

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, March 12, 2007

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|--------------------------------|
| Members Present | Mary Hill Smith, Chair Chris Georgacas Richard Aguilar | Russ Susag Annette Meeks | Peggy Leppik Georgie Hilker |
| Members Absent | Daniel Wolter Brian McDaniel | Natalie Haas Steffen | Roger Scherer |
| Staff Presiding | Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit | Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services | |
| TAB Liaison | David Gepner | | |

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 March 12, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Leppik seconded by Susag to adopt the agenda for March 12, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Hilker seconded by Susag to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2007 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORT AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services highlighted Councilmembers' e-mail invitations pertaining to the Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA). This is a DOT program whereby they will be soliciting proposals from regions to utilize \$130+ M federal funding for projects that would use innovative ways to reduce congestion. MnDOT is the lead on this, working closely with Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, and FHWA. The purpose of the workshop to be held on 3/16 is to get input from local communities about ideas to be considered prior to recommending proposals. Proposals are due to the DOT on April 30, 2007. McCarthy encouraged members to attend the workshop.

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

1. The Maple Grove City Council approved an amendment to a contract awarding additional service for Metro Transit to provide for Maple Grove Transit. This represents approximately 60% addition over the base service that has been operating over the last couple of years. The service is to begin in June.
2. New service to and from the 63rd Ave. Park-and-Ride will begin next week. This facility location was donated by Hennepin County and was originally part of the Bottineau Boulevard corridor plan. Three round trip services a day will operate from this Park-and-Ride lot.
3. Metro Transit Police Chief Indrehus reported on the shooting on a Metro Transit bus on 3/07/07. Indrehus reported on the steps being taken to find the suspects, and to increase staff and volunteer ride time to deter these type of incidents, he shared photos of the suspects taken by the on-board cameras that will be released to the public today via the news.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

2007-099 Bikeways Data Maintenance

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Leppik, motion passed:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an interagency agreement with the Land Management Information Center in the Office of Geographic and Demographic Analysis, a division of the Minnesota Department of Administration, to provide maintenance services on the regional bikeways GIS data layer during 2007 for \$17,500.00.

2007-080 SAFETEA-LU Compliance Approval, TAB Action 2007-08

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Leppik, motion passed:

That the Metropolitan Council, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, find that the Transportation Policy Plan is compliant with SAFETEA-LU requirements for the regional long-range transportation plan, and that the Transportation Improvement Program is compliant with SAFETEA-LU requirements for the development of the regional TIP.

BUSINESS –Action Items

2007-111 Hiawatha LRT CMAQ Land Assembly Funds Reallocation

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Reallocate \$750,000 in Hiawatha LRT CMAQ Land Assembly funds from the 46th Street Square: Snelling Avenue Extension project to the Longfellow Station Transit-Oriented Development project, for a total Longfellow Station award of \$980,000.
2. Extend the expected timing of closings on property acquisitions from March 31, 2007 to March 31, 2008, and on beginning development of properties by March 31, 2009 to March 31, 2010, and
3. Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute grant agreements with the City of Minneapolis for the following new recommended grant amounts:

| Project Recommended for Land Assembly Funding | Original City Requested Amount | 2/22/06 Metropolitan Council Award | Reallocation Request | New Recommended Amount |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Currie Park Lofts and Station Place (Cedar/Riverside LRT Station Area) | \$1,720,000 | \$1,720,000 | | \$1,720,000 |
| Franklin LRT Station Project (Franklin Avenue LRT Station Area) | \$800,000 | \$800,000 | | \$800,000 |
| 46 th Street Town Square: Snelling Avenue Extension (46 th Street LRT Station Area) | \$750,000 | \$750,000 | (\$750,000) | \$0 |
| Longfellow Station Transit Oriented Development (38 th Street LRT Station Area) | \$1,000,000 | \$230,000 | +\$750,000 | \$980,000 |
| TOTALS | \$4,270,000 | \$3,500,000 | | \$3,500,000 |

Hearing no objections, Hill Smith stated that this item (2007-111) could move forward to the full Council as a consent item.

2007-087 2006/2007 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit, and Amy Vennewitz, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented their respective division changes to the Operating Budget for 2006/2007 and answered questions from the committee members.

Motion made by Leppik, seconded by Hilker, motion passed:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2006 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table provided as part of the business item.
- Amend the 2007 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table provided as part of the business item.

2007-057 Authorization to Award Contract for 314 Transit Buses

Hill Smith announced that one representative from New Flyer America (Ross Watson) and one representative from Gillig Corporation (Clark Arens) would be given an opportunity to speak on behalf of their companies regarding the bidding process and procurement procedures pertaining to this item. Chris Gran and Jan Homan, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee and explained the importance of training and further explained what the term “fleet defect” means.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Georgacas, motion carried:

That the Metropolitan Council reject the Best and Final Offer submitted by New Flyer of America, Inc., due to New Flyer's material deviations from the requirements of the specification, and that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Gillig Corporation for the purchase of 314 forty-foot transit buses, with an option for up to an additional 300 buses, in accordance with the Council's specification and Gillig's Best and Final Offer dated February 2, 2007, contingent on satisfactory results from the Buy America Pre-Award Audit.

2007-097 Independent Testing Laboratory Contract for the 28th Avenue Park-and-Ride in Bloomington, Project 63612

Tom Thorstenson, MetroTransit presented this item to the committee.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Hilker, motion carried:

That the Metropolitan Council (1) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract with Stork Twin City Testing Corporation for the Independent Testing Laboratory services during the construction of the 28th Avenue Park-and-Ride Facility, and (2) that the Metropolitan Council have the technical authority to act on behalf of the Bloomington Port Authority Trust in making payments to vendors on the 28th Avenue Park and Ride Construction Project.

Hearing no objections, Hill Smith stated that this item (2007-097) could move forward to the full Council as a consent item.

INFORMATION

1. Metro Mobility Travel Instruction

David Jacobson introduced Andrew Streasick, Metro Mobility, who presented this item to the committee. This program is aimed at training seniors and members of the disability community to enable them to feel comfortable taking regular route transit for their trips. Training is done in a group setting and can give the riders more options, flexibility and spontaneity in their travel. The program can also reduce expenses for both the user and Metro Mobility and promotes goodwill between the parties.

2. Transit Master Plan Update

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services presented this item and explained how the Update of the Master Plan will be handled, why it is being looked at, and how it will be useful in updating the TPP, required in 2008.

3. Council “Hurricane Relief” Bus Update

George Serumgard, Metro Transit, and Pastor Russ Cowenhoven of ChristLife Church appeared before the committee regarding this item. Two retired buses were taken to the Mississippi Gulf area to help in the relief effort after Hurricane Katrina. Those two buses were donated by Holters. One more bus was donated to ChristLife Church to make trips back & forth for the relief effort. The church has made 5 trips so far and is planning their 6th trip. Serumgard requested that the Council replace the two buses given by Holters and also look into a change in policy to allow this type of gift or transfer of buses. Hill Smith said that she will request staff to look into the policy.

4. Northstar Locomotive Update

Rich Rovang, Metro Transit/Deputy Dir. Northstar Commuter Rail, explained three procurement options, timing and summary for Northstar Locomotives. Staff will most likely return to the Transportation Committee on 3/26 with a SW item requesting approval of the preferred option.

5. FY 2008 Appropriations Request

Mark Fuhrmann, Assistant General Manager, and Julie Johanson, Deputy Director, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee. Requests for Central Corridor have been made to the US Senate and House. Requests total \$22 M for Central Corridor Preliminary Engineering. There is also a request for bus and bus capital for \$9.9 M to pay the difference between hybrid and diesel buses.

6. Comparable Transit Systems Report Operational Data

Brian Lamb, General Manager, and Ed Petrie, Metro Transit presented this item. The figures are based on NTD information and are about 1 year behind (2005 statistics). In this presentation, Metro Transit is compared to other systems of like size and ridership, etc.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m. March 12, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary