

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, October 12, 2009**

Members Present Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair Kirstin Sersland Beach Peggy Leppik
 Craig Peterson Natalie Haas Steffen Richard Aguilar
 Georgie Hilker Roger Scherer

Members Absent Annette Meeks, Chair

Staff Presiding Brian Lamb, GM, Metro Transit Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS

TAB Liaison David Gepner

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Vice Chair McFarlin called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on October 12, 2009 at Metropolitan Council Chambers.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Hilker seconded by Steffen to adopt the agenda for October 12, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Scherer seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2009 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services

Connie Kozlak, MTS Manager Systems Planning, presented Productivity and Goal Attainment awards to Ann, Braden and Chauncey Case, Senior Planners in MTS, for their work on the processing of the Local Comprehensive Plan Reviews.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported on two financial situations in the east metro area.

1. Rush Line Corridor bus service. Four counties (Anoka, Ramsey Washington and Chisago) have agreed to share in funding to start some service from the east metro to St. Paul. Federal money could only be used for construction. Counties’ share of federal construction funds will be used for Maplewood Mall Park and Ride expansion, then the Metro Council can allocate some funds for the Rush line operation (a funding “swap” to allow both entities to move forward to deliver the projects).
2. Alternatives Analysis funding. There are SAFETEA-LU earmarks that are rather restricted in their use. The Metro Council will use some of that funding for a portion of the Travel Behavior Inventory and in turn the Metro Council will provide funding to the I-94 East Corridor Study.

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

WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS ‘ALL NEW AND IMPROVED METRO TRANSIT’

A section of Metro Transit’s website has been launched to highlight innovations for our service, technology and environmental sensitivity under the marketing banner “All New and Improved Metro Transit.”

Billboards and bus wraps have been installed.

The billboards are at these 4 locations –

Hwy 52 / Lafayette Bridge – right next to I-94 – St. Paul
Downtown Minneapolis on Hennepin Ave at 10th St – few blocks up from Target Center
I-35W / Stinson Blvd – near U of M
I-94 / 7th Ave – near Warehouse District and Bookman

Steffen commented that it is important to have a “system” name for the whole transportation system, recognizable by people from out of town. This is important so visitors know where to find information about the entire transportation system.

HIAWATHA LIGHT RAIL UPDATE

This station work was completed on Sunday/yesterday–so the station re-opened in time for the Twins game–

1. 28th avenue station received the new tactile warning strips in time for the station to be re-opened for Twins fans going to the playoff game scheduled Sunday AFTER a planned shutdown of the south end of the Hiawatha line. Additional work completed was the cutting of the track to replace the insulated joints that detect trains in 4 locations near the stations and at the Mall of America. All of this work was accelerated when staff knew the Twins schedule for the playoffs.
2. Work is progressing on the new American Boulevard station and it will soon be open (hopefully by the December 12 pick).
3. Hiawatha trains will begin pre-revenue operations to the new Target Field station starting next Saturday October 17. Full revenue service starts on the same weekend as the opening of Northstar service grand opening day November 14.

TRANSIT AND TOLLING TEAM UP ON I-35W

More than 130 people have purchased both transponders for MN/PASS express toll lanes and discounted Go-To cards for transit trips in a joint Mn/DOT-Metro Transit promotion to sell better commuting options on I-35W.

BUSINESS LEADERS TO GET SNEAK PEEK AT BIKE SHARING

Downtown Minneapolis business leaders are meeting today to learn about a bicycle-sharing program that will launch next May. Nice Ride Minnesota (www.niceridemn.com) will place 1,000 bicycles at 80 kiosks at key Minneapolis locations, including many with close access to transit. Bicycles will be rented – and released from the kiosk-by credit card transactions. Renters can return the bikes to any self-service kiosk, not just the one from which it was rented. More than 100 cities around the world have similar programs. The Minneapolis program is sponsored in part by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.

FUNK GETS INDUSTRY RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Nicollet Transportation Manager Brian Funk for being selected as one of *Mass Transit* magazine’s 40 Under 40 emerging leaders in public transportation. Funk started as a bus operator at CyRide, while he was a student at Iowa State University. He joined Metro Transit 10 years ago. He is profiled in the magazine’s September/October issue.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2009-361 Authorization to Purchase Small Replacement Buses

Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager, presented this item. McFarlin asked why we had two contracts, one of which was for one bus only. Curtiss stated that Scott County wanted to use a different vendor and the State has contracts for both vendors.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with the following vendors for small buses in an amount not to exceed \$710,000:

1. Hoglund Bus Co. Inc (440473) for 11 buses.

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2. North Central Bus Co (440475) for 1 bus.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2009-362 Transit Link Fare Recommendation

Gerri Sutton, MTS Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services, presented this item.

Steffen noted that the public hearing summary should include two attendees at the Anoka County public hearing as Council Members Steffen and Sanda were present.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the recommended fare proposal for Transit Link dial-a-ride service per attachment A of the business item.

Motion passed.

2009-363 Authorization to Exercise Contract Options with Motor Coach Industries

Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise purchase options on contract #08P114 with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to purchase one coach in an amount not to exceed \$522,600.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2009-358 Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Tail Track Ground Lease with Hennepin County

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented this item; there were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Ground Lease with the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority to set forth responsibilities for the ownership, operation and maintenance of the Tail Track area in support of the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension portion of the Northstar Corridor Commuter Rail Project.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2009-355 Lease Agreement for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Construction Field Office in Downtown St. Paul

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented this item and answered questions from committee members as to the start date and duration of the lease, and whether there are plans to have a similar site for the same purpose toward the westerly end of Civil East Phase of the CCLRT project as well.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a lease agreement with First National Building Holdings, Inc. for 1,058 sq. ft. space for calendar years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$63,500.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2009-356 Approve Preliminary Design of Public Artwork for Each Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Station

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, introduced Alicia Vap, Project Manager of Station Design, who presented this item to the committee. Vap gave a detailed presentation of the artwork for each station. Samples of some of the artwork were available as well. Members asked questions regarding vandalism and littering in and near the artwork, and questioned the amount of public feedback on the designs.

Committee member Steffen commented that there would be opportunity for artwork on the Twins Stadium station, however, Lamb/Fuhrmann reported that the Twins Stadium Station is not in Metropolitan Council ownership. McFarlin questioned whether the committee and council action on the artwork design is a requirement of the FTA, to which Fuhrmann stated that it is not.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator:

- To approve the preliminary design of artwork for each Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) station.
- To extend the time period for advanced preliminary design work for public art for the CCLRT project through December 31, 2009.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2009-357 ABC Ramps Flexible Parking Pricing Demonstration Program

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Director of Marketing, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members regarding the duration of the study/demonstration and the number of participants expected.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the regional administrator to enter into a joint powers agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) to participate in a Flexible Parking Pricing Demonstration program during 2009-2011.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2009-360 Authorization to Award Contract for Bus Surveillance System Maintenance

Tom Humphrey, Metro Transit Asst. Dir. of Admin. – Bus, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions or comments from the committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Alarm & Communication Systems, Inc. for maintenance of bus surveillance systems as specified and as bid for a three-year term, with an option to extend the contract term up to an additional twelve months.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

INFORMATION

1. Northstar Commuter Rail Grand Opening and Marketing Update

Bruce Howard and Kelci Stones gave a presentation about the upcoming Northstar Commuter Rail Grand opening scheduled for November 14, and the marketing efforts for the rail line.

2. Update on Xcel Energy Projects for Metro Transit

Tom Thorstenson introduced Robert Rimstad from Facilities Engineering and together they gave a presentation about energy reduction goals and progress to date.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik and passed, to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:50 p.m. October 12, 2009.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary