

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**

**Monday, January 25, 2010**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Kirstin Sersland Beach Craig Peterson	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair Natalie Haas Steffen Georgie Hilker	Richard Aguilar Roger Scherer
Members Absent	Peggy Leppik		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager MT	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	None present		

**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 January 25, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

Chair Meeks began with the Metro Transit Employee Recognition while waiting for a quorum.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Brian Lamb began by pointing out the tremendous amount of staff work that was involved once the UPA projects were given approval. A powerpoint presentation was given showing staff members from various workgroups that contributed to the success of the UPA projects. Staff members were from Engineering Facilities, Service Development, Bus Operations & Maintenance, Instruction Services, Safety, Marketing, Grants, Purchasing, Information Services, and Robert Street team.

Tom Thorstenson, Director Engineering & Facilities introduced six individuals receiving employee recognition: Craig Lamothe, Dave Hanson, Steve Mahowald, Lindsay Sheppard, John Siqveland, and Gary Nyberg (not present), stating that these individuals represent the efforts put forth by many employees to deliver the UPA projects on time and within budget.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A quorum now present, a motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Steffen to adopt the agenda for January 25, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2010 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

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

Surface Transportation Reauthorization Outreach Meeting

Today USDOT Secretary Ray LaHood and Congressman Jim Oberstar held a “town hall” meeting at the Humphrey Institute regarding “Challenges and Opportunities in Transportation” to discuss ways to improve the delivery of the upcoming surface transportation programs. This series of events are being held across the country with Federal, state and local officials and other stakeholders like Metro Transit. A tour was also conducted and a press conference followed at Model Cities.

### Metro Transit Projects Featured At Washington, D.C. Conference

Two Metro Transit projects were featured by University of Minnesota and Mn/DOT researchers at an international transportation conference last week in Washington, D.C. The success of the Minnesota Urban Partnership Agreement (which, among other things, built park-ride lots/ramps and the double bus lanes in downtown Minneapolis) and the impact of the Hiawatha Line on adjacent property values were on the agenda of the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board.

MnDOT was represented at the conference including Commissioner Sorel. MnDOT staff made several presentations relating to our UPA at the conference. This is another venue where our success was touted in front of a national and international audience.

### Transit Information Serves More Than 1 Million Callers

Transit Information representatives handled more than 1.2 million calls in 2009, the fifth consecutive year in which the staff topped the one-million call mark. Customers planned 5.3 million trips on line in 2009, down from 5.6 million a year earlier. 80% of first time callers end up using the system.

### Lost & Found Total Grows In 2009

Customers left more items on buses and trains last year and reclaimed fewer of them, according to a report from the Customer Relations department. Some 17,275 items were recovered in 2009 by bus operators, train operators and others; customers were reunited with 3,561 of their possessions – 21 percent of the total. In 2008, 16,783 items were turned in, 4,000 were claimed – 24 percent.

### Transit Stars In Viking Home Finale

The last home Vikings game was a success. Ridership was high for light rail and the supplement to service with 20 articulated buses helped handle the large crowds. Many fans were served by both Hiawatha LRT and Northstar. Approximately 200+ customers rode Northstar to the game.

### Transit Stops Total 14,754

At year-end, Metro Transit and regional transit providers served 14,707 bus stops, 38 light-rail stops and 9 commuter-rail stops, according to a report from the service development division. Metro Transit buses served 12,569 of these bus stops.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported on the following:

There is a TIP amendment on the agenda concerning the possible Stimulus II funding. The Stimulus II bill has not been passed by Congress yet, however, the USDOT, FHWA and FTA have said to plan on Stimulus II funds. This action is in order to be ready should such a bill pass. The Stimulus II bill will require that 50% of the funds be under contract within 90 days, and the other 50% within 180 days (twice as fast as the ARRA funds last year). Because of this tight timeframe, there may be a need for process changes (i.e. budget amendments, TAB approvals) to ensure a quick turn-around.

A reminder that the workshop on the Metropolitan Highway System Investment Study (MHSIS) will be held on 1/28/10 at the University of Minnesota.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

2010-40            Transportation Committee Work Plan

Brian Lamb, Metro Transit General Manager and Arlene McCarthy, Metropolitan Transportation Services Director presented their division topics for the Transportation Committee Work Plan for 2010.

Steffen asked that more sub-details be added to the Planning Issues section under “Regional Transitway Guidelines”.

McCarthy will add the details requested by Steffen and re-distribute the amended 2010 Transportation Committee Work Plan.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee approve the Plan attached to the business item (with the amendments requested by Steffen) as its Work Plan for 2010.

**Motion passed.**

This item does not appear before the full Council.

**SW 2010-38** Authorization to Submit Grant Application for Federal Transit Administration 5309 Livability Funds

Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Facilities Planner, presented this item and answered a question from Steffen regarding whether the money is included in the Capital Budget that was already passed.

There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to submit a grant application for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Program Grants in the amount of \$6,000,000.

**Motion passed.**

**SW 2010-41** 2010-2013 TIP Amendment to Add State Project 2776-03, I-494/TH169 Interchange Reconstruction, Stimulus II MnDOT Project

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. He stated that unless Stimulus II or other funding sources materialize, this project will have to be taken out of the TIP to maintain fiscal constraint.

The FHWA is allowing this project to be amended into the TIP because of the very tight deadline in the House Stimulus II Bill.

The TAB supported this project because it was in the TIP at one time as part of the Governor's Bonding Bill. Due to the cost of other projects, it had to be taken out of the TIP and Plan. The TAB voted to use \$34 M MnDOT loan payback to match the TIGER fund application.

No public comments were made at the Transportation Committee meeting.

Motion was made by McFarlin, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the I-494/TH169 Interchange Reconstruction to be funded by Stimulus II.

**Motion passed.**

Steffen requested information in the future regarding R/W acquisition and RALF Funds, particularly as it pertains to the TH 610 and I-494 projects.

**2010-39** Authorization to Purchase Small Buses

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

Motion made by Scherer, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements using the State of Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing Venture to purchase small buses with the following vendors in a total amount not to exceed \$1,600,000:

- Høglund Bus Co. Inc. for nine buses; and
- North Central Bus Sales for thirteen buses.

**Motion passed.**

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

**2010-42** 2010 Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Review  
Chauncey Case, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item to the committee and stated that Denny Probst – Metropolitan Airports Commission was also present to answer any questions from committee members.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Beach, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Find that the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has an adequate public participation process for development and review of its 2010 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including preparation of an assessment of environmental effects (AOEE) for 2010 projects with potential environmental effects.
- 2) Find that the 2010 CIP projects have adequate funding and are in conformance with the region's Aviation System Plan and consistent with Council policy; and,
- 3) Recommend approval of the following project: *MSP Taxiway C/D Complex*.

**Motion passed.**

2010-43      2030 Aviation System Technical Update Review

Connie Kozlak, MTS Manager Systems Planning, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2030 Aviation System Technical Report for transmittal to the FAA and for use in future amendments of the *Transportation Policy Plan* (TPP).

**Motion passed.**

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

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. 2030 Park-and-Ride Plan

Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Facilities Planner, gave an update of this plan and handed out the Draft Plan. He stated that the Suburban Transit Providers, MTS, and counties are currently reviewing the draft, with plans to adopt in the future.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Beach, seconded by Steffen to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:50 p.m. January 25, 2010. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,      LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary