

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, November 22, 2010

Members Present	Bob McFarlin, Chair Craig Peterson, Vice Chair Kirstin Sersland Beach	Georgie Hilker Peggy Leppik	Richard Aguilar Roger Scherer
Members Absent	Annette Meeks	Natalie Haas Steffen	
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
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 4:02 p.m. on November 22, 2010 at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair McFarlin noted that business item number 7 would be deleted from the agenda for this meeting and that item number 12 would move to the end of the agenda. A motion was then made by Scherer and seconded by Hilker to adopt the amended agenda for the November 22, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Leppik to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

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

Metro Transit will receive \$2.4 million in federal grant funding to help advance two projects. The first is the purchase of two 40-foot hybrid electric buses which have series hybrid drive units as well as electrically operated engine cooling and air conditioning. This will have an impact on energy consumption and operating costs. The other project is the installation of a geothermal heating system at the Hiawatha Operations & Maintenance facility when the addition is built in 2011. This system will result in a reduction of our carbon footprint.

The grand opening for the new I-35W and 46th Street Station has been rescheduled to Saturday, December 11, at 11:00 a.m. However, bus service to the station will begin as scheduled on Saturday, December 4. Invitations were emailed last week. Peter Bell will speak along with Senator Scott Dibble, Representative Frank Hornstein, and Mayor R.T. Rybak.

Hennepin County will host an open house on December 7 to give the public a look at plans for the Transportation Interchange near Target Field. As part of the Interchange, the county hopes to build a second light-rail platform adjacent to Target Field Station to better accommodate Hiawatha and Central corridor trains as well as account for future rail services of the planned Southwest and Bottineau lines. The project also includes a plaza for Twin fans awaiting train service and light-rail storage tracks wrapping around the adjacent county garbage burner. The open house will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the county's Environmental Services Building.

Free rides on Northstar were offered on November 16 and 17 as an invitation to sample the service, with a goal of attracting new riders and building future ridership. Many first-time riders – including daily commuters, families and seniors – took advantage of the opportunity. Ridership on November 16 was 2,394, and on November 17 there were

2,598 riders, an increase of 26% and 37%, respectively, over typical weekday numbers. Also, Northstar trains were 98.1 percent on time in November. The commuter rail line operated 318 trips – 312 in regular service and six extra trains. Of the total of six late trains, two were delayed by heavy boardings of Twins fans, two for mechanical issues, one for restricted speeds due to high winds and one for congested rail traffic. No trips were lost.

High school students are helping to bump up Metro Transit ridership. The high school pass program accounted for more than 88,300 rides last month, about 1.3 percent of all rides. Highest ridership was logged by a select group of 1,340 students who are carrying Go-To cards purchased for them by Minneapolis Public Schools. They took nearly 60,000 rides. The rest of the student pass Go-To card rides were taken under demonstration programs at three other schools – Augsburg Fairview Academy, St. Paul Prep and St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts.

On December 1 Metro Transit will launch a seven-day, all-you-can-ride pass for those using local routes and off-peak express buses. It will be priced at \$22 and available in transit stores, at participating merchants and online. The option of buying rides in seven-day increments is expected to be especially attractive to those whose tight budgets might make it difficult to afford a 31-day, all-you-can-ride pass.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

The Transit Behavior Inventory is currently underway. A major part of this work, the Transit Onboard Survey, has been completed with over 15,000 surveys submitted. The data is now being tabulated and compiled, and a full report is expected sometime in early spring 2011.

Business item 2010-391, Approval of Highway Bus Rapid Transit Station-to-Station Service Fare Collection Method, was deleted from this meeting's agenda to allow for further study. The item had been presented as an information item to this committee as well as to the full Council, where some dissension arose regarding staff recommendations. During a meeting today with the Transitway Guidelines advisory committee it was decided to return to CTIB at its December meeting and also likely to TAB for their further discussion and consideration.

BUSINESS

2010-409 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP Amendment: Include Mn/DOT SP#2750-73 and SP#1928-59: Cable Median Barrier Installation in New Hope-Brooklyn and South St. Paul-Inver Grove Heights (TAB Action 2010-66)

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

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include MnDOT SP#2750-73 and SP#1928-59: Cable Median Barrier Installation in New Hope-Brooklyn Park and South St. Paul-Inver Grove Heights.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-410 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendment: Include SP#091-595-025: Union Depot Multimodal Transit Facility (TAB Action 2010-68)

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

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#091-595-025: Union Depot Multimodal Transit Facility.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-411 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Contract Amendments

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, presented this item. Chair McFarlin asked what areas of the budget would offset the costs. Colton responded that, as an example, the fuel line item was below budget and would offset the amendment amounts.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend Transit Provider Assistance Agreements and increase the maximum contract amount by \$40,000 for Human Service Inc. (10P061) and \$220,000 for DARTS (10P062).

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-372 Authorization to Extend Contract for Gasoline Supply

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to extend the final option year on Contract 08P020 with Lubricant Technologies (formerly Egan Oil Company) and increase the maximum contract amount by \$2,800,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-408 Authorization to Execute Grant Agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

MTS Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz presented the item. Chair McFarlin asked whether all Suburban Transit Providers (STPs) were eligible to receive Regionally Allocated MVST (RA-MVST) funding. Vennewitz responded that all STPs are eligible but only MVTA required funding to preserve its existing level of transit operations. Councilmember Peterson asked what the current policy reserve level is for suburban providers. Vennewitz responded that under the adopted Regional Transit Revenue Allocation Procedure, the current minimum policy reserve level for STPs is 25 percent and if RA-MVST funding is available after providing for this minimum reserve level and preserving current operations levels, reserves are then funded up to a maximum of percent.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement in an amount not to exceed \$3,550,000 with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) to provide supplemental transit operating funding during CY2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-413 Council Subsidized Vanpool Program Changes

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented the item. She explained that staff had been attempting to get the Wisconsin joint powers agreement (JPA) completed for some time. Several Wisconsin vanpoolers testified at the meeting that they would like the subsidized program to continue. They asked to be provided with names of the State of Wisconsin staff involved so that they could contact them.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Discontinue subsidizing vanpools, effective January 1, 2011, that originate or terminate in Wisconsin absent a Joint Powers Agreement between the Metropolitan Council and the State of Wisconsin as of December 1, 2010; and,
- Continue to pursue a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Wisconsin. When an agreement is reached with the State of Wisconsin the Council will provide a subsidized vanpool program for pools that originate or terminate in Wisconsin.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-406 Authorization to Award Contract for Operator Uniforms

Chris Gran, Director of Purchasing, and Steve McLaird, Assistant Director of Metro Transit Bus Operations, presented the item. In response to committee member questions, staff explained that the annual uniform allowance for operators is not carried forward year-to-year. Staff also confirmed that the recommended contractor is a U.S. company.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Uniforms Unlimited, Inc., to supply bus and rail operator uniforms, dispatcher uniforms and supervisor uniforms in accordance with Council specifications and the Uniforms Unlimited bid for a five-year term.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-394 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Additional Limited Notices to Proceed for first Quarter 2011 Under a Letter of No Prejudice

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. Chair McFarlin asked whether funding was authorized by congressional action or by FTA administrative action. Fuhrmann responded that congressional action is required.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to direct staff to issue additional Limited Notices to Proceed to Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) contractors for first quarter 2011 activity in an amount not to exceed \$41.8 million contingent upon receipt of the corresponding Letter of No Prejudice from the Federal Transit Administration.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-395 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: 2011 Counties Transit Improvement Board Capital Grant

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

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a CY2011 capital grant agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) project for Final Design, right-of-way acquisition, construction and purchase of Light Rail Vehicles in the amount of \$106,681,526.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-396 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Operations and Maintenance Facility Award

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. In response to questions from committee members, staff responded that the proposed contractor is a well respected company. Fuhrmann also noted that this contract is the last to produce budget underruns in the project.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, PCL Construction Services, Inc. for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Operation and Maintenance Facility construction in St. Paul, Minnesota at a cost of \$43,139,389.
- Issue a Limited Notice to Proceed in an amount of \$1,600,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-398 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: AECOM Amendment – Engineering Services and 2011 Authorization

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. Councilmember Scherer asked whether the amendment would constitute an overrun. Fuhrmann responded that it does and would be covered with budgeted contingency funds.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute an amendment to the professional services contract with AECOM to increase the contract amount by \$5.8 million to \$98.2 million for additional design activities and to continue design support during construction and construction support services and add vehicle procurement support services; and

- To issue a Notice-to-Proceed to AECOM USA, Inc. in an amount not-to-exceed \$12.6 million for additional design activities and to continue design support during construction and construction support services and for vehicle procurement support services during calendar year 2011 for a total spending authority not to exceed \$92.8 million.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-399 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 6 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for 2011 Staffing

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

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 6 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) in the total amount of \$3,244,315 for calendar year 2011.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2010-400 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: University of Minnesota Subordinate Funding Agreement – Staffing Services

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

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the University of Minnesota relative to the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit construction within the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis campus for \$400,000 through completion of the Project.

Motion passed unanimously.

2010-401 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Public Art Contract for Infill Stations

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. He noted that funding for the proposed artwork contracts is well within the hold points built into the contingency plan. In response to a committee member question, Alicia Vap of the Central Corridor project reported that there will be sufficient time to complete the design review process even with a more compressed schedule. Preliminary designs are due in summer 2011, and final designs in winter 2011, while construction is set to begin in 2012.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

To negotiate and execute a professional services contract with Foster Willey Sculptor LLC to design, fabricate and install public art on the Hamline and Victoria Central Corridor Light Rail Transit stations, in an amount not to exceed \$374,000.

To negotiate and execute a professional services contract with Widgery Works, Inc. to design, fabricate and install public art on the Western Central Corridor Light Rail Transit station, in an amount not to exceed \$187,000.

Motion passed, with Scherer voting no.

2010-403 Southwest Light Rail Transit: CY2010 Counties Transit Improvement Board Funding Assignment Agreement with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. Councilmember Leppik asked whether individuals concerned about the moving of the freight line should address questions to the Council. Fuhrmann responded that the freight line relocation is separate from the light-rail work and is coordinated and funded by the county and Mn/DOT.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) accepting assignment of CY2010 Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)

capital grant funds for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project for Preliminary Engineering (PE) in the amount of \$7,000,000 contingent upon approval of corresponding actions by HCRRA and CTIB.

Motion passed, with Beach voting no.

2010-404 Southwest Light Rail Transit: CY2011 Counties Transit Improvement Board Capital Grant Agreement
Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. He clarified the differences between the two CTIB agreements for Southwest LRT that are before the committee at this meeting. Councilmember asked when spending would stop given the potential for the project not going forward. Fuhrmann responded that these proposed agreements are for the purpose of lining up funding in advance and that a new Council would likely make the decision about whether to access funds.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a CY2011 capital grant agreement for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project for Preliminary Engineering (PE) in the amount of \$12,200,000 contingent upon approval of a corresponding action by the Counties Transit Improvement (CTIB).

Motion passed, with Beach voting no.

2010-405 Southwest Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Funding Agreement for Preliminary Engineering with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. There were no questions other than those addressed in the previous business item.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Cooperative Funding Agreement for Preliminary Engineering (PE) of the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (SWLRT) with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) contingent upon a corresponding action by HCRRA.

Motion passed, with Beach voting no.

2010-397 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Authorization to Execute a Purchase Agreement for Parcel 65 (Boeser Property)

Rich Rovang, Assistant General Manager for Transit Systems Development, presented the item.

At this point in the meeting, Peterson made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Beach and passed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 13D.05 MEETINGS HAVING DATA CLASSIFIED AS NOT PUBLIC.

Discussion regarding this item took place during closed portion of the meeting.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik and passed, to reopen the meeting to the public.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Project Office (through MnDOT) to settle with the landowner for Parcel 65 (Boeser) for the acquisition of permanent and temporary easements consistent with the approved appraisal.

Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McFarlin adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:07 p.m. November 22, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary