

Metropolitan Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Robert Street Council Chambers

4:00 P.M.

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Metropolitan Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Council Chambers

4:00 P.M.

Part I - Narrative

Attendance:

Peter Bell, Chair; Roger Scherer, Tony Pistilli, Craig Peterson, Polly Bowles, Peggy Leppik, Annette Meeks, Lynette Wittsack, Natalie Steffen, Kris Sanda, Georgeanne Hilker, Rick Aguilar, Kirstin Sersland Beach, Daniel Wolter

Members absent: Mary Hill Smith, Sherry Broecker, Brian McDaniel

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

A quorum being present, the Chair called the regular meeting of the Metropolitan Council to order at 4:07 p.m. Chair Bell moved the Report of the Management Committee to follow the Consent List. It was moved by Pistilli, seconded by Hilker, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Minutes

It was moved by Meeks seconded by Wittsack to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2008 Regular Committee of the Whole and Special Metropolitan Council Meeting and the September 10, 2008 Metropolitan Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Invitation

No one asked to address the Council regarding matters not on today's agenda.

Part II - Exhibits

Business

Committee Consent List

2008-82 - Approval of 2009 Public Housing Agency Plan

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Hilker

"That the Metropolitan Council approve the Public Housing Agency Plan (PHA Plan) for 2009, authorize the Metropolitan Council Chairman to execute the required certifications and direct staff to submit the final Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)."

Motion carried.

2008-171 Request to Broaden Scope of Three River Park District's 2008-09 CIP Allocation for Additional Capital Improvements at Lake Rebecca Park Reserve

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Hilker

"That the Metropolitan Council authorizes a change in the scope of the 2008-09 CIP allocation to Three Rivers Park District to allow the \$3,634,000 allocation to be used for rehabilitation of roads, parking lots, trails and the play area at Lake Rebecca Park Reserve."

Motion carried.

2008-227 - Request for CIP Reimbursement Consideration for Match to Federal Trail Construction Grant of Dakota Rail Regional Trail, Carver County

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Hilker

"That the Metropolitan Council consider reimbursing Carver County up to \$1,072,000 for the match to a \$1,976,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement grant to construct the Carver County portion of the Dakota Rail Regional Trail in future regional parks capital improvement programs. However, the Council does not under any circumstances represent or guarantee that reimbursement will be granted, and expenditure of local funds never entitles a park agency to reimbursement."

Motion carried.

2008-228 - City of Eagan Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Wensman / Carriage Hills, Review File No. 18274-21

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Hilker

"That the Metropolitan Council:

1. adopt the attached review record and allow the City of Eagan to put the comprehensive plan amendment (CPA) into effect;
2. find that the CPA does not change the City's forecasts;
3. remind the City to address stormwater inflow and infiltration (I/I) into the wastewater system as a part of its 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update. Including identification of sources of excessive inflow, and goals to reduce that flow."

Motion carried.

2008-243 - Revising scope of two capital Grants to Partially Finance Development at Silverwood Special Recreation Feature and in turn reduce future Metro Council CIP Reimbursement Eligibility Amount, Three Rivers Park District

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Hilker

"That the Metropolitan Council authorizes a change in the scope of grants SG-2006-134 and SG-2006-172 to be used to partially finance development at Silverwood Special Recreation Feature (SRF). This change in scope reduces the potential reimbursement amount the Metropolitan Council would consider for Silverwood SRF development it approved on April 23, 2008 by \$1,531,000 to a new amount of \$10,525,000."

Motion carried.

Report of the Management Committee

2008-247 - Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission (MSFC) 2009 Budget, Resolution 2008-27

MSFC Chair Roy Terwilliger and MPFC Executive Director Bill Lester, are focusing on the future of the Metrodome after 2011 when the University of Minnesota Gopher football team and the Minnesota Twins baseball team move to their own open air stadiums and the MN Vikings football contract expires. The need for a climate controlled facility in MN is critical to preserve professional sports, accommodate MN high school sports and other venues, and attach “signature” events to Minnesota.. The MSFC is evaluating the feasibility of reconstructing the Metrodome.

Chair Bell noted that MSFC , the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) and Metropolitan Council leadership meet annually to update each agency’s activities.

It was moved by Scherer and seconded by Pistilli

“That the Metropolitan Council approve Resolution No. 2008-27 granting approval of the proposed year 2009 Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission Budget and Report on User Fee Charge.”

Motion carried.

Report of the Transportation Committee

2008-207 SW - Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Contract for an Automated Bus Location System

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Hilker

“That the Metropolitan Council:

1. authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Ubisense, Inc. to supply and install an automated bus location system in Metro Transit’s five operating facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$983,337;
2. authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a five year contract with Ubisense, Inc. for maintenance and support of the automated bus location system in Metro Transit’s five operating facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$349,236.”

Motion carried.

2008-244 SW - Northstar Fare Set Approval for Public Review

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Sanda

“That the Metropolitan Council authorize proposed Northstar Commuter Rail Fares as set forth below for public comment at public hearings October 15th and 23rd.

Big Lake \$7.50

Elk River \$5.50

Anoka \$4.00

Coon Rapids \$4.00

Fridley \$3.25

Non-downtown station-station \$3.25

On a demonstration basis, discounted off-peak, weekend and “Special Event” fares will be developed within or below these fare ranges in consideration of non-commute users, lower parking pricing and congestion levels in downtown Minneapolis during non-peak periods.

Some Council Members believe the proposed fares are too low, saying customers should pay a larger percentage of the Northstar’s annual operating cost. The proposed fares would cover between 18 percent of projected operating costs in 2010, the Northstar Line’s first full year of service, and approximately 25 percent in the next year. Customers pay about 35% of annual operating costs for other bus and train service in the Metro area.

Council Members expressed concern about setting an adequate fare for the three public hearings scheduled next month. A proposed amount cannot be increased following public hearings, but can be decreased. The proposed fare was agreed upon by a joint committee with representatives from Anoka, Hennepin and Sherburne counties, the Northstar Corridor Development Authority and Metro Transit. Council Members did not want to increase the fares without having a discussion with the joint committee. The consensus was that the joint committee should reconvene to develop and agree upon new fare levels, with Metro Transit presenting new fare options and new public hearing dates to the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee. Their recommendation will then be forwarded to the Council for action.

It was moved by Scherer and seconded by Bowles

[“That the Metropolitan Council table the original motion to authorize proposed Northstar Commuter Rail Fares as set forth below for public comments at public hearings on October 15th and 23rd.”](#)

[Big Lake \\$7.50](#)

[Elk River \\$5.50](#)

[Anoka \\$4.00](#)

[Coon Rapids \\$4.00](#)

[Fridley \\$3.25](#)

[Non-downtown station-station \\$3.25](#)

Motion carried.

2008-251 SW - Forest Lake and Columbus Express Service Demonstration Fare

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Hilker

“That the Metropolitan Council endorse increasing the regular route fare for the Forest Lake and Columbus to Minneapolis express fare to \$4.75 effective October 1, 2008 on a demonstration basis for up to one year.”

Route 288 express service from Forest Lake and Columbus to downtown Minneapolis was launched by the Council in January 2008 to help mitigate impact of the I-35W bridge collapse. It was funded with emergency transit dollars from the U.S. Department of Transportation that will expire with the bridge opening on September 18, 2008. The Metropolitan Council has proposed that Anoka County, Chisago County, Washington County and the Metropolitan Council share the operating costs for the remainder of 2008. Long term funding of the route is being discussed with the local partners. Chisago County may share operating costs because its residents use the service, though the bus service does not extend into Chisago County.

Motion carried.

2008-252 SW 2009 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to CTIB

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Leppik

"That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to apply for grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following capital and operating projects:

1. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) capital for Preliminary Engineering and Final Design: \$10.232 million (January-June 2009; subsequent capital funding applications required);
2. Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) capital for Apple Valley Transit Station: \$6.95 million (CY09; one-time);
3. Hiawatha LRT operating: \$7.5 million (CY09; on-going);
4. Northstar Commuter Rail operating: \$3.5 million (CY09; on-going);
5. I-35W Lakeville BRT operating: \$62.5 thousand (October-December 09; on-going);
6. Cedar Avenue Lakeville BRT operating: \$22.5 thousand (October-December 09; on-going;)
7. Metropolitan Council transit operating assistance: \$30.783 million (CY09; one-time)"

Motion carried.

2008-262 SW - Regional Fare Collection System Contract with Cubic Transportation Services, Inc.

It was moved by Meeks and seconded by Peterson

"That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- negotiate and execute a sole source Agreement with Cubic Transportation Systems in an amount not to exceed \$2.1M to upgrade the Cubic Nextfare Fare Collection System software, purchase equipment, and develop a distance based fare system for Northstar Commuter Rail which will be integrated with the Regional Fare Collection System;
- execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for reimbursement in the full amount of \$881,371 for the Northstar Commuter Rail Software Development and Implementation from federal and local funds currently available within the Northstar Full Funding Grant Agreement;
- execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for reimbursement in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for additional Cubic Fare Collection Equipment and/or Other Fare Collection System Modifications from federal and local funds currently available within the Northstar Full Funding Grant Agreement."

Motion carried, with Steffen dissenting.

Staff was instructed to, in the future, seek other vendors through a competitive process who could provide this service.

Report of the Environment Committee

There was no report.

Report of the Community Development Committee

All items are on the Consent List.

Other Business

Metro Cities

Association of Metropolitan Municipalities “Metro Cities” is a service and lobbying organization for cities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Metro Cities monitors the Metropolitan Council and its activities, alerts member cities of pending decisions or actions and reacts as appropriate to protect the metro cities' interests. Metro Cities is the only general purpose metro wide city organization.

Louis Jambois, Executive Director noted that Metro Cities is considering formation of a Task Force to look at the Metropolitan Council's 40-year history and its future. The concept would be to conduct an analysis of the Metropolitan Council's current authority, activities, services and geographical jurisdiction.

Chair Bell thanked Louis Jambois for his report, noting a long standing partnership with AMM / Metro Cities sharing common interests and activities.

Reports

Chair

Chair Bell reported

- he, Council Members Leppik, Meeks and Wittsack, and Council staff met with Minneapolis officials at a District Dialogue on September 24 and also joined Council Member Scherer at Rogers on September 17. Chair Bell, noting the good response to these events, said another round of District Dialogues will be scheduled in the next 12-18 months.
- materials for the October 1 Metropolitan Council Retreat were distributed to Council Members.

Council Members

There were no reports.

Regional Administrator

Regional Administrator introduced Wes Kooistra, the Council's new Chief Financial Officer.

General Counsel

Associate General Counsel Dave Theisen reported that a three-judge panel of the Minnesota Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in the Nicollet Island Park Land litigation.

Adjournment

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Part III - Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Metropolitan Council Meeting of September 24, 2008

Approved this 8th day of October, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Curtiss
Secretary