

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**  
**Monday, February 26, 2007**

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Daniel Wolter Roger Scherer Chris Georgacas	Russ Susag Annette Meeks Richard Aguilar Natalie Haas Steffen	Brian McDaniel Georgie Hilker Peggy Leppik
Members Absent	None		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	None present		

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, M.Hill Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on February 26, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved by B.McDaniel seconded by D.Wolter to adopt the agenda for February 26, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by R.Susag seconded by D.Wolter to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2006 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Brian Lamb introduced Jan Homan who presented the employee of the month award to Marty Hayes from Metro Transit Maintenance Brake Shop. Marty designed and constructed a machine that would dismantle unusable brake chambers. The apparatus is much safer than the previous method of dismantling the parts by hand; it saves time, and makes it possible to recycle the parts more efficiently.

**METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT AND DIRECTOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORT**

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that unlike the snowstorm of March 2006 which created a lot of havoc with Metro Transit buses, last weekend’s snowstorm did not cause such problems. The overall goal is for buses to be on time 90% at all time points. On Saturday the on-time figure was 87%, and was back up to the goal of 90% by Sunday.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services also reported that Metro Mobility worked with their providers in anticipation of the snowstorm. The providers contacted the customers as to whether the customer still wanted to take the trips that were scheduled.

There are a few hearings tonight at the legislature. Legislative deadlines are earlier than last year. The omnibus finance bills must be out of committee by April 2, 2007, roughly a month ahead of schedule from previous years.

## **BUSINESS – Consent Items**

2007-78            2007-2010 TIP Amendment, MnDOT SP#70-621-23, CSAH 21 Reconstruction in Prior Lake, TAB Action 2007-06

Motion by N.Steffen, seconded by A.Meeks:

That the Metropolitan Council concurs with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP #70-621-23: CSAH 21 reconstruction from Franklin Trail to Adelman St. in Prior Lane at a higher total construction cost.

Motion carried.

2007-79            2007-2010 TIP Amendment, MnDOT SP#62-616-04, Vadnais Blvd. at Rice St. I-604 Interchange in Vadnais Heights, construction for realignment, TAB Action 2007-07

Motion by N.Steffen, seconded by A.Meeks:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP #62-616-04 Vadnais Blvd. at Rice St., I-694 Interchange in Vadnais Heights, “construction” for realignment at a higher total cost.

Motion carried.

## **BUSINESS –Action Items**

**SW 2007-83**      Central Corridor Proposed Downtown St. Paul Loop

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. The following also appeared to speak regarding the Central Corridor alignment in Downtown St. Paul: Ramsey County Commissioner Tony Bennett; Sanjay Kuba, representing the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce; Nancy Homans of the St. Paul Mayor’s Office; and Fred Gates, representing Representative Betty McCollum. All of these speakers spoke in favor of connecting LRT to the Union Depot as a multi-modal transportation facility. Bennett and Gates further spoke that connecting to the Union Depot concourse was essential. Discussion followed regarding the possible delay and costs for the project if an alignment other than the LPA is studied, Union Depot approaches (“front or back”), ridership numbers, reservations about the Cedar Street alignment including utilities, access and traffic impacts.

Motion made by Steffen, seconded by Susag:

That the Metropolitan Council affirm that the proposed Downtown St. Paul Loop will not be considered for evaluation as part of the Central Corridor preliminary engineering (PE) process unless and until the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority presents evidence demonstrating the Loop alignment is consistent with the Council-adopted principles for major scope changes; and that both front and back (concourse) alternatives at Union Depot will be evaluated as part of PE.

Motion passed. 7 yes (Steffen, Aguilar, Susag, Leppik, McDaniel, Wolter, Hilker) 3 no (Meeks, Scherer, Georgacas).

2007-66            March 2007 Unified Capital Program Amendment

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit, and Amy Vennewitz, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented their respective division changes to the Capital Program for March 2007. Mark Fuhrmann was on hand to answer a question from Steffen concerning possible Central Corridor use of bond money.

Motion by R.Scherer, seconded by P.Leppik:

That the Council:

- Amend the 2007 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding \$4,408,030 in authority to the Transportation Division, as detailed in the attachment provided as part of the business item.
- Amend the 2007 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by adding \$14,930,017 in appropriations to the Transportation Division, as detailed in the attachment provided as part of the business item

Motion carried.

2007-56 I-94 East Park-and-Ride Facility

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members regarding the construction costs and sources of funds.

Motion by R.Scherer seconded by R.Susag:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and lease property at the Guardian Angels Church in Oakdale for a park-and-ride facility.

Motion carried, with Steffen voting no.

**SW 2007-74** Construction of the 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park-and-Ride Facility, Project 63612

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee. He gave a background of the development agreement reached with the City of Bloomington, the average per-space construction cost and answered questions regarding non-transit persons using the park and ride facility. The committee approved the motion with the understanding that Metro Transit will return at a later date with suggested solutions for regulating parking privileges to transit users only.

Motion by R.Susag seconded by D.Wolter:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the construction of the 28th Avenue Park & Ride Facility, in Bloomington, Minnesota subject to verification of funds availability from the Bloomington Port Authority.

Motion carried.

2007-75 Lease Agreement for 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue LRT Interim Parking

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee regarding the timing of construction and lease.

Motion by R.Susag seconded by G.Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) and the Mall of America Corporation (MOAC) for the lease of property located at 8200 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 8201 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bloomington, for use by the Council as interim parking facilities.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection, M.Hill Smith stated that this item to go to the full Council as a consent item.

2007-76 Authorization to Purchase Sparkle Wash Property, Project 62312

Pat Jones, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by P.Leppik seconded by R.Susag:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to acquire fee title to the property at 1000 Lyndale Avenue North in Minneapolis (otherwise known as the Sparkle Wash property) for a purchase price of \$820,000.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection, M.Hill Smith stated that this item to go to the full Council as a consent item.

2007-53 2007 Annual RALF Program Plan and Report

Ann Braden, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee and clarified a question about the timing and money to be received.

Motion by Steffen seconded by Susag:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the 2007 Annual RALF Program Plan.
2. Amend the RALF guidelines to require one property appraisal.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objection, M.Hill Smith stated that this item to go to the full Council as a consent item.

2007-61 Approval of Transportation Committee 2007 Work Plan

Arlene McCarthy presented the proposed Transportation Committee 2007 Work Plan that was prepared by her and Brian Lamb.

Motion by P.Leppik, seconded by G.Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee approves the Plan as provided as part of the business item as its Work Plan for 2007.

Motion carried. It is not necessary for this item to go to the full Council.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Central Corridor Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Strategic Plan

Wanda Kirkpatrick, Metropolitan Council Director Equal Opportunity in the Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity (ODEO), presented this item. This plan is required by the Community. This item is informational at this time. Kirkpatrick requested that the committee members contact staff with any changes or suggestions they may have before the DBE Strategic Plan comes before the Committee and Council for approval.

M.Hill Smith suggested that every contractor be required to sign that they will follow Metropolitan Council DBE Plan. Kirkpatrick will bring this to the attention of N.Grossman, Legal Counsel to advise about this requirement.

2. Monthly Ridership Report

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit reported on the ridership numbers for January 2007. He stated that the slogan for 2007 is: "the drive is alive for 75", meaning that the goal for 2007 is to reach 75,000,000 rides. Bruce Howard reported on Metro Transit Marketing Travel Demand Management Program. There is a new Park-and-Ride map available, as well as a multi-language fare information leaflet. Members (employers) who participate in the TDM program receive "Inside Lane" newsletter bi-monthly. The newsletter is e-mailed, if committee members are interested, contact B.Howard to be added to the e-mail list. The "Miller" free ride program will be in place again this St. Patrick's day. The program runs from 3:00 pm until the last service of the day.

3. NorthStar Locomotive Procurement

Brian Lamb presented this information item in advance of a business item which will come before the Transportation Committee in March. Lamb gave an overview on the options that Metro Transit is looking at when purchasing locomotives for NorthStar. Lamb agreed to send the PPT presentation to the Transportation Committee members with an outline, before the item comes to the committee in March.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

M.Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m. February 26, 2007.

Respectfully submitted, - LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary