

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, September 27, 2010

Members Present	Craig Peterson, Vice Chair Richard Aguilar	Georgie Hilker Kirstin Sersland Beach	Peggy Leppik
Members Absent	Bob McFarlin Natalie Haas Steffen	Annette Meeks	Roger Scherer
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was not present when Acting Committee Chair Peterson called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on September 27, 2010 at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis. Chair Peterson stated that the meeting would proceed with the first information item on the agenda.

INFORMATION

1. Arterial Transitway Corridors Study

Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Manager of Transitway Projects, presented an overview of a proposed study of potential bus rapid transit (BRT) corridors using arterial streets in the region. Carlson identified the components and goals of arterial BRT, illustrated the expected benefits as well as typical results already achieved in other regions and outlined the scope and timeline of the study.

A quorum now present, the meeting continued.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Beach to adopt the agenda for the September 27, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from September 13, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Sheri Gingerich, Deputy Chief of Rail Operations, introduced Hiawatha light rail operator Jerome Kaczmarek. Mr. Kaczmarek is being recognized for operating Metro Transit buses and trains for 38 years without a single responsible accident, first as a bus driver for 31 years and then for light rail since the Hiawatha line opened. Gingerich also noted that Mr. Kaczmarek was the first operator hired for Hiawatha.

Kevin Ryan, Manager of Construction Services for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit, introduced Greg Sorenson, who is the Met Council's authorized representative for the CCLRT project's Fourth Street Advance Utility and Civil East projects. Ryan cited several examples of Mr. Sorenson's dedication to the projects, including working into the night to protect surrounding buildings from potential damage caused by heavy rainfall and planning and adjusting construction work to allow the annual St. Patrick's Day parade to follow its usual route.

Chair Peterson and GM Lamb offered the two employees their thanks and congratulations and presented each with a certificate of achievement.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

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

As the Twins appear headed for postseason play, Metro Transit is beginning to plan its postseason service schedule. According to Twins management, the most likely scenario is for the team to host the first two games of the division series on Wednesday, October 6 and Thursday, October 7. Television considerations will determine game times. The Twins also could host an “if necessary” fifth game on Tuesday, October 12.

Metro Transit is also placing extra buses on several routes to provide service to fans attending Minnesota Gopher home games at TCF Bank stadium. And we will again be teaming up with the Minnesota Wild to promote taking transit to the Xcel Energy Center. Hockey fans with a valid game-day ticket can ride free on Metro Transit to and from all pre-season and regular home games. The partnership provides Metro Transit with marketing opportunities aimed at a key potential rider segment, the special-event attendee.

Two transportation-related groups visited the Twin Cities over the last several days. Transportation department staff from locations across the U.S. met here on Friday to review transit and other transportation initiatives in this part of the country. And today a delegation of over 100 people from Austin, TX, also in town to study transit and transportation in the area, gathered at the Target Field intermodal transit facility and heard a presentation by Regional Administrator Tom Weaver on our region’s systems.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, MTS, reported the following:

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy is currently on vacation. Committee members are encouraged to contact Amy Vennewitz or Gerri Sutton with any issues that may arise during her absence.

The annual Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) survey commenced today. Surveyors are now out on regional buses and trains to gather information. The study will continue through November. Any questions or concerns during this process should be directed to Vennewitz or Mark Filipi of MTS.

The Transitway Guidelines Advisory Committee held its fifth meeting this afternoon. Good progress is being made. The meeting today dealt with recommendations related to identity and branding of the transitway system. An information item will be presented to the Transportation Committee at its next meeting in preparation for a business item in November. The final recommendations will be presented in a work session likely scheduled for December or January.

BUSINESS

2010-339 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Capital Program Authorization for Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) Work

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the use of approved Regional Transit Capital funds under Federal Transit Administration Letter of No Prejudice Authority for:

- Operation and Maintenance Facility (OMF) Yard Site Preparation in an amount of \$1,000,000, and
- OMF Building Limited Notice to Proceed in an amount of \$1,583,600.

Use of each dollar amount is contingent upon receipt of Letters of No Prejudice (LONP) for each activity from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Motion passed.

2010-338 Rejection of Bids, Computer Room Upgrade

Pat Jones, Assistant Director, Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, presented this item. Committee Member Leppik asked if the bids were reasonable. Staff responded that the bids were reasonable for the bid package that was

issued. However, after repackaging the bids, the overall value of the work is anticipated to be reduced by approximately \$150,000.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to reject all bids for the construction of the F.T. Heywood (FTH) office Computer Room Upgrade.

Motion passed.

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

2010-337 Design Settlement, Lakeville Kenrick UPA Park & Ride

Pat Jones, Assistant Director, Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, presented this item. Chair Peterson asked if Bonestroo had been in communication with the project management team when the additional claimed work was occurring. Staff responded that the settlement value was based on research of communications from Bonestroo. Based on the contract requirements, only tasks with advance notice were eligible for consideration.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a settlement agreement with Bonestroo, Inc. as a final settlement for design and construction support services related to Contract 08P066 in the amount of \$57,546.37 (3.9%), resulting in a total contract value of \$1,511,365.76.

Motion passed.

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

2010-341 Northstar Commuter Rail Fares

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie and Assistant Director of Service Development Adam Harrington presented this item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the deferral of the Northstar Commuter Rail cash fare increases to early 2012 to coincide with a planned regional fare increase and approves the extension of the current "introductory" Northstar Commuter Rail cash fares until that time and increase the Family Pass rates for 2011 as shown in the following tables:

Weekday one-way cash fare to/from downtown Minneapolis

Big Lake	\$7.00
Elk River	\$5.50
Anoka	\$4.00
Coon Rapids	\$4.00
Fridley	\$3.25
Non-downtown Station-station	\$3.25

Saturday, Sunday/Holiday one-way cash fare to/from downtown Minneapolis

	<u>ADULT</u>	<u>SENIOR, YOUTH, MEDICARE</u>
Big Lake	\$5.25	\$1.75
Elk River	\$4.00	\$1.25
Anoka	\$3.00	\$1.00
Coon Rapids	\$3.00	\$1.00
Fridley	\$2.50	\$0.75
Non-downtown station-station	\$2.50	\$0.75

Persons with Disabilities Weekday and Saturday, Sunday/Holiday one-way cash fare to/from downtown Minneapolis

Big Lake	\$1.75
Elk River	\$1.25
Anoka	\$1.00
Coon Rapids	\$1.00
Fridley	\$0.75
Non-downtown station-station	\$0.75

Family Pass round-trip cash fare to/from downtown Minneapolis

Valid for up to two adults and three youth age 6-17. Children under five are free.

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Big Lake	\$17.00	\$20.00
Elk River	\$13.00	\$16.00
Anoka	\$10.00	\$13.00
Coon Rapids	\$10.00	\$13.00
Fridley	\$8.00	\$11.00

Motion passed.

RECESS

The meeting of the Transportation Committee recessed at 5:00 p.m. to convene a public hearing to receive comments on the draft 2030 Transportation Policy Plan. Comments will be contained in the Report of Public Comment that will accompany the Transportation Policy Plan. The public hearing adjourned at 5:50 p.m., and the committee formally reconvened at that time.

BUSINESS (continued)

2010-325 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include SP#88186-1438: Pre-implementation Study for a Priced Managed Lane on I-94 (TAB Action 2010-55)

MTS Planning Analyst Carl Ohrn presented this item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to approve a 2010-2013 TIP Amendment for MnDOT SP#8816-1438: Pre-implementation study for a "Priced" Managed Lane on I-94.

Motion passed.

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

2010-326 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include Three High-speed Rail Crossing Safety Improvements in Washington County and Dakota County

MTS Planning Analyst Carl Ohrn presented this item. Staff noted that the Mn/DOT TPP Amendment request noticing consistency with the regions TPP incorrectly identified the current edition. The correct reference is the TPP adopted on January 19, 2009, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on September 2009.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to approve a 2010-2013 TIP Amendment for three high speed rail crossing safety improvements, SP#19-00140, 82-00141, and 82-00142 in Washington and Dakota Counties.

Motion passed.

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

2010-340 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Authorization to File Grant Application, Resolution 2010-28

MTS Senior Planner Elaine Koutsoukos presented this item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Hilker:

- That the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed 2011 Unified Planning Work Program with a budget of \$8,464,096.
- That the Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century – A Legacy for Users.
- That the Regional Administrator be authorized to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

Motion passed.

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

2010-342 Authorization to Enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota and with the State of Wisconsin, Resolution No. 2010-30 and 2010-31

MTS Assistant Director Gerri Sutton presented this item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to execute a joint powers agreement and subsequent amendments to it with the State of Minnesota through its Commissioner of Transportation to allow the Council to operate its van pool program in Minnesota outside the Metropolitan Area as defined by Minn. Stat. §473.121.

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to execute a joint powers agreement and subsequent amendments to it with the State of Wisconsin through its Secretary of Transportation to allow the Council to operate its van pool program into the Wisconsin counties adjacent to the Metropolitan Area as defined by Minn. Stat. §473.121.

Motion passed.

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

2010-343 CTIB 2011 Project Grant Applications Consistency with the 2030 TPP

MTS Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz presented this item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council finds the ten project grant applications (summarized in the Attachment) submitted to the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for CY 2011 funding to be consistent with the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan adopted January 2009 and amended in June of 2010.

Motion passed.

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

INFORMATION (continued)

2. Metro Mobility Operating Procedure Adjustments

Paul Colton, Manager of Metro Mobility, presented updates to the scheduling process of Metro Mobility service. He explained how the modified procedures will improve transportation accessibility to the customers as well as ensure compliance with the federal ADA requirements.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Peterson adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:05 p.m. September 27, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Maday, Recording Secretary