

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, January 31, 2011**

Members Present	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair Kirstin Sersland Beach Roger Scherer	Natalie Haas Steffen Georgie Hilker Craig Peterson, Vice Chair	Richard Aguilar Peggy Leppik
Members Absent	Annette Meeks		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager MT	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	None Present		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair McFarlin called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on January 31, 2011 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Hilker to adopt the amended agenda for January 31, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Leppik to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2011 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Leppik to approve the minutes from the January 24, 2011 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT and METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, began by recognizing Bob Gibbons, MT Director of Public Relations, for his service to MT. Bob will be retiring, but will continue to work under the post retirement option while his replacement is chosen and is trained. Lamb also reported the following:

Two Transit Police Officers Recognized for Community Efforts

Two Transit Police Officers have been recognized for their work in building partnerships in the community. This past week an award by the Brian Coyle Community Center, the Department of Homeland Security, and the African Development Center was given at the Somali Youth Summit to Transit Officer Said Jama (“Sy-eed Jama”) for his community service. Officer Jama has been a member of our Transit force for three years and is currently working in investigations as a stretch assignment within the department.

Earlier this month, Lt Chuck Donaldson received the Transportation Security Administration Law Enforcement Award to acknowledge Metro Transit’s involvement with Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response (VIPR) teams. Lt. Donaldson worked locally with law enforcement officials to enhance security on the transit systems with highly visible patrols as a deterrent to potential terrorist planning activities.

Winter Carnival

As Winter Carnival events started this past week, Metro Transit’s Twinkle Bus will be featured in the Torchlight Parade this coming Saturday, February 5th in a unit including other groups promoting transit, walking and bicycling year-round. A free-ride pass to the parade is available to print from the Winter Carnival website. (The Twinkle Bus is not available for rides as it is in the Holidazzle; it is just a parade float this time.)

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS reported the following:
Legislative Audit Report

The Office of Legislative Audit staff continues to make presentations on their report to various committees at the legislature.

Regional Administrator

As many of you may have heard, Patrick Born has been named as the new Regional Administrator for Metro Council. Born's previous position was the City of Minneapolis Finance Director. He has been introduced to the Executive Team and his first day on the job will be 2/14. Wes Kooistra will act as interim Regional Administrator until that time.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2011-25 Contract for Metro Transit Facilities Drain Cleaning and Disposal Services

Tom Thorstenson, MT Director Engineering and Facilities, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Root-O-Matic for drain cleaning, sump cleaning and disposal services at Metro Transit Facilities.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2011-27 Property Acquisition for Expansion of the Highway 610 and Noble Park-and-Ride

Tom Thorstenson, MT Director Engineering and Facilities, introduced Maurice Roers, MT Manager of Facilities and Planning, who presented this item to the committee. Roers presented the plans, timeline, costs. Questions from members were answered regarding the structure/surface parking spaces, proposed congestion onto Noble as a result of the larger park-and-ride lot, cost per parking space and funding sources.

Beach suggested splitting the motion into two actions: one for the authority to purchase the site at the appraised value, and the other to authorize exercising eminent domain. Members did not split the action into two.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and, subject to approval by the Federal Transit Administration, purchase a 9.22 acre portion of the property located at 4410 95th Avenue North, Brooklyn park at the appraised value. That, in the event negotiations are not successful, the Metropolitan Council also authorize the acquisition of the same by eminent domain in accordance with the attached resolution. Motion passed, with Councilmember Beach voting against.

2011-29 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Funding Agreement with Qwest

Rich Rovang, CCLRT Project Director, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Construction and Funding Agreement with Qwest relative to design and construction costs for utility relocation along Segment 1 of the Civil East Construction limits for \$200,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2011-30 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Initiate Eminent Domain Proceedings for the Acquisition of Parcel 9S (Midway Marketplace) for Civil East Construction

Rich Rovang, CCLRT Project Director, presented this item to the committee and in answer to McFarlin, clarified what portions of the larger parcel would be included in eminent domain proceedings. There was no further discussion.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the initiation of eminent domain proceedings for the acquisition of the property rights for Parcel 9S (Midway Marketplace) in St. Paul for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Civil East Construction.

Motion passed unanimously.

2011-31 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: St. Paul Regional Water Temporary Water Change Order/Civil East

Rich Rovang, CCLRT Project Director, presented this item to the committee. In answer to McFarlin, Lamb stated that this item does not change the overall project budget, but is using some project contingency funds as indicated in the funding section of the business item.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a change order with Walsh Construction for an additional \$2.8 million above the standard 5% allowable contract change order contingency to provide for St. Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) temporary water service requirements along the Civil East corridor in St. Paul for the Civil East Construction Contract.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2011-28 Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) Sub-grant Agreement Amendments

Bruce Howard, Director MT Marketing, presented this item to the committee. This item will allow the TMOs to continue providing their service levels for 9 months. The amendment extensions will allow MT to match CMAQ funds receipts with the subgrant agreements, and MT will look at options and approaches for the 2012 pass-through funding agreements. McCarthy responded to Steffen that a TDM study was performed in 2010 at the request of TAC/TAB. The intent is to continue with the four TMOs listed in the business item, and utilize new ideas and competitive procurement with the additional funding. There were no further questions from the committee.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute amendments to four sub grant agreements with the regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) for the pass through of federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the period of April 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$809,297.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2011-41 2011 Unified Capital Program Amendment

Ed Petrie, MT Director of Finance, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2011 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows:
Metro Transit \$ 12,813,250
- Amend the 2011 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:
Metro Transit \$ 12,813,250

Motion passed unanimously.

2011-32 32011-2014 TIP Amendment: Include MnDOT SP#8825-417: Repair Fiber Optic Cables (TAB Action 2011-7

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, 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#8825-417: Repair Fiber Optic Cables.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2011-33 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Include MnDOT SP#2785-362: Nicollet Ave. Bridge repairs (TAB Action 2011-8)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

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#2785-362: Nicollet Avenue Bridge in Bloomington.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2011-34 2011-2014 TIP Amendments: Add 11 County Preservation Projects which utilize additional Federal Funds in FFY 2011

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. McFarlin pointed out that the distribution of the new federal funds to the Metro District seems to be a bit below the standard distribution of federal funds in this state. Ohrn was not sure why this might be, but stated that it may be related the original ARRA distribution, and noted that there is not a large discrepancy.

Motion by Steffen, 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 add 11 projects as described in the table in the business item.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

INFORMATION

1. Transitways Identity and Branding Framework Implementation Recommendations

Bruce Howard, MT Director Marketing, presented the next steps in the Transitways Identity and Branding Framework. The transitway services include LRT services and Highway BRT station-to-station services to differentiate from regular bus service. Things to do: Educate the new Council on this effort; determine appropriate stakeholder involvement; keep timeline and coordination. The framework (4 items) was approved in December 2010; the names of the lines (colors assigned) is scheduled to be approved March 23, 2011. Information on the FFGA for CCLRT is expected in April, 2011 and then hope to announce the color line designation with that FFGA. A system name is scheduled for June, 2011 and an identity for the system worked on after June. Implementation of the identity and branding is anticipated for 2012 with the BRT service.

2. 2011-35: 2011 Transportation Committee Work Plan

This item has been deferred to a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McFarlin adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:10 p.m. January 31, 2011.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary