

Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan Council Chambers, 390 No. Robert St., St. Paul, Mn. 55101

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, January 24, 2011**

Members Present	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair	Natalie Haas Steffen Georgie Hilker	Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Annette Meeks Kirstin Sersland Beach	Peggy Leppik Craig Peterson, Vice Chair	Roger Scherer
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager MT	Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Dir. Fin.& Planning	
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 January 24, 2011 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul. McFarlin began the meeting with items that need no action.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Emily Anleu - presented by Christy Bailly, Director of Bus Transportation.
Emily was recognized for her work on the Charitable Giving Campaign and the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Ceremonies planning.

Julie Quinn - presented by Maurice Roers, Manager of Facilities Planning.
Julie was recognized for her work with the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association working to upgrade some MT property at 50th and Hiawatha to a community garden.

Gregory Bluemke - presented by Doyne Parsons, Assistant Garage Manager of Bus Transportation.
Greg was recognized for helping save a life of a fellow driver who suffered a heart attack on the job.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT and METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

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

Cameras Everywhere on Hiawatha’s Vehicles

Light-rail vehicle 106 is the first to be outfitted with 12 cameras, up from a half-dozen cameras on other cars, plus a forward-facing camera on each end of the car, as well as higher recording speeds and enhanced audio that features four microphones around the car – all as supported by vastly larger on-board data storage capacity. Transit Police will use this wireless-fed system in their police cars to view all current and active events in the LRVs. After a 30-day testing period, supplier Verint will begin installing the system on all other LRVs, to be completed in about six months. Funding comes from a federal safety/security grant.

Bus Operator Training Video in Production

Buses, operators and a cast of extras were on location the first week in January as production began on a winter weather safe driving video. Scenes were filmed at the state fairgrounds, on city streets and at the Heywood garage. Animation is being created to depict how winter related collisions occur. The interactive video, directed by the safety department and funded by a federal grant, will be used for operator training in preparation for 2011-2012 winter season.

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, reported the following:

Legislative Audit Report on Transit Governance

The Legislative Auditor report will be available to council members at the 1/26/11 Council meeting. Judy

Randall, lead staff person for the Auditor, will be at the Council meeting to present. The report and summary is also on the web. The report also contains letters of response from Metro Council, CTIB and the Suburban Transit Association.

Private Provider Driver Assault

A First Transit driver was attacked on his route (Route 723) last week. The on-board cameras which were just installed in latter 2010 were instrumental in the police verifying the incident, and an arrest of the attacker has been made.

TTI Annual Report Release

The Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) released its annual ranking of cities on their commuter time and auto travel time. The Twin Cities Metro Area has dropped in ranking in delay in peak auto commuter time, moving from 5th to 12th. In the travel time index we moved from 12th to 19th (in this study, a “drop” in ranking means an improvement).

INFORMATION

Discount Transit Passes Program: Eligible Charitable Organizations (ECO) serving the Homeless

Tom Randall, Metro Transit Sr. Mgr. Revenue Operations gave a report on this program. This was a 1+-year pilot program required by statute, expiring on 3/15/11. Eight organizations qualified and participated. The organizations were key to developing and gathering ridership data. Surveys of the riders were performed to determine usage patterns and impact on the overall transit system. The trip purposes used by the customers were for family, medical, education, employment, and seeking housing opportunities. The expansion of the Jobseekers program revenue through additional agencies more than offset these ECO program discounts. Steffen asked what geographic area was served and Randall stated that the statute was somewhat prescriptive in the location and types of organizations were served-which determined the geographical area. Randall stated that the participating agencies submitted letters of support and noted that this program allowed them to extend abilities to serve their clients. Metro Transit is recommending extending this program for one more year expanding the number of agencies served, with a cap of \$250,000 limit on total loss for MT.

A quorum was not achieved during this meeting. The members present discussed holding a special Transportation Committee meeting either on 1/31 or 2/07 in order to act on the items prior to 2/09 Council meeting. The members will be polled as to their availability for a special Transportation Committee meeting, with a preference for a 1/31 meeting to avoid the necessity for same week items to the Council. Chair McFarlin stated that the following business and information items will be postponed to a later meeting.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

Items 2011-25, 2011-27, 2011-42, 2011-29, 2011-30, 2011-31, 2011-28, 2011-41, 2011-32, 2011-33 and 2011-34

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Transitways Identity and Branding Framework Implementation Recommendations
2. Transitway Guidelines Next Steps

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McFarlin adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 4:50 p.m. January 24, 2011.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary

January 24, 2011 Transportation Committee Meeting