

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, August 24, 2009**

Members Present	Peggy Leppik, Acting Chair Craig Peterson	Kirstin Sersland Beach Richard Aguilar	Georgie Hilker
Members Absent	Annette Meeks, Chair Robert McFarlin, Vice Chair	Roger Scherer	Natalie Haas Steffen
Others Present	Metropolitan Councilmember Polly Bowles Minneapolis Councilmember Robert Lilligren		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	

**CALL TO ORDER**

While awaiting a quorum, Acting Chair Leppik requested that staff proceed with the Employee Recognition presentation.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Michael Conlon, Metro Transit Director of Bus and Rail Safety, introduced Brenda Himrich, Manager of Bus Safety. Himrich is being recognized for her many contributions to Metro Transit’s excellent safety record. Conlon listed a number of accomplishments including leading the planning and execution of the recent Metro Transit Pandemic Tabletop emergency preparedness exercise and managing the Distracted Driver Training Program, which included an excellent video, and which earned the 2009 APTA Gold AWARD. Conlon also expressed appreciation for Himrich’s day-to-day efforts, enthusiasm and collaboration with others. Acting Chair Leppik and GM Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations and presented Himrich with a certificate of recognition for her achievements.

A quorum now being present, Chair Leppik called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:10 pm on August 24, 2009, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was amended to move Business Item #14 up, to be presented immediately prior to Item #10. Motion by Aguilar seconded by Hilker to adopt the amended agenda for the August 24, 2009, Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were amended to include Councilmember Hilker in the list of Members Present. It was then moved by Peterson seconded by Hilker to approve the amended minutes from the August 10, 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:

Three Transit Police camera towers were set up in the entrance circle outside Heywood for review prior to this meeting. These towers are Mobile Video Surveillance Trailers, which provide our Transit Police with tactical video surveillance for use at the park-and-ride lots or at a high density event. They are equipped with a computer so that video can be accessed live from a remote location and have a built-in recording system that is

used for evidentiary purposes. The mast extends to 30 feet and gives a “bird’s-eye” view of the area of concern. There are two pan-tilt-zoom cameras that are used to scan the area. If someone begins to tamper with the trailer, the cameras automatically point to the ground to record the event. If someone attempts to move the trailer more than 50 feet from its location (i.e., steal it) a silent alarm is set off and the trailer is tracked via a hidden GPS on board. One of these trailers was used at the Cottage Grove park-and-ride after the occurrence of a series of break-ins of parked vehicles. The thefts stopped immediately, and the camera was left in place for several months until permanent cameras were installed. The cost of each unit is \$30,000, and they have been purchased with Federal Funds.

The agency continues to convert magnetic card users to the Go-To Card. In July, sales of the Go-To Card represented about 54 percent of the total market share of all prepaid stored value and 31-day passes, the highest percentage of monthly sales to date, according to the Finance Department. By September, 40 retailers will have sales terminals that will allow them to handle Go-To Card transactions, giving customers access to buying or adding value to Go-To Cards at supermarkets and other locations across the Twin Cities.

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, reported

Metro Transit and Mn/DOT hosted a staff tour of UPA projects on August 20. In the I-35W corridor, the high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane south of the Crosstown construction project and the dynamic priced lane north of Crosstown are scheduled to open September 30. McCarthy distributed informational brochures for the MnPASS express payment system which can be used in the new lanes.

Staff is working on scheduling a tour for Councilmembers of the Southwest Transitway corridor. This is projected to occur in October, possibly on a date to coincide with a meeting of the Committee of the Whole. More information will be provided as plans develop.

#### **INFORMATION – Southwest Transitway**

Katie Walker, Southwest Transitway Project Manager for Hennepin Regional Railroad Authority, provided an update on the Southwest Transitway LRT project. She reported that work is progressing on finalizing evaluation criteria moving toward establishing locally preferred alternatives. An open house was held in each of the project’s five partner cities, and a public hearing is scheduled for September 17 in Hopkins to present preliminary evaluation criteria and invite comment. Walker distributed materials which outlined the development process and decision-making timeline and noted that more extensive information is available on the Southwest Transitway website.

#### **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

2009-288            State Safety Oversight Intergovernmental Agreement

Mike Conlon, Metro Transit Director of Bus and Rail Safety, presented the business item. There were no questions from the committee.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, which provides for the transfer of funds for the purpose of contracted safety oversight of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system, including Hiawatha and Central Corridor Light Rail Transit. The agreement would govern the time from fall 2009 until June 30, 2013, and specifies \$240,000 of funding for the State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA).

Motion passed.

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

2009-252            2009 Unified Operating Budget Amendments

Amendments to Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services operating budgets were presented to the Committee by Ed Petrie, Director of Finance for Metro Transit, and Sean Pfeiffer, Metropolitan Transportation Services Financial Analyst. Staff responded to a question related to differences in operating costs on Route 288.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Hilker:

That the Council amend the 2009 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table attached to the original business item.

Motion passed.

2009-253          2009-2014 Capital Improvement Plan and 2009 Capital Program and Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie and Sean Pfeiffer presented amendments to Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services capital budgets and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Hilker:

That the Council:

- Amend the 2009 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding and removing spending authority as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metro Transit	\$ 12,843,267
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 8,290,707

- Amend the 2009 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by adding or reducing appropriation as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metro Transit	\$ 7,355,008
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 3,007,677

- Approve transfers between capital projects as detailed in Attachment 1 of the original business item.

Motion passed.

2009-289          UPA Transit Technologies – Transit Signal Priority Amendment 3

Craig Lamothe, UPA Transit Project Manager for Metro Transit, presented this item. There were no questions from committee

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Beach:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment with Egan Company for installation of Transit Signal Priority (TSP) equipment on up to an additional 272 buses plus 16 spares at a cost of up to \$1,100,000.

Motion passed.

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

2009-297 SW      Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Kenrick Avenue Park & Ride – Construction of Transit-Only Access Ramps, Change Order Allowance

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Director of Facilities and Engineering, presented this item to the committee. He noted that the item had been amended to reflect revised amounts based on updated calculations. There was no further discussion or information requested.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Aguilar:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to increase the Contract Price for contract number 09PO94, for the construction of Transit-Only Access Ramps to and from I-35 to the Kenrick Avenue Park & Ride, a cumulative amount of 15% of the original Contract Price.

Motion passed.

2009-294 SW      2009-2012 TIP Amendment to Add Rail Crossing Safety Project in Cottage Grove – TAB Action 2009-44

Kevin Roggenbuck, MTS Transportation Coordinator, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the rail crossing safety project at the crossing on Belden Boulevard and the Canadian Pacific railroad in Cottage Grove.  
Motion passed.

2009-295            2009-2012 TIP Amendment to Add Three ADA Compliance Upgrade Projects – TAB  
Action 2009-43

Kevin Roggenbuck presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.  
Motion by Peterson, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include three ADA compliance upgrade projects.  
Motion passed.

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

2009-293            Approval to Submit Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) Grant Applications

Mary Karlsson, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions or discussion from committee members.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for 2010 grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following capital and operating projects:  
Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Capital for Advanced Preliminary Engineering, Final Design, and Construction: Est. \$66 million

Cedar Avenue BRT Operating for BRT Express Service to Cedar Grove (Eagan) and Lakeville Park-and-Rides: Est. \$150,000

Hiawatha LRT Operating: Est. \$7.4 million

Northstar Commuter Rail Operating: Est. \$5.7 million

I-35W BRT Capital for offline station improvements and station-to-station service buses: Est. \$2.75 million

I-35W BRT Operating for Lakeville BRT Express service: Est. \$131,000

Motion passed.

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

2009-284 SW        Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Federal Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)  
Adequacy Determination

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented this item. Councilmember Beach made the motion to forward all six Central Corridor items to the Met Council without action, stating that she didn't think that the committee had enough information to vote and cited the action taken on a previous contract amendment; the motion was not seconded. Committee members felt that they had sufficient information and that this action was very different than the previous contract amendment.

Councilmember Bowles asked how the Council can both draft and approve the FEIS and Adequacy Determination. Mark Fuhrmann stated that we work closely with the FTA and their procedures, and this approval is also a requirement of the State Statutes. Chair Leppik stated that there are no budget implications on this item.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the adequacy of the environmental process completed as part of development of the Central Corridor LRT project, and that the Regional Administrator be authorized to sign the Final Environmental Impact Statement Adequacy Determination.

Motion passed.

2009-287 SW        Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project Scope and Project Budget Adjustment

Before staff presented this item, Councilmember Beach reiterated her that it be forwarded to the full Council without a recommendation. Committee members felt it was their responsibility to discuss at the committee level and forward their informed recommendation to the Council.

Background on the item was then presented by Mark Fuhrmann. Councilmember Bowles asked for more clarification on the diagonal right of way in downtown St. Paul. Mark Fuhrmann explained that the original intent was for the city of St. Paul to acquire this property, but that the diagonal property is being added to the project scope and budget because the City does not have the resources to acquire it.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council approve adjusting the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit overall project budget from \$913.9 million to between \$937.3 million and \$941.3 million and Cost Effectiveness Index to between \$24.88 and \$24.99 and authorize staff to submit the annual New Starts application to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by September 9, 2009.

Motion passed.

#### 2009-286 SW Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Fourth Street Utility Construction Contract Award

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrmann. Chair Leppik asked Fuhrmann what the definition of an additive alternate was. Fuhrmann explained that this was a separately identified scope of work within the bid that the Council could elect to accept or reject after analyzing the value.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Hilker:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Carl Bolander & Sons, for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) 4<sup>th</sup> Street Advanced Utility Construction Contract in St. Paul, Minnesota at a base cost of \$12,049,675.20. An additive alternate will be accepted at a cost of \$451,486.00, resulting in the total contract amount of \$12,501,161.20. The additive alternate is fully reimbursable to the Council by District Energy/District Cooling (DE/DC). Award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Staff will report on the current status of the LONP at the meeting.

Motion passed.

#### 2009-291 Master Funding Agreement with City of Saint Paul for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrmann. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project with the City of Saint Paul. Metropolitan Council execution of this Agreement is contingent upon receipt of a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Staff will report on the current status of the LONP at the meeting.

Motion passed.

#### 2009-292 Master Funding Agreement with Saint Paul Water Board Commission for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrmann. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project with the St. Paul Board of Water Commissioners. Metropolitan Council execution of this Agreement is contingent upon receipt of a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Staff will report on the current status of the LONP at the meeting.

Motion passed.

#### 2009-290 Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Vehicle Procurement

This item was presented by Mark Fuhrmann. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) for the Council's procurement of Central Corridor Light Vehicles.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Performance Measures Report for July 2009

Vince Pellegrin, Metro Transit Chief Operating Officer, and Metro Transit Police Chief Dave Indrehus reported on bus and rail performance, reliability, safety and security.

2. Monthly Ridership Report for July 2009

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie and Director of Marketing Bruce Howard presented ridership figures and a marketing update for July.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Leppik adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. August 24, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Maday, Recording Secretary