

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, May 24, 2010

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Kirstin Sersland Beach Natalie Haas Steffen	Peggy Leppik Georgie Hilker	Richard Aguilar Roger Scherer
Members Absent	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair	Craig Peterson	
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 May 24, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Meeks stated that Item 2010-203 will not be addressed at this meeting. A motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Hilker to adopt the amended agenda for May 24, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Scherer to approve the minutes from May 10, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Brian Lamb introduced Bruce Howard, MT Marketing Director, and Dave Hinrichs, Chief Information Officer, to give the employee recognition awards. Bruce Howard recognized the webcore team, who redesigned the Metro Transit website: Art Brakob, Theresa Cain, Mary Capistrant, Charles Decker, Sharon Feiner, John Howley, Tom Randall, John Sanborn, John Siqveland, Ernie Zahradka, Matt McGuire. Dave Hinrichs recognized four people individually for their work on the website: Art Brakob, Matt McGuire, John Siqveland, and John Sanborn.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT METROPOLITAN and TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

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

Transit Police honored its officers and other fellow Metro Transit employees in its 13th annual awards ceremony last Wednesday, May 19th, at the Transit police station. The ceremony coincides with National Police Week. At ceremonies at both the state capitol grounds and in Washington, D.C., David R. Loeffler, son of retired Street Operations Manager Dick Loeffler, will be among those honored. Dave Indrehus made awards to Officer of the Year, as well as the department’s highest honor to a part-time officer, 2 Medals of Valor, miscellaneous police and department commendations, and 8 Chief’s Awards of Merit.

Hiawatha Fare Compliance

Transit police officers conducted a surprise fare compliance saturation check earlier this month of all customers boarding at Lake Street/Midtown Station. More than 350 customers were checked between noon and 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 13th and only six were issued citations for failing to pay their fares.

Bus Maintenance

The bus maintenance division posted 6,623 miles between maintenance road calls in April, the best monthly performance since 2003, and 23 percent higher than the goal of 5,390 miles. For the first four months of the year, buses have traveled an average of 5,946 miles between on-street failures.

Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director, reported the following:

The Twin Cities has been chosen as one of 10 finalists for five grants of \$15 million or more each from the nonprofit Living Cities “urban transformation initiative.”

Metro Council is also looking into the \$200 million the Ford Foundation said it will be giving to metro areas over five years to encourage growth strategies through more integrated housing, transportation and land-use policies.

Funding Update

In April MVST receipts were 9.5% higher than projected. It appears that revenues from MVST will be close to projected amounts for fiscal year 2010. The current forecast has a steep curve of rebounding. There has been a 6-year steady decline of MVST collections while the current forecast shows that collections will return to all-time highs in 3 years. At the legislature, general fund appropriations were reduced by \$1.63 M for current state fiscal year 2010, by \$23.5 M in state fiscal year 2011, and by \$7.27 M each year thereafter. Judd Schetnan will be giving a more detailed legislative report at Wednesday’s Council meeting.

BUSINESS

2010-204 Authorization to Amend Lease Between Metropolitan Council and Griggs Midway Corporation

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

Beach asked how the rent amount compares to the going rate now, during these economic times.

Fuhrmann answered that he felt it was favorable for a Class B+ facility.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a second amendment to the lease agreement between the Metropolitan Council and Griggs Midway Corporation to exercise options for leasing a 6,500 sq. ft. area for the 28-month period from September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$273,522.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ed Byers, Director - Commuter Rail, gave a presentation on the Northstar Commuter Rail, including operations, ridership, and vehicle delivery, as an introduction to the next two business items.

Committee members asked questions after the presentation asking for clarification as to when/where the funds will come from for a sixth locomotive, and whether the funding partners have given approval. There was discussion about the contingency dollars and what was budgeted and what is supplemental.

2010-177 Northstar Subordinate Funding Agreement #17, BNSF Crew Facilities

Ed Byers, Director – Commuter Rail, presented this item to the committee and answered a question from Scherer about what is the current rate we are paying for hotel rooms.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a subordinate funding agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in an amount not to exceed \$459,000, for reimbursement of costs incurred by the Metropolitan Council for Construction services related to the BNSF Crew Facilities.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-201 Use of Northstar Supplemental Contingency funds and Subordinate Agreement #18 – Sixth Locomotive

Ed Byers, Director – Commuter Rail, presented this item to the committee.

Steffen questioned what will be left in contingency after these items and why the need for three months time for any needed locomotive repairs. Meeks stated that this (purchasing a sixth locomotive) is not the understanding that she had for what contingency funds were to be used for. Meeks stated that purchasing an extra, extra locomotive is foolish and a waste of money and she would not be voting in favor of this item.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the use of Northstar Project Supplemental Contingency funds in the amount of \$1,150,000 to supplement base contingency funds for the purchase of and costs associated with painting a sixth locomotive for Northstar Commuter Rail, and;

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a subordinate funding agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), in an amount not to exceed \$2,850,000, for reimbursement of costs incurred by the Metropolitan Council for the procurement and painting of a sixth locomotive, and;

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a purchase agreement with the Utah Transit Authority for an MP-36 locomotive currently under lease to the Metropolitan Council in the not-to-exceed amount of \$2,798,536 for the Northstar Commuter Rail service.

Motion passed with a 4-yes and 2-no vote.

2010-205 Amendments to the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority and University of Minnesota Urban Partnership Agreement Subrecipient Grant Agreements

Craig Lamothe, Sr. UPA Project Manager, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute amendments to the Subrecipient Grant Agreements (SGA) with the Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) and the University of Minnesota (U of M) for the Driver Assist System (DAS) as identified in the Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) between the Council and US Department of Transportation (USDOT) in the total amount of \$165,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-198 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment: Ramsey County SP#91-595-24, Union Depot Multimodal Transit Facility (TAB Action 2010-37)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, 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 Ramsey County Project SP#91-595-24, Union Depot Multimodal Transit Facility.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-199 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment: Include Hennepin County SP#TRF-HENN-10 Planning for Bottineau Transitway (TAB Action 2010-35)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Aguilar, 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 Hennepin County SP#TRF-HENN-10, Planning for Bottineau Transitway.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-200 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment: MnDOT SP#7080-49, New Market Rest Area Building Site Health and Safety Corrections (TAB Action 2010-36)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include MnDOT SP#7080-49, New Market Rest Area Building Site Health and Safety Corrections.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-208 Authorization to Amend Contract 08P190 with Anoka County

John Harper, MTS Contracted Transit Services Supervisor presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract number 08P190 with Anoka County to extend the term from June 30, 2010, to July 31, 2010.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-209 Authorization to Execute Grant Agreements with MVTA and Dakota County

Cole Hiniker, MTS Planner, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from Committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute a grant with MVTA for up to \$335,000 and Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) for up to \$800,000 for several tasks associated with the Cedar Avenue BRT project.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

INFORMATION

1. Central Corridor Civil East Construction Contract Update

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, gave a report on the status of the Central Corridor Civil East Construction Contract. Bids have been received from pre-qualified bidders, The Office of Diversity is reviewing the bids for the DBE component. There will be future action items to come before the Transportation Committee. Scherer stated, as he has stated before, he feels there are too many stations planned with too many frequent stops and that will slow the travel time on the CCLRT.

2. MSP Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP)

Connie Kozlak, MTS Manager Systems Planning gave an update on the MSP Airport Long Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) which will be coming to the Transportation Committee as an action item in June. She presented the TAC/TAB issues and the proposed Metro Council response to those issues. Denny Probst from MAC was also present to answer questions from the committee.

3. Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Update

Connie Kozlak, MTS Manager Systems Planning, and Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, gave an update on the Transportation Policy Plan(TPP). The plan is being updated to reflect events that have occurred in the past 1 ½ years. Kozlak reviewed what chapters are changing, how and why the changes are proposed. A considerable amount of time was spent reviewing the Highway Chapter changes.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:10 p.m. May 24, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary