

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**

**Monday, July 26, 2010**

Members Present	Bob McFarlin, Chair Roger Scherer Kirstin Sersland Beach	Craig Peterson, Vice Chair Peggy Leppik Annette Meeks	Richard Aguilar Georgie Hilker
Members Absent	Natalie Haas Steffen		
Staff Presiding	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	
Others Present	Robert Lilligren, City of Minneapolis		

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Committee Chair McFarlin called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 pm on July 26, 2010 at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Scherer seconded by Aguilar to adopt the agenda for July 26, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Aguilar, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes from July 12, 2010 and the minutes from July 19, 2010 special Transportation Committee meetings. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Brian Lamb introduced Metro Transit Police Chief Dave Indrehus. Indrehus recognized Mike LaVine from the Metro Transit Police Department. LaVine has been recently recognized nationally by being named the National Law Officer of the year, and will attend the 92<sup>nd</sup> National Convention in Milwaukee. LaVine began his career with the Metro Transit Police Department as a Lead Investigator, then Lieutenant and now Captain-supervising the Patrol Division.

**METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

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

1. A crew from SPNN will be recording the Transportation Committee meetings at Heywood. They won't be streamed live, but will be archived on our website and indexed by agenda item. If all goes well, we should have the videos available within 24 hours after the meeting.
2. Early next month Metro Transit will begin using TWITTER to send out short messages or TWEETS. We will begin by sending no fewer than two TWEETS per week to encourage followers, but anticipate more depending on the days and weeks events. Tweets will focus on events like State Fair (for example we could send one telling followers that Bus Bargain tickets went on sale today), major service change events like rail shutdowns or extensive detours, open houses and announcements. The Tweet will link follower back to the Metro Transit web site for more information in most cases. We can send an email out to Council members once our Twitter site is live so you can sign up to be a follower.

3. Another new feature recently added to [metrotransit.org](http://metrotransit.org) allows people to check the balance on their Go-To Card and review the transaction history of their card. They can enter their 16-digit Go-To Card serial number in the "Check Balance" box; and it gives them the stored value balance, shows the last time they added value to the card and also provides a list of dates and times they used the card over the last 30 days. This information is also available by phone as well.
4. State Fair Bus Bargain tickets go on sale today at [metrotransit.org](http://metrotransit.org) and Metro Transit stores. The cost is \$4 for a single roundtrip express bus ticket (normally \$5). New this year is a group pass for \$15 good for 4 roundtrip rides (normally \$20) so it's like getting one roundtrip free. But this deal is only available until August 24 (State Fair begins August 26<sup>th</sup>) so we encourage everyone to get their tickets early and save.
5. Bus Maintenance is in the process of receiving 101 replacement buses for 2010.  
These include:  
In the 40-foot bus division: 30 hybrids on order with 4 in service, and 31 diesel on order with 10 in service.  
These 14 in-service buses feature the 2010 engine that uses urea.  
All 40-foot buses are scheduled to be in service by October 2010.  
In the 60-foot bus division: 40 diesel on order with 5 in service.  
All 60-foot buses are scheduled to be in service by November 2010.
6. The 2010 Minnesota Bus Roadeo was held in Alexandria MN on July 24<sup>th</sup>. At this year's Minnesota Bus Roadeo, Marshall Freeman (East Metro Bus Operator #6320) took the top honors and is the new Minnesota Bus Roadeo Champion. Marshall Freeman has been a bus operator at Metro Transit since 1993 and has 16 years of Safety Awards earned in 16 years of service.

## **METROPOLITANTRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT**

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

1. The committee will notice that action items are Same Week to the Council. This is due to the cancellation of the 8/11/10 Council meeting. The next Council meeting is scheduled for 8/25/10.
2. A week ago, Metro Council staff and MnDOT participated in a briefing for Federal Congressional staff for the purpose of educating the Congressional staff about transportation funding, how funding is disbursed and what it is used for.

## **BUSINESS**

2010-262 **SW** Rail Support Facility Construction near Hiawatha and 26<sup>th</sup> Street East in Minneapolis, Project 62314

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Director Engineering and Facilities, presented this item.

Thorstenson answered question from McFarlin that the facility has capacity to support Central and Southwest, and noted that the rail control center will also be expanded

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, Meisinger Construction, for the construction of a Rail Support Facility, adjacent to the Hiawatha corridor near 26<sup>th</sup> Street East in Minneapolis, Minnesota, at a cost of \$5,000,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-263 **SW** Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Funding Agreement with Ramsey County  
Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, presented the item.

Fuhrmann explained this item is “housekeeping” in nature. There were no questions/comments from committee members. The committee decided to split the two action paragraphs into two motions.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council rescind Business Item 2010-222 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Subordinate Funding Agreement with Ramsey County.

Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik:

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

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-117 **SW** Authorization to Award Contract for East Metro, West Metro & Hopkins Area Transit Service  
Bruce Dreier, MTS Project Administrator, presented this item.

Member Peterson asked how the proposed rates compare to the current contract. Dreier responded that although he did not have the exact numbers, the proposed rates compare very favorably to the current contract rates.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a five year contract with First Transit, Inc. to provide regular route express and local transit service in the East Metro, West Metro, and Hopkins areas of the Twin Cities transit system beginning in October 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$16,071,328.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-267 **SW** Adoption of Draft 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) for the purpose of Public Hearing and Authorization for Public Hearing

Connie Kozlak, Manager MTS Systems Planning, presented this item. She stated that the TAB considered this item last week and did not add additional comments other than the comments made by the TAB Policy Committee. She stated that any comments from the Transportation Committee and Council will be incorporated prior to posting the draft TPP on the web for public comment. Kozlak answered Scherer’s question explaining what project “reassessment” means. In response to McFarlin, Kozlak also stated that a report of the public comments will be prepared including the type of comment, number of comments and the disposition of the comment(s).

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Adopt the Draft 2030 Transportation Policy Plan including any necessary modifications to incorporate comments made by TAB on July 21, the Transportation Committee on July 26 and the Metropolitan Council on July 28, for purposes of a public hearing.
2. Authorize that a public hearing on the Draft 2030 Transportation Policy Plan be held on September 27, 2010, at 5 pm at Heywood Office Building, with continued acceptance of public comments until 5 pm, October 7, 2010.

Motion passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATION**

### **1. Light Rail Vehicle Procurement**

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, and Chris Weyer, Metro Transit Manager of Transitways, presented this item and answered questions from members regarding standards for production of the LRVs. This item is background for an action item to purchase LRVs scheduled for August 9, Transportation Committee.

2. Virtual Tour of FTHeywood Garage to Observe Internal Garage Bus Locator  
Brian Funk, Glenn Gilbert and Gary Nyberg, Metro Transit, presented this item. This system is the first in the nation and has been recognized by Mass Transit Magazine. Metro Transit expects full return on items investment in 3-4 years. This system enables dispatchers to not only locate buses in the garage, but also check the status of the bus (as to shop repair calls), and assign the buses to drivers. It eliminates the need to physically check the bays of the garage and report the bus locations, saving time and increasing accuracy.
3. Regional Transitway Guidelines  
Metro Council Member and Chair of the Transitways Advisory Committee Wendy Wulff, introduced Mary Karlsson, MTS Senior Planner, and Charleen Zimmer, consultant to the project. Each gave an update on the Transitway Guidelines committee(s) makeup, highlights of the work to date and proposed schedule for the guidelines development.
4. Travel Demand Management (TDM) Update  
Cole Hiniker, MTS Planner, presented this item. The TDM Evaluation and Implementation Study was requested by TAC Funding and Programming to help clarify funding priorities, inventory and evaluate current TDM efforts, establish regional goals and benchmarks and recommend future strategies and how to implement them. Arlene McCarthy added that the TMOs were heavily involved and are in alignment with the results of the study. The Implementation Plan will be an action item for the Transportation Committee and Council in August.
5. MTS Regional Ridership Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2010  
Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director, presented the regional ridership statistics for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2010.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair McFarlin adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:10 p.m. July 26, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary