

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, March 22, 2010**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Kirstin Sersland Beach Roger Scherer	Natalie Haas Steffen Georgie Hilker	Richard Aguilar Peggy Leppik
Members Absent	Craig Peterson	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair	
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager MT	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

**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 March 22, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Leppik to adopt the revised agenda for March 22, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2010 regular Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Brian Lamb introduced Bruce Fenlason, Director of Rail Systems Maintenance. Fenlason presented Employee recognition to the following employees for their work on signal testing and cut-over for the 3-car trains. The work was performed during long night hours from January 10- February 17, and was on a very tight schedule in order to support the opening of the Twins Stadium:  
Phillip Wellman, Signal Technical Support  
Charles Ruud, Signal/Communications Supervisor

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

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

Hiawatha LRT

Two Hiawatha Line stations had more than 1 million boardings each in 2009. They are Nicollet Mall Station at nearly 1.2 million and Lindbergh Terminal Station with just over 1 million. The two stations accounted for 22.4 percent of Hiawatha’s nearly 9.9 million customer trips last year. The station that was open for all of 2009 with the lowest boardings was Bloomington Central with more than 93,000 rides. Two new stations – American Boulevard and Target Field -- opened late in the year. Hiawatha now has 19 stations.

Miller Light Free Rides

Rides on buses and light-rail trains were free beginning at 6 p.m. last Wednesday (March 17<sup>th</sup>) as Metro Transit and MillerCoors mark the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the popular St. Patrick’s Day promotion. About 50,000 rides were recorded during this Miller free ride promotion. This is about a 4.5% increase from last year.

Metro Transit staff took part in parades in both St. Paul and Minneapolis to draw attention to the free rides underwritten by MillerCoors as part of its Great Beer, Great Responsibility campaign to reduce drunk driving.

- Parade organizers invited Central Corridor Project Office managers, Robin Cauffman and Kevin Ryan, to serve as the grand marshals for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Paul Saint Patrick's Day.
- This honor was given to the Met Council in recognition of all the effort that construction and outreach staff have made to maintain access and work with businesses during construction of the Central Corridor light rail Project.
- It was important to local businesses that the parade stay on 4<sup>th</sup> street because some of them plan for almost 10% of their annual sales from this one day.
- The parade organizers were originally planning to move the parade route until CCPO and local utilities committed to having the road open for the March 17<sup>th</sup> parade

#### Reliability Measure Soars

A key measure of reliability – miles between road calls -- was 32 percent higher than the goal last month, according to the Bus Maintenance Division. Buses traveled 6,181 miles between road calls in February compared to a goal of 4,687 miles. For the first two months of the year, the interval between on-street service calls is 5,488 miles.

#### Nicollet Mall Improvements

Last Saturday (March 20), Nicollet Mall buses began stopping every other block between 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> streets to speed service. In addition, Mall rides will be free on southbound routes 10 and 59 and northbound Route 18, about every 10 minutes.

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

A new "one number satisfies all" phone number is up and running on line for the Transit Link system with the planned exception of Dakota County. Dakota County will be in service April 26, 2010, just prior to the new contract start date..

MTS staff attended a FTA hosted Drug and Alcohol National Conference. The conference included speakers from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). MTS is responsible for ensuring drug and alcohol compliance for all the private contractors.

### **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

**SW 2010-69** Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Advanced Traffic Improvements Project 8453

Mark Fuhrmann presented the business item. Questions were raised as to the neighborhood response to this work, and whether there were traffic studies done in the areas of the advanced traffic work. Fuhrmann responded that not all areas of the advanced traffic work are adjacent to neighborhood areas, some portions belong to the University of Minnesota. Project staff did conduct four traffic studies in the University area. Those construction areas that are adjacent to neighborhood areas did receive project staff briefings on the traffic studies. Fuhrmann offered to share to the Council further details of the traffic studies, if requested.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Graham Construction Services, for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Advanced Traffic Improvements in Minneapolis, Minnesota at a cost of \$3,616,440. Award of this contract is contingent upon the receipt of a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) expected prior to full Council action March 24, 2010, and executed by the University of Minnesota of the required temporary construction easements.

**Motion passed.**

2010-98 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Construction Contract Price Change Orders Delegated Authority

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

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council delegate the approval of construction contract change orders for certain Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) construction contracts for individual change orders that do not exceed \$1 million each and do not exceed a cumulative total of \$4.5 million per contract or 5% of the Contract value, whichever is less in accordance with the revised attached Metropolitan Council Procedure 3-3c.

**Motion passed.**

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

SW 2010-107 Authorization to Submit Grant Application for Minnesota Department of Transportation Trunk Highway Transit Improvements (Chapter 152)

Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Facilities Planner, presented this item.

Discussion:

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to submit four grant applications for Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Trunk Highway Transit Facility Improvements in the amount of \$15,000,000.

**Motion passed.**

SW 2010-114 Authorization to Purchase 11 Sixty-foot Articulated Transit Buses

Chuck Wurzinger, Metro Transit Assistant Director Bus Maintenance, presented this item and responded to Committee member questions about the pricing compared to similar procurements and about previous Council bus procurements.

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- rescind the authorization granted in Business Item 2009-433 to purchase 11 replacement articulated buses from King County Transit in Washington state, and
- authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with New Flyer of America using the State of Minnesota Contract No. 442668 for the purchase of eleven replacement articulated buses in an amount not-to-exceed \$6,900,000, contingent on satisfactory results from the Pre-Award Buy America Audit.

**Motion passed.**

2010-99 2010-2013 TIP Amendment to revise State Project Number 141-90-26, Construct 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Trail Phase 2, TAB Action 2010-14

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee and explained that this project was funded through the solicitation process. There has been a change in scope and reduction in funding, necessitating an amendment to the TIP. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to approve a scope change for SP#141-090-26: 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Trail Phase II allowing roughly half of the bikeway to be on road and reducing the federal funding to \$535,000 as well as approve an amendment to the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) reflecting the changed scope and cost.

**Motion passed.**

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

2010-100      2010-2013 TIP Amendment to include Central Corridor LRT PE/FD Activities  
Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee and explained that additional funds are available due to ARRA funding, necessitating an amendment to the TIP. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include State Project Number CCLRT-03, Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project Preliminary Engineering and Final Design.

**Motion passed.**

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

2010-101      2010-2013 TIP Amendment to include I-94/Brockton Interchange Preliminary Engineering  
Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee and explained that additional funds have secured by the City of Dayton, necessitating an amendment to the TIP. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include State Project Number 229-020-03, Interstate 94/Brockton Lane Interchange Preliminary Engineering.

**Motion passed.**

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

2010-102      2010-2013 TIP Amendment to include State Project 62-649-27 Rice St/TH36 Interchange  
Reconstruction

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. He explained that this situation of advancing a project was unusual, but made possible due to SFY2010 STP federal funds available because of the ARRA funding. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include State Project Number 62-649-27, Rice St./TH 36 Interchange Reconstruction.

**Motion passed.**

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

2010-111      Anoka County-Blaine Airport Long-term Comprehensive Plan

Chauncey Case, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. There were no questions or discussion by committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the Metropolitan Airport Commission's (MAC) Anoka County-Blaine Airport 2025 Long-term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP).
- Recommend that MAC complete efforts in establishing a joint airport zoning board with affected communities of Blaine, Lexington, Circle Pines, Mounds View and Spring Lake Park to prepare an airport zoning ordinance that reflects the airport's LTCP and system role as defined under state requirements.
- Recommend amendment of the LTCP and review by the Council when non-aviation development of parcels on airport property is implemented.

**Motion passed.**

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

2010-112      Flying Cloud Airport Long-term Comprehensive Plan

Chauncey Case, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. There were no questions or discussion by committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the Metropolitan Airport Commission's (MAC) Flying Cloud Airport 2025 Long-term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP).
- Recommend that MAC continue efforts of the joint airport zoning board, with Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, and Shakopee, to prepare an airport zoning ordinance, as defined under state requirements, that reflects the airport's system role.
- Recommend amendment of the LTCP and review by the Council when non-aviation development of parcels on airport property is implemented.

**Motion passed.**

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

2010-113 St. Paul Downtown Airport Long-term Comprehensive Plan

Chauncey Case, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. There were no questions or discussion by committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer and passed.

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the Metropolitan Airport Commission's (MAC) St. Paul Downtown Airport 2025 Long-term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP).
- Recommend MAC complete efforts in establishing a joint airport zoning board with St. Paul, So. St. Paul and West St. Paul to prepare an airport zoning ordinance as defined under state requirements that reflects the airport's LTCP and system role.
- Recommend amendment of the LTCP and review by the Council when non-aviation development parcels on-airport are implemented.

**Motion passed.**

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

## **INFORMATION**

1. Target Field Opening (Twins Season Update), Downtown Related Improvements

Sheri Gingerich and Adam Harrington, Metro Transit, gave an update on the improvements to bus/rail in downtown Minneapolis during the Target Field Opening and game days/nights. There will be additional bus support for the HLRT during day games that end around rush hour. Metro Transit will continue to monitor and attempt to make changes, if necessary, to accommodate bus and rail passengers. Information can be found on either of these websites: [www.destinationtargetfield.com](http://www.destinationtargetfield.com) or [www.metrotransit.org](http://www.metrotransit.org).

2. Downtown Minneapolis Layover Study

Charles Carlson, Metro Transit, gave an update on the pressures and demands for layover sites for buses in the downtown area. He presented possible sites from the study. The need is not limited to just Metro Transit, but also suburban providers.

3. Regional Solicitation Results

James Andrew, MTS Senior Planner, reported on the results of the regional solicitation. The TAC/TAB acted in February and March and will not direct the projects be put into the TIP. James presented handouts listing the projects selected and noted they are available on the Metro Council website.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:25 p.m. March 22, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary