

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, June 22, 2009**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair	Kirstin Sersland Beach Natalie Haas Steffen	Roger Scherer Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Craig Peterson Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair	Peggy Leppik	Georgie Hilker
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, 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 June 22, 2009 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul. While waiting for a quorum, Meeks began the meeting with Employee Recognition.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services

Metro Transit:

Tom Humphrey introduced Metro Transit Employee of the Month - Julie Obedoza from the Maintenance Administrative Office at Metro Transit Overhaul Base. Obedoza recently completed the Council Leaders Program. Her project for the Leadership Program consisted of creating a one-stop location for the 300 forms commonly used across the agency. The forms will eventually be linked to the CouncilInfo website for use by staff.

Metropolitan Transportation Services

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, presented a recognition award to Jim Nieman, Metro Mobility Customer Service Representative, for his suggestion and implementation of streamlining delivery confirmation of customer mail on-line with the Post Office at a cost savings to the Council and staff time savings.

Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning, presented recognition awards to the following for their quick action in formulating a process and creating a solicitation process for the distribution of ARRA funds: Carl Ohrn-MTS Planning Analyst, James Andrew-MTS Planner, Kevin Roggenbuck – Transportation Coordinator.

A quorum was now present, and the meeting continued with the regular business.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Meeks noted a amendment to the agenda, striking Information Item number 4-Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Quarterly Update. Motion by Beach seconded by Steffen to adopt the amended agenda for June 22, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Steffen seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2009 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

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

Hiawatha Light Rail 5-year Anniversary

A modest celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Hiawatha Line is planned in downtown Minneapolis this Friday. We will gather at Government Plaza station (on 5th Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues) at 11:50 a.m. for some speeches, birthday cake and music. Chair Bell will be the host. Speakers will be Representative Alice Hausman, Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, Mayor Rybak, and Mayor Winstead. In its five years Hiawatha has served 43 million customers and ridership last year -- at 10.2 million -- was 20 percent higher than projections for the year 2020.

Further Rail Construction Updates

Eight of the existing light rail stations are now under various stages of construction as the platforms are extended to handle 3-car trains. The American Boulevard station is also under full swing construction. A second full weekend closure will be occurring on June 26 – 28 as crews add the pre-cast sections to the end of the existing platform at Ft. Snelling and VA stations. The tactile warning strips will also be replaced at the 28th Avenue and Bloomington stations during this shutdown. Buses will provide service to customers from the 46th Street station to the Mall of America during the shutdown period of late Friday night into very early Monday morning.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported:

Regional Solicitation applications were due last week. The following is a breakdown of the applications that were received: 43 applications in the STP category, requesting a total of \$200M (approx. \$100M available); 20 applications in the CMAQ category, requesting \$80M (\$54M available); 53 applications in Transportation Enhancements category, requesting \$39M (\$19M available); 9 applications in the Bridge Replacement and Improvement category, requesting \$21M (\$8M available).

Chairman Oberstar and House Committee on Transportation Infrastructure have released draft legislation for a new Transportation Authorization Bill. Efforts are being made to reduce the number of funding categories. Work is progressing on the new bill.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

SW 2009-207 Construction of Bus-only Access Ramps in Lakeville, Project 63740

Pat Jones, MT Assistant Director Engineering Metro Transit, introduced Lindsay Sheppard, MT Project Manager, who presented this item. There were no questions from committee members about the Business Item.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Friedges Contracting LLC, for the construction of the Transit-Only Access Ramps in Lakeville, Minnesota at a cost of \$1,274,995.04.

Motion passed.

Questions were asked after the action was taken: Steffen questioned whether taking Business Item 2009-208 off of the 6/22 agenda jeopardizes meeting UPA deadlines. Lamb said the item is working its way through the City of Lakeville approval process and is anticipated to appear at the 7/13 T.C. meeting, and also stated that there will be a full UPA status update at the 7/13 meeting. Steffen questioned whether money will have to be sent back to FTA, since the bid came in 17% below estimate. Lamb said there will be discussions with the FTA regarding the use of favorable balances.

2009-213 RALF Annual Plan

Ann Braden, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members. Braden reminded the committee legislation was passed this year allowing Metropolitan Council to divert 75% of the annual RALF levy to Transit Operations.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the 2009 Annual RALF Program Plan which includes the same corridors and program guidelines as the 2008 plan.

Motion passed.

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

2009-209 Amendment to the 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Elaine Koutsoukos, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

- That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2009 Unified Planning Work Program, as shown on the attached summary sheet, to add \$909,608 CPG Planning funds and \$3,500,000 ARRA funds for an amended budget of \$8,419,681.
- That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached resolution and authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the UPWP agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, to obtain the additional planning funds.

Motion passed.

2009-179 2009 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning, presented this item and answered questions regarding the cost for the Travel Behavior Inventory and possible administrative or operating costs for Cycloplan.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

That the Council amend the 2009 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the Operating Budget Amendment (2009) – Attachment 1 on the Business Item.

Motion passed.

2009-180 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget Amendment

Amendments to Metro Transit (MT) and Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget were presented to the committee by Ed Petrie - Metro Transit Director of Finance, and Amy Vennewitz - MTS Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning. Petrie answered questions regarding reprogramming funds into future grants. Meeks asked for clarification about the Southwest Corridor Studies and who, and what amount has been spent to date, and also asked for clarification on the status of Northstar BNSF Crew Facility funding.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2009 Authorized Capital Program (Multi-year authorization) by adding or subtracting spending authority to the Transportation Division as follows:
Metro Transit \$ 2,766,375
Metropolitan Transportation Services \$ 1,995,598 new authority
Metropolitan Transportation Services (\$ 10,371,659) closed and removed projects
- Amend the 2009 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing spending authority to the Transportation Division as follows:
Metro Transit \$ 2,766,375
Metropolitan Transportation Services \$ 1,995,598
- Approve changes as detailed in Attachment 1 on the Business Item.

Motion passed.

2009-210 2009-2012 TIP Amendment: I-94 and TH 77 Managed Lanes – TAB Action 2009-40

SW

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the I-94 and TH 77 Managed Lane Studies in the TIP.

Motion passed.

2009-211 2009-2012 TIP Amendment: Include five projects in the Federal Appropriations Act – TAB Action 2009-39

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members. Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include five projects that have received 2009 appropriation funds.

Motion passed.

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

2009-212 Authority to Execute Agreements with Maple Grove and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA)

Cole Hiniker, MTS Planner, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Maple Grove for:

- \$1,686,757 required local match for a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) federal award of \$6,747,028 and;
- Up to \$250,000 of additional RTC funds for costs associated with expansion of the lot capacity.

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with MVTA for:

- \$560,000 for remodeling the 2nd level of their Burnsville bus garage.

Motion passed.

2009-219 Authorization to Apply for JARC Funding for Van-GO!

John Harper, MTS Supervisor Contracted Services, presented this item to the committee. Chair Meeks asked for clarification of the origins and destinations of vans eligible for this funding, and Harper stated that primarily this funding will be used for vans originating in the adjacent counties, which are destined for jobs within the metropolitan area. Chair Meeks asked for the source of the local match. Harper clarified that the local match will be supplied by Metropolitan Council. Member Hass Steffen stated her concern that Met Council is funding riders who live in the adjacent counties, but is struggling to provide dial-a-ride trips to certain residents of the metro area for medical purposes. Arlene McCarthy responded that Metropolitan Council staff has met with MN/DOT staff to explore funding opportunities for those trips.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Steffen:

That the Council approve Resolution 2009-07 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for 2010 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Motion passed.

2009-220 Northstar/Twins Ballpark Operations and Maintenance Agreement

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item and answered questions about the train testing schedules. There were no additional questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Operations and Maintenance Agreement by the Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Ballpark Authority, Minnesota Twins Ballpark, LLC, and Minnesota Twins, LLC for the purpose of establishing responsibility between the parties for the ongoing operation and maintenance for the Northstar Commuter Rail Minneapolis Station, Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Ballpark Station and the Vertical Circulation Building connecting the two stations.

Motion passed.

Following the Business Items, Steffen commented that the committee should pay close attention to travel options in the future. She is concerned that large employers outside of the area may employ Metro area residents, affecting travel patterns and travel options.

INFORMATION

1. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) Update.

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, introduced TAAC Chair Ron Biss, who gave a report of the TAAC activities during the past year. The TAAC is a committee of users and advocates for the disability community to advise the Metropolitan Council on management policies for special transportation services. The TAAC assists the Metropolitan Council in communicating with riders, advocacy groups, and legislators to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the region's special transportation services and assists the Metropolitan Council with developing the short and long-range plans to meet the accessible transportation needs of persons in the metropolitan area. This is not only transit, but includes pedestrian ways as well. In the past year the committee has had three active ad hoc task forces: One focusing on the North Star commuter rail, another focusing on the central corridor light rail, and a third focusing on pedestrian ways that pertain to the development of the Central Corridor LRT and the development of 2nd Ave & Marquette Ave bus project. Biss also listed numerous other projects on which the TAAC heard information during the last year.

2. Performance Measures Report for April/May 2009

Vince Pellegrin, Metro Transit Chief Operating Officer, and Dave Indrehus, Metro Transit Police Chief, gave the performance and reliability measures report for bus and rail for May 2009, and a report of same from the Police Department.

3. Monthly Ridership Report for April/May 2009.

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Director of Marketing, gave the ridership, marketing and Travel Demand reports for May 2009. Petrie stated that he is beginning to see the economic and job loss impacts in the ridership numbers and will continue to monitor how the downturn will affect the budget.

4. Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Quarterly Update.

In the interest of time, this item was taken off of the agenda, to be addressed at a meeting in the future.

5. Regional Dial-a-Ride Operating Parameters

Gerri Sutton, Assistant Dir. Contracted Transit Services – MTS, presented the recommendations from the Coordination Advisory Committee regarding the operating parameters, decision dates, and fare proposal. Approval for the recommendations is scheduled to come before the Transportation Committee at its July 13th meeting. Approval for a Public Hearing will also come before the Transportation Committee in the near future.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. June 22, 2009. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary