

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, February 8, 2010**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Kirstin Sersland Beach	Craig Peterson Natalie Haas Steffen Georgie Hilker	Richard Aguilar Peggy Leppik
Members Absent	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair	Roger Scherer	
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 4:40 pm on February 8, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul. Meeks began the meeting with the Director MTS and General Manager MT reports while waiting for a quorum.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

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

1. The deadline for announcement of recipients of TIGER fund grants (a competitive ARRA program) is 2/17/10.
2. TAC will be sending TIP amendments to TAB in anticipation of a Stimulus II package. TAB is scheduled to select projects for the Regional Solicitation next week.

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

1. 200 people are testing the Go-To interactive voice feature, which will enable people to add amounts, or deactivate the card, among other things, by voice.
2. January ridership numbers look on par with the same time last year, even without including the numbers from Northstar. Metro Transit is off to a good start in 2010.
3. Customer advocate Tony Ilea has a cameo on a documentary airing on public TV regarding community mobility and older drivers.
4. Metro Transit is closing in on the final leg of the LRT 3-car platform commissioning. This work must be performed between 2:00 - 4:00 am when the LRT is not in service. Trials for 3-car trains will begin in April.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A quorum now present, a motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Leppik to adopt the agenda for February 8, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Steffen to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2010 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2010-47 Metro Mobility Hybrid Bus Purchase

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility General Manager, presented this item and answered a question from Chair Meeks regarding the type of service that these buses will provide.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with Hogle Bus Company Inc. (MNDOT Contract 442667) for nine (9) buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,040,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-45 2010 Unified Capital Program Amendment

Ed Petrie, Metro Mobility Finance Director, presented this item.

Meeks asked for clarification of where the money comes from and Petrie responded that staff looked at the 6-year plan and could “take” money from other projects that are projected but not programmed, yet. Meeks asked for examples of those projects. Steffen commented that \$2 M is a large amount to be “taken” from other projects, especially after a budget has been approved by the Council.

Motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2010 Authorized Capital Program (Multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority to the Transportation Division as follows:

Metro Transit	\$2,383,600
---------------	-------------

- Amend the 2010 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation to the Transportation Division as follows:

Metro Transit	\$2,383,600
---------------	-------------

- Approve Capital project as detailed in Attachment 1 to the Business Item 2010-45.

Motion passed with Steffen voting against.

2010-49 Storage Tanks at Heywood, Nicollet, and Ruter Garages, Project 62710

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Director Engineering & Facilities, presented this item to the committee and answered a question from Steffen as to why the bid is higher than what staff projected.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract for Design and Construction Support services relative to the installation of above-ground storage tanks at the Heywood, Nicollet and Ruter Garages, with Stanley Consultants at a cost of \$420,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-46 Authorization to Amend Contract for Diesel Fuel Supply

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, presented this item and responded to Leppik request for clarification on the per gallon bid pricing. Gran and Lamb both answered questions from Steffen regarding whether this is a \$30M “hit” to the 2010 budget already approved (Lamb explained that this is part of the fuel-forward pricing program, and clarified for Steffen.)

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the diesel fuel supply contract with Western Petroleum Company to increase the maximum total compensation from \$71 million to \$100 million and extend the term through June 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

1. Upcoming Changes on Nicollet Mall

Steve Mahowald and Rachel Dungca, Metro Transit, presented this item. They presented the key changes, outreach/signage to let riders know of the changes, schedule changes, free ride zones.

Meeks expressed an opposition to free rides, as she feels they devalue transit, and she is also concerned about the abuse of free rides. Lamb explained that this is somewhat of a compromise to what the business owners wanted, which was a Nicollet Mall shuttle.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Beach, seconded by Hilker to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:45 p.m. February 8, 2010. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary