

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, February 14, 2011**

Members Present	Craig Peterson, Vice Chair Roger Scherer	Natalie Haas Steffen Peggy Leppik	Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair Annette Meeks	Georgie Hilker	Kirstin Sersland Beach
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager MT	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair McFarlin called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:03 pm on February 14, 2011 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Leppik to adopt the agenda for February 14, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Aguilar to approve the minutes from the January 31, 2011 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

**METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS reported the following:

Shakopee BlueExpress Bus Accident

An accident occurred this morning involving a Shakopee BlueExpress bus that was broadsided, and the accident involved injuries. The bus will be out of commission for awhile; MTS staff are in contact with Scott County staff to see if they will be needing a replacement bus in the interim.

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

Twin Cities Named 5<sup>th</sup> best for Transportation in the U.S.

*US News & World Report* last week ranked the top cities for transit in the U.S., and Minneapolis/St. Paul came in fifth highest. They based their analysis on the best combinations of investment, ridership, and safety – specifically citing expanding recent expansion into light rail and commuter rail as well as increases in 2010 ridership. FYI – here are the top 10:

1. Portland, OR
2. Salt Lake City
3. New York
4. Boston
5. **Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN**
6. San Francisco
7. Los Angeles
8. Honolulu
- 9 (tie). Denver
- 9 (tie). Austin

### Energy Conservation

The bus fleet reduced its GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions from 83,960 to 77,210 tons. The 6,750 ton reduction occurred despite traveling 838,533 more miles, and using 664,400 fewer gallons of fuel. A small car generates approximately 6 tons of GHG a year.

### Transit Police Crime Report

Overall crime on the Metro Transit system was down 6% for calendar year 2010, the fourth consecutive year in a row we have seen a decline. Part-One serious crimes (i.e. robbery, aggravated assault) were down 5% and property crimes down 4%. Part-Two crimes were down 12%, with significant changes in disorderly conduct and threats, down 41% and 47% respectively. The only areas we generally saw increases were offenses such as smoking, public urination, false information to police. These quality of life issue offenses is largely driven by pro-active enforcement, and the offenses are usually observed while looking for other crimes. Obstructing legal process (i.e. resisting, obstructing or interfering with an arrest) went up a staggering 81%, also driven by officers increased presence, and making contacts, at high frequency routes and stations. Metro Transit Police officers continue to proudly carry out the mission of this department, and that dedication to duty plays a significant role in these crime reductions.

### I-35W Bus Rapid Transit Workshop Scheduled

Metro Transit hosted an informational workshop on Bus Rapid Transit service in the I-35W South corridor last Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> in Bloomington. Corridor planners recapped significant progress in the corridor over the past few years and shared details on new BRT stations and service coming online in 2012. Future corridor projects were also described, such as new online stations planned near I-494 and also at Lake Street. About 50 corridor stakeholders attended, representing communities along the I-35W corridor. The group of staff, elected, and appointed officials included Metropolitan Council members (Wendy Wulff), city council members and mayors, county commissioners, and corridor Legislators. After the project details were presented, stakeholders asked questions and shared their visions for the corridor. Metro Transit staff received strong support and valuable feedback for continuing planning activities for I-35W BRT.

### Web users up 14% in January

181,285 people visited metrotransit.org in January – 14 percent higher than January 2010. These customers and stakeholders visited the site an average of 3.3 times each last month – totaling 590,109 visits. Visits to the mobile version of the website made up 33 percent of all pages viewed. Additionally, \$492,769 of fares and other items were sold through the newly-designed metrotransit.org store.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

### 2011-46 Authorization to Purchase Fareboxes

Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager, presented this item to the committee. He explained that much of the current equipment is 15-20 years old and expensive to repair, and described “trim units” in answer to a question from Leppik.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase 28 new Cents-A-Bill Fareboxes with TRIM units from GFI Genfare, Inc. on a sole source basis in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

### 2011-24 2011 Unified Capital Program Amendment

Ed Petrie, MT Director of Finance, presented this item to the committee and answered Steffen that the funds are committed in the current budget. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council:

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Amend the 2011 Authorized Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:  
Metro Transit \$ 108,542,553  
Approve the changes to capital projects as detailed in Attachment 1 of the business item.  
Motion passed unanimously.

2011-36 2011 Unified Operating Budget Amendment  
Sean Pfeiffer, MTS Financial Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.  
Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer:  
That the Council amend the 2011 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table attached to the business item.  
Motion passed unanimously.

2011-47 Approval of Highway Bus Rapid Transit Station-to-Station Fare Collection Method  
Tom Randall, MT Senior Manager Revenue Operations, presented this item to the committee.  
Randall answered questions from Leppik as to whether driver(s) will be able to determine if a passenger pays at the rear door and how much police presence there will be on BRT. Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS updated the committee on discussions held with CTIB, in response to Steffen comments.  
Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Leppik:  
That the Metropolitan Council approve the Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Station-to-Station transitway service fare collection method recommendation of multiple door boarding with on-board fare collection via GoTo readers at all doors, a farebox at the front of the bus and supplemental on-board fare inspection.  
Motion passed unanimously.  
Hearing no objection, Vice-Chair Peterson stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2011-49 Authorization to Amend Contract to Comply with 2010 Environmental Protection Agency Emissions Regulations  
Chuck Wurzinger, MT Asst. Director Bus Maintenance, presented this item to the committee and answered a question from Steffen as to how long this price is in effect.  
Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Steffen:  
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the bus purchase contract with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to increase the per unit vehicle contract price by \$21,720 in order to comply with 2010 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions standards.  
Motion passed unanimously.  
Hearing no objection, Vice-Chair Peterson stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2011-50 Donated Buses Used for Hurricane Katrina Relief  
Tom Thorstenson, MT Director Engineering/Facilities, introduced George Serumgard, MT Project Manager, who presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members. Leppik made a comment commending Serumgard on his work.  
Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scherer:  
Authorize the Regional Administrator to donate two retired 40-ft. Gillig buses for Hurricane Katrina Relief efforts.  
Motion passed unanimously.  
Hearing no objection, Vice-Chair Peterson stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2011-39 Contract Change Order with Siemens for installing Automatic Passenger Counter Equipment on an additional 19 Light Rail Vehicles

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a change order with Siemens in an amount of \$788,000 to the Low Floor Light Rail Vehicles (LRV) contract to provide for the installation of automatic passenger counter equipment on an additional 19 LRV's.

Motion passed unanimously,

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

As an introduction to items 2011-51 through 2011-54, Mark Fuhrmann gave an update on the CCLRT schedule and gave the news that today President Obama proposed spending \$200 million in his 2012 federal budget on the Central Corridor light-rail line, a signal of heightened administration interest in the project. The Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) from FTA is anticipated to be signed in April.

2011-51 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Additional Limited Notices to Proceed for April 2011

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions about the item itself, but Aguilar had questions about the upcoming town hall meeting on 2/17 and the format to be used. Fuhrmann answered that it will be an informal opportunity for businesses to exchange information with project officials. Staff will have information on the type of help available to businesses. A more formal public comment period will take place after the supplemental EIS is complete.

Motion by Scherer, 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 April 2011 activity in an amount not to exceed \$65 million contingent upon receipt of the corresponding Letter of No Prejudice from the Federal Transit Administration and approval of the use of local funding by Project funding partners.

Motion passed unanimously.

2011-52 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Subordinate Funding Agreements with the City of Minneapolis

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following Subordinate Funding Agreements (SFA) under the existing Master Funding Agreement with the City of Minneapolis:

- SFA 7 for \$403,000 for City reimbursement to the Council for betterment elements of the CCLRT Civil West construction contract
- SFA 8 for \$884,000 for Council reimbursement to the City for City supplied materials related to CCLRT Civil West construction

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2011-53 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Subordinate Funding Agreements with the City of St. Paul

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item to the committee. Leppik questioned whether the lights are "dark-sky" design (no upward light), and Peterson questioned whether they are LED. Dan Soler, CCPO Traffic Engineer, came forward to answer that the lights will meet both Minneapolis and St. Paul "dark-sky" ordinances, and that LED technology is not up to street lighting standard yet, but the lights will be able to be retrofitted if/when such technology is available.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following Subordinate Funding Agreements (SFA) under the existing Master Funding Agreement with the City of St. Paul:

- SFA 4 for \$1.2 million for Council reimbursement to the City for City supplied materials related to CCLRT Civil East construction
- SFA 5 for \$600,000 for Council reimbursement to the City for City supplied street light materials related to Civil East construction
- SFA 7 for \$2.7 million for City reimbursement to the Council for sanitary sewer service work as bid in the Civil East construction contract

Motion passed unanimously

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

2011-54            Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Subordinate Funding Agreements with the University of Minnesota

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item to the committee. Leppik asked whether the U of M bonding request asking for funds to move the physics lab somewhere on U of M property affects the agreement between Metro Council and the U of M regarding the floating slab and dual split power supply. Fuhrmann answered that these items are still needed because the physics lab is only one lab of many. There are still other labs that need the mitigation.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following Subordinate Funding Agreements (SFA) under the existing Master Funding Agreement with the University of Minnesota:

- SFA 7 for \$430,000 for University reimbursement to the Council for betterment elements of the CCLRT Civil West construction contract
- SFA 9 for \$401,000 for Council reimbursement to the University for reconstruction of two entrances at Amundson Hall impacted by Civil West construction contract
- SFA 11 for \$280,000 for Council reimbursement to the University for fiber optic cable relocation

Motion passed unanimously.

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

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. Transit Facility Energy Conservation

Pat Jones, Assistant Director MT Engineering/Facilities, gave an update on the energy conservation at transit facilities. In 2008, Metro Transit and Xcel Energy conducted an energy audit and identified 100+ energy saving initiatives and target reductions for certain years. In 2009 and 2010 Metro Transit exceeded the goals for reduction of energy costs in the six major bus facilities that received work. Metro Transit would like to expand these energy conservation initiatives to all facilities. Some of the work included lighting retrofits and automation of systems. The committee will be seeing some of these items at future meetings.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Peterson adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:25 p.m. February 14, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,      LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary

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