

## Metropolitan Council

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

### Meeting of the Transportation Committee

Monday, July 25, 2011

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair Edward Reynoso	James Brimeyer John Đoàn Jennifer Munt	Jon Commers Adam Duininck
Members Absent	Roxanne Smith		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
Others Present	Metropolitan Councilmember Wendy Wulff Minneapolis City Councilmember Robert Lilligren		

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:02 p.m. on July 25, 2011 at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Reynoso, seconded by Đoàn to adopt the agenda for the July 25, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

#### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Brian Funk, Assistant Director Bus Transportation, introduced Transit Control Center Supervisor Jim Chisholm. Mr. Chisholm started with Metro Transit in 1992 and worked as a bus operator and relief dispatcher in several different garages before going to the TCC in 2000. He is being recognized for his overall dedication and leadership abilities, and particularly for his outstanding efforts in dealing with the aftermath of the tornado that damaged many areas of North Minneapolis. These included planning and coordinating new bus detours, events and communication as Mr. Chisholm served as a single point of contact for staff participating in tornado relief service. Chair Elkins and General Manager Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations and presented Mr. Chisholm with a plaque commemorating his achievement.

#### **METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

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

On Saturday morning, July 16, a Burlington Northern freight train carrying grain derailed due to a track washout just west of the Fridley Northstar station. The derailment caused severe damage to the track structure and the railroad bridge over Rice Creek. Northstar regular service and special trips to four Twins games were canceled on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This is the only time in the line's history where a disruption lasted more than a few hours. On Monday, July 18, BNSF reported that Northstar operations could resume on Tuesday, but Tuesday morning Metro Transit provided bus service from our suburban stations to Target Field. By Tuesday afternoon, Northstar trains were running again. Major delays were experienced on Northstar Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning as a result of BNSF freight backlogs and speed restrictions related to the bridge repair. On Thursday afternoon, Metro Transit staff

met with passengers at Target Field station to address their concerns in person and provide free rides to commuters traveling home from downtown. On-time performance this year was running at about 97% prior to this incident, and a return to that level of service is expected now that railway traffic is back to normal.

Heywood bus operators in June logged the lowest accident rate in garage history. The accident rate of 1.38 per 100,000 miles bested the previous record of 1.81 set in March 2010. Transportation Manager Jeff Wostrel said that among the many factors that contributed to the record, each operator has attended Safety Keys training over the last three years, giving them extra incentive to stay focused on safe driving techniques.

For each month this year, Hiawatha light-rail systems staff members have exceeded their reliability goals. In June, only one failure was reported, resulting in 173,723 miles between system failures against a goal of 163,000 miles.

## **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT**

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

There is a bonding bill that came out of the state legislative session for \$20 million to the Council for transitway projects. Staff will be coming to the Council during its August 10 meeting with a recommendation and will also present to CTIB at its mid-August meeting. These actions are particularly time-sensitive because CTIB grant applications for 2012 are due September 9, and the allocation of bonds will impact some of the applications, particularly those for Washington and Dakota Counties.

There continues to be a lot of activity at the federal level regarding a new transportation bill. A proposal from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is for spending \$109 million over two years. However, even with other sources, primarily the gasoline sales tax, funding would still come in \$12 million short of anticipated revenues. Senator Tom Coburn, who left and subsequently returned to the so-called Gang of Six, has a plan proposing significant cuts in transportation, such as allowing states to opt out of federal aid for highway and transit programs, eliminating and rescinding high-speed rail programs and funding, phasing out the New Starts program and eliminating other transit benefits. Discussion of these and other proposals is ongoing.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Consent Items**

None.

### **Non-Consent Items**

2011-200: Authorization to Execute Contract No. 11P002A, Diesel Fuel Supply REBID

Micky Gutzmann, Acting Director of Council Contracts and Procurement presented. Brimeyer asked what happened the first time versus the rebid. Staff responded that the same five suppliers bid both time but that further discussion took place prior to the rebid outlining both the requirements for the bid documents and the specifications. There was a second question from Doan about how much was spent by Transit on fuel last year. Staff replied that it was approximately \$27 million.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contract No. 11P002A with Hartland Fuel Products, LLC for the supply of diesel fuel to the Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit for a two-year period, with options to extend for years three and four. The contract will be in an amount not to exceed \$124,000,000.

Motion passed.

2011-199: Amendment to 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Elaine Koutsoukos, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. There were no questions.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to identify specific additional projects.

Motion passed.

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

## 2011-201 SW: Adopt Transportation Policy Plan Modification

Arlene McCarthy presented this item. She explained that The Interchange project is on a tight timeline with a desired completion date of April 2014, prior to the 2014 Twins baseball season. In response to a question from Brimeyer, she explained that multiple regional transitways, and potentially passenger rail lines, will connect at these two regional hubs. This is best demonstrated by the transitway map in the TPP.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council modify the *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* adopted in November 2010 as shown on Attachment A of the business item document.

Motion passed.

## INFORMATION

### 1. Commuter Challenge

John Siqveland, Special Projects Manager for Metro Transit Marketing, provided a summary of the results of the 2011 Commuter Challenge ridership campaign. He presented statistics for number of pledges, areas where commutes originate, and modes people pledged to use. He demonstrated an email follow-up program and online tracking tool and cited response rates. Staff responded to questions from committee members about how to summarize the quantifiable benefits to the region and about current use of and support for telework.

### 2. Legislative Summary and 2012 Budget Planning

Brian Lamb and Arlene McCarthy presented budget plan summaries for Metro Transit and MTS, respectively, and responded to questions from committee members.

### 3. Draft Regional Transitway Guidelines – Part 2

This item was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

### 4. Met Council/MnDOT/DHS Pilot Project with Scott/Carver County Transit Link

This item was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints.

## OTHER BUSINESS

None

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:51 p.m. July 25, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary