

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee

Monday, February 22, 2010

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

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 pm on February 22, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Beach, seconded by Leppik to adopt the amended agenda for February 22, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2010 regular Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Brian Lamb introduced Jeff Wostrel, and Brian Funk, managers from the Heywood and Nicollet Garages. Wostrel and Funk introduced their employees and recognized them for the exemplary customer service. They are: James Clobes (Heywood Garage) and Bradlee Birt (Nicollet Garage).

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT and METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

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

Letter from Young Rider

Brian read a letter from what appears to be a very young rider apologizing for not paying to ride the HLRT because he did not have the full fare. The young boy’s mother required him pay “ten times” the money and write the letter of apology.

Go To Market Share

Thirty nine percent of all rides last month were taken by customers using Go-To cards. According to a report from the finance division, 2.3 million of January’s 5.9 million rides were taken with smartcards, including Metropasses, U-Passes, Go-To College passes and other Go-To cards. It was the fourth consecutive month in which Go-To market share reached 39 percent. The goal for all of 2010 is 45 percent.

January Ridership

January ridership was 996 rides – or .02 percent – higher than January 2009. Even though the ridership increase was small, it marked the first year-over-year ridership increase in 13 months. For every month last

year (and in December 2008) ridership was down when compared with the same month a year earlier. In three of those months – June, July and August last year – the loss reached double digits. The ridership losses, of course, were linked to a weakened economy and high unemployment rate.

Black History Month

Committee members are invited to our Black History Month celebration this Friday, February 26, at Heywood Garage drivers' room. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a program at 11:45 a.m. featuring speaker Judge Pamela Alexander, president of the Council on Crime and Justice, a Minneapolis non-profit organization, and a former Hennepin County District Court judge. Entertainment will also be provided.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, called attention to a spreadsheet provided to members listing the regional solicitation projects recommended for funding by TAB totaling \$14.9 million in federal funds. There may be an opportunity to add more, depending on the status of Stimulus 2 federal funding. TIGER funds were awarded to only one project in Minnesota – the Union Depot. MnDOT is working on funding scenarios for the I-494/TH169 project.

McCarthy also noted a TransitLink Dial-a-Ride brochure included in the committee information packet. Reservations are being taken in Hennepin County and the service will start in one week.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2010-67 Authorization to Award Contract for Dakota County Transit Link Services

Bruce Dreier, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Aguilar, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a five year contract with DARTS to provide Transit Link dial-a-ride service in Dakota County beginning May 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$5,467,534.

Motion passed.

SW 2010-78 Authorization to set public hearing date for 2030 TPP Amendment for Southwest Transitway LPA

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, stated that the following people were in attendance and available to answer any questions that the committee may have: Gail Dorfman-Hennepin County Commissioner, Marthand Nookala-Hennepin County, Tim Henkel and Bill Gardner-MnDOT.

McCarthy called attention to a letter in the committee members' packets as a follow-up to issues that were brought up at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 20, 2010.

Amy Vennewitz, Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Finance & Planning, presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Select light rail transit (LRT) on the Kenilworth-Opus-Golden Triangle alignment (Alternative 3A) as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the Southwest Transitway and adopt the proposed amendments to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment; and
- Authorize a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan to be held on April 12, 2010 at 5 pm.

Motion passed.

SW 2010-75 Authorization to set date for public hearing on 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) amendment – I-94 – TAB Action 2010-08

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst, presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Beach, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) amendment that includes modification to I-94 from St. Paul/5th Street to the Lowry Tunnel, for the purpose of holding a public hearing; and
- Authorize a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan to be held on April 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Motion passed.

2010-76 Authorization to execute an agreement with MVTA

Sean Pfeiffer, Metropolitan Transportation Services Financial Analyst, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority for \$1,228,500 for the purchase of two vehicles for operations along Cedar Avenue.

Motion passed.

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

SW 2010-74 2010-2013 TIP Amendment to include potential stimulus funds for local projects – TAB Action 2010-12

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst, presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Aguilar, seconded by Leppik:

That the Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include a set-aside of one-half of the Metro share of the estimated \$35 million in new Federal Economic Stimulus STP funds, to be distributed equally among each of the seven counties for STP eligible projects that do not require environmental review, right-of-way or temporary easements, acquisition, or have trunk highway impacts.

Motion passed.

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, gave a presentation on the status of Central Corridor Light Rail Transit, as a prelude to the following Central Corridor action items.

SW 2010-70 Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Engineering Services Consultant

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by McFarlin, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

To negotiate and execute an amendment to the professional services contract with AECOM USA, Inc. to increase the contract spending authority \$71.2 million to continue the advancement of Preliminary Engineering, and

To issue a Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) to AECOM USA, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$6 million to continue advancing Preliminary Engineering. The total contract spending authority with this NTP shall not exceed \$71.2 million.

Motion passed.

SW 2010-71 Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Assistant Project Director Consultant

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item and answered a question from Leppik that work on the infill stations was approved in the prior action for the Engineering Service Consultant; this individual's focus is on the Washington Avenue Bridge and Operation and Maintenance Facility.

Motion was made by Leppik, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator:

To negotiate and execute an amendment to the Assistant Project Director consultant contract with Gary Erickson to increase the contract amount by a not-to-exceed \$60,000 for a total amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$612,000 to continue to support the advancing Preliminary Engineering and Final Design Activities.

To issue separate Notices-To-Proceed (NTP) to Gary Erickson for services related to the advancement of Preliminary Engineering and Final Design. The initial NTP would authorize the continuation of advancing Preliminary Engineering activities until approval by FTA to enter Final Design. A subsequent NTP would be issued for Final Design Activities upon approval by FTA to enter Final Design.

Motion passed.

SW 2010-72 Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Public Artists

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item.

Leppik asked how the art would be handled and funded for the three infill stations and Fuhrmann answered that the funding will not come from MC or at the regional level, the counties/cities must assemble funding for art. This would not be in violation of the FTA guidelines for the percentage of funds to be spent on public art.

Motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

To issue a Notice-to-Proceed for the five public artists to continue to advance preliminary design work for public art for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) project.

Motion passed.

SW 2010-68 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Scope and Budget Adjustments

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Peterson, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt changes to the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project scope to add construction of above-grade elements of LRT stations at Hamline Avenue, Victoria Street, and Western Avenue into the Project. This will increase the Project scope to \$956.9 million and will be reflected in an amended business item 2010-45, "2010 Unified Capital Program Amendment."

Motion passed.

SW 2010-45 Unified Capital Program Amendment

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

Leppik made a motion to amend the previously approved item 2010-45 for reconsideration; seconded by Aguilar and passed to reconsider previous motion.

Meeks questioned what would happen if the Counties/Cities could not bond for their share, as promised.

Fuhrmann answered that they have committed. If they could not bond for the funds, then one or more of the three infill stations would be deleted from the plans.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by McFarlin for the amended business item as follows:

That the Metropolitan Council:

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

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|---------------|---------------|
| Metro Transit | \$ 10,183,600 |
|---------------|---------------|
- Amend the 2010 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation to the Transportation Division as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 10,183,600
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 - Amend the total project cost for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project from \$941,316,000 to \$956,916,000 and amended the 2010-2015 Capital Improvement Plan for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project from \$870,478,821 to \$886,078,821.
 - Approve the changes to capital projects as detailed in Amended Attachment 1 on the business item.

Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:20 p.m. February 22, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary