

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, June 14, 2010

Members Present	Bob McFarlin, Chair Craig Peterson	Peggy Leppik Georgie Hilker	Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Roger Scherer Kirstin Sersland Beach	Natalie Haas Steffen	Annette Meeks
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 McFarlin called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on June 14, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul. Chair McFarlin began with Information Item 1 from the agenda: MTS Regional Ridership Report 1st Quarter 2010 and the Metro Transit General Manager and Director Metropolitan Transportation Services reports, while waiting for a quorum.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Brian Lamb, Metro Transit General Manager, reported that Metro Transit received a commendation from the Minnesota Ballpark Authority for the service provided to the ballpark since its opening. He also reported that Metro Transit is in the process of holding public meetings (three) on the I-35W South service changes occurring near the 46th Street Station. Details are on the Metro Transit website.

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS did not have a report from the Transportation Division.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Once a quorum was reached, Chair McFarlin stated that agenda has been revised to exclude Information Item No. 2: Metro Mobility Operating Procedure Adjustments. A motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Hilker to adopt the amended agenda for the June 14, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Hilker, to approve the minutes from May 24, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Chair McFarlin stated that there are attendees in the audience that would like to speak about Item 2010-214 and that the item will be presented, there will be a chance for questions from Transportation Committee members, and then the speakers will be allowed a short 4-5 minute period to speak prior to action being taken on the item by the committee.

BUSINESS

2010-214 MSP International Airport Long-term Comprehensive Plan (TAB Action 2010-34)
Connie Kozlak, Manager Systems Planning, presented this item to the committee. She pointed out that the TAC and TAB have reviewed and approved the item. Kozlak answered questions from the committee regarding the process for this approval. The committee/Council will be making contingent approval of the LTCP, then it will go back to the Metropolitan Airport Commission to address the conditions in their final plan.

The following audience members spoke in favor of the comments and actions proposed for Council action and expressed desire to continue discussions about airport noise level, particularly to the 60 DNL level:

John Quincy, City of Minneapolis Councilmember

Debbie Goettel, Mayor of Richfield, Tom Fitzhenry, Richfield City Councilmember

Ultan Duggan, Mendota City Councilmember

Liz Petschel, Airports Commission NOC rep. for the City of Mendota Heights

Jim Spensley, Southwest Metro Area Airport Council (SMAAC) spoke about capacity issues.

Denny Probst, Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) stated that the MAC is willing to work with communities, however there is no 60 DNL “standard”.

David Gepner, Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) liaison reported that the TAB feels strongly about noise issues and urges the Metropolitan Council to approve the TAB recommendations on the LTCP.

Councilmember Aguilar stated he would be in favor of looking at the 60 DNL and jurisdiction issues. McFarlin stated that there have been and continue to be major discussions on these issues, but it shouldn't deter movement on this action. Discussions will continue to take place in the future at many levels (legislative, cities, etc.).

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council finds that the Metropolitan Airport Commission's 2030 Long Term Comprehensive Plan for MSP International Airport is consistent with the Council's 2030 *Transportation Policy Plan*, if the following issues are addressed in the final plan:

- 1) The LTCP should note that MAC will update the plan every five years and that MAC will budget for this in the appropriate years to ensure that the first update is prepared by 2015.
- 2) MAC should initiate a capacity study two years in advance of when MSP is expected to have 540,000 annual operations and incorporate the results of this study into the following LTCP update.
- 3) MAC should initiate an FAA Part 150 study update (which includes a comprehensive noise analysis and mitigation program), in consultation with the MSP Noise Oversight Committee (NOC), when the forecast level of operations five years into the future exceeds the levels mitigated in the Consent Decree (582,366 annual operations). The results of this study should be incorporated into the first subsequent LTCP Update.
- 4) MAC shall continue to work with all appropriate agencies to implement the Interstate 494/34th Avenue, Trunk Highway 5/Glumack Drive and Trunk Highway 5/Post Road interchange modifications included in the 2030 Concept Plan, including preliminary environmental scoping and analysis. These highway modifications are not currently included in the region's fiscally-constrained 2030 highway plan.

- 5) The LTCP needs to acknowledge that storm water from MSP detention ponds discharges to the reaches of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers that are identified as water-quality impaired for a number of pollutants and stressors.
- 6) The LTCP should include a general discussion of financial assumptions and funding mechanisms available to implement the proposed development.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-157 Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF) Program Review

Ann Braden, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members. McFarlin asked how long the suspension of the RALF program would be in place and Braden answered until about the end of the year 2010. Peterson expressed concern that opportunities might be lost for acquisition for projects during the suspension of the RALF program. It was noted that the Council could approve specific project(s) if extraordinary circumstances arise. In answer to McFarlin's question whether MnDOT is aware of this proposed suspension, McCarthy stated that MnDOT is aware and MnDOT staff have been present at meetings where this has been discussed. In response to Leppik's question, McCarthy advised that staff will address in the review the process to be used in the event a RALF loan should be rescinded because a project is not consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council suspend granting RALF loans pending completion of the Metropolitan Highway System Investment Study (MHSIS) and reassessment of the RALF program.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-212 Acceptance of Bid on 09P045B – MTS Camera System Installation

Micky Gutzmann, Manager Contracts and Procurement, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with VSIS Incorporated for the installation of digital video recording systems for MTS fixed route and dial-a-ride buses in the amount of \$329,550.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-224 Authorization to Award Contract for Anoka County Regular Route Service

John Harper, Supervisor Contracted Services, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a two-year contract with Anoka County to provide regular route transit service in Anoka County beginning August 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$5,475,000.

Motion passed.

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

2010-193 2010 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Planning & Finance MTS, and Steve True, Senior Finance Manager MT, presented their respective division's Operating Budget Amendments.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Hilker:

That the Council amend the 2010 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table attached to the business item.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-194 2010 Unified Capital Program Amendment

Steve True, Senior Finance Manager MT, presented this item to the committee. Leppik questioned whether the betterments near the Capital were approved by the CAP Board. Fuhrmann answered yes, they were approved in October, and Lamb explained further.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Peterson:

That the Council:

- Amend the 2010 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows in the Transportation Division:
Metro Transit \$ 42,272,173
- Amend the 2010 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows in the Transportation Division:
Metro Transit \$ 8,247,723
- Approve the changes to capital projects as detailed in Attachment 1 of the business item.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-221 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Environmental Testing and Monitoring

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Hilker:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Braun Intertec to conduct environmental testing and monitoring services during construction of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Project for an amount not to exceed \$800,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-222 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Subordinate Funding agreement with Ramsey County

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with Ramsey County relative to the Civil East Construction in Saint Paul for \$350,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair McFarlin excused himself from the meeting and Leppik presided as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2010-211 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Civil East Construction Contract

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from Hilker whether there were any Minnesota-based contractors that bid on the project, and

questions about the subcontractors' origin as well. Mark replied, yes there were Minnesota contractors who bid, but that the FTA has said that no preference can be given solely for MN based firms. Fuhrmann also added that the DBE goal has been set at 15% and Walsh (with subcontractors) has met that goal.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Hilker:
Authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Walsh Construction, for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Civil East Construction in St. Paul, Minnesota at a cost of \$205,111,234.05.
- Issue a Limited Notice to Proceed in an amount of \$20,000,000.

Award of this contract and issuance of a Limited Notice to Proceed are contingent upon the receipt of a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) expected prior to the end of June.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-223 Authorization to proceed with initiating eminent domain on parcels 1 and 1A for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item to the committee. Mark clarified for Hilker where this property is in relation to the terminus of the operating line. There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the initiation of eminent domain proceedings for the acquisition of the fee and leasehold interests to the M. Rasoir Ltd. property identified on the attached resolution and the initiation of eminent domain proceedings for the acquisition of a temporary easement on that portion of the Diamond Products property identified on the attached resolution.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. MTS Regional Ridership Report – 1st Quarter 2010

At the beginning of this meeting, Becky McBride, MTS Project Administrator, gave a report on regional ridership for the first quarter of 2010. She noted no major difference in Dial-a-Ride figures since TransitLink began a month ago. McBride and McCarthy answered question from Leppik concerning the decrease in VanPool numbers. Employment, or lack of, plays a part in the vanpool ridership.

~~2. Metro Mobility Operating Procedure Adjustments~~

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:50 p.m. June 14, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary