will attend a banquet later in May at which the award will be presented.
- 2.) A second vote will be taken by Forest Lake City Council at 7:00 pm tonight regarding Forest Lake Route 288. Forest Lake city staff has worked very hard to convey the issues to the Council members.
- 3.) A lawsuit is pending by a former First Transit employee who was terminated; this falls under the whistleblower law.

Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operating Officer - Bus & Rail and Acting General Manager Metro Transit, reported the following:

- 1.) Metro Transit participated in the Living Green Expo. Over 2,500 people signed up for the Commuter Challenge. Over 2,000 visitors to the Expo toured one of Metro Transit’s hybrid buses.
- 2.) Hiawatha LRT platform construction continues on 10 platforms.
- 3.) Hiawatha LRT to Northstar overhead catenary connection will occur June 6 & 7.
- 4.) The South Garage went 7 days without a trip loss or late pull-out, this included 1,554 pull-outs.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A quorum now present, it was moved by Steffen seconded by Leppik to adopt the agenda for May 11, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by McFarlin seconded by Steffen to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2009 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

### **SW 2009-156 Authorization to Terminate Transit Route 255**

Becky McBride, MTS Project Administrator, presented this item. Chair Meeks reminded the committee that the last day of service for this route would be May 30<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Leppik asked what other transportation options were available to the affected ridership. McBride responded that the available options were: to bus from St. Paul to Mpls and take the Mpls reverse commute, to form a car pool, or to form a van pool. Dial a ride is not an option at this time.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the termination of Route 255, providing reverse commute service between downtown St. Paul and the Wells Fargo Operations Center in Shoreview, effective May 30, 2009.

Motion passed.

### **2009-159 Request Change to Target Fund Balance Policy**

Sean Pfeiffer, MTS Financial Analyst, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members concerning unforeseen occurrences such as spiking gas prices, union contract settlements, ADA demands. Any use of reserves below the target would come before the committee for approval prior to reducing the fund balance below 10%.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the Administrative Policy and Procedure Guide's Target Fund Balance Policy as it relates to Metropolitan Transportation Services in accordance with the revised Target Fund Balance policy (attached to the business item).

Motion passed.

### **2009-164 Authorization to submit Metro Mobility Grant Application for ARRA Funds**

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to submit an ARRA grant application in the amount of \$2,444,000 for Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Motion passed.

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

### **2009-160 Authorization to Purchase Fareboxes**

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Finance Director, introduced Tom Randall, Senior Revenue Operations Manager, who presented this item to the committee. Randall answered questions from committee members regarding the quantity of fareboxes being purchased, the proposed life cycle of fareboxes and the vendor selected.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase 86 new Cents-A-Bill fareboxes and TRiM units from GFI Genfare, Inc. at a total cost of \$1,080,550.

Motion passed.

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

### **SW 2009-161 Hiawatha Light Rail Transit American Boulevard Station, Project 63701**

MarySue Abel, Metro Transit Project Manager, presented this item to the committee and answered a question from Steffen regarding the percentages of funds from the different sources.

Motion by Steffen, 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 new American Boulevard Station in Bloomington on the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (HLRT) line at a cost of \$2,265,300.

Motion passed.

2009-168 Interdivisional Transfer of Vehicles

Jan Homan, Metro Transit Director of Bus Maintenance, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the interdivisional transfer of two (2) buses from Metro Transit assets to Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) regional fleet assets.

Motion passed.

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

2009-169 Authorization to Procure Railroad Liability Insurance for Northstar Commuter Rail

Phil Walljasper, Director Risk Management and Claims, presented this item to the committee. Walljasper explained in detail the liability insurance structure.

McFarlin asked to change the motion to reflect the amount of \$2,055,889.

Amended motion by Peterson, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the procurement of railroad liability insurance for the Northstar Commuter Rail Operations in an amount not to exceed ~~\$2,174,140~~ \$2,055,889. This insurance would be effective from 6/1/09-12/31/10.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009 Regional Ridership Report

Elaine Koutsoukos, MTS Senior Planner, gave the regional ridership report for the first quarter of 2009.

2. Update on the Regional Dial-a-Ride Restructuring Project

Gerri Sutton, MTS Assistant Director Contracted Transit Services, gave an update on the Regional Dial-a-Ride Restructuring project.

3. Northwest Metro Transit Restructuring Study (Sector 8).

Cyndi Harper, Metro Transit, gave an update on the Northwest Metro Transit Restructuring Study (Sector 8).

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:20 p.m. May 13, 2009. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary