

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, March 26, 2007

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Natalie Haas Steffen	Russ Susag Annette Meeks	Peggy Leppik Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Georgie Hilker Brian McDaniel	Chris Georgacas	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 4:05 pm on March 26, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Susag seconded by Steffen to adopt the agenda for March 26, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Susag seconded by Steffen to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2007 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Mark Johnson, Heywood Garage Manager, who presented the following employees with recognition for their work on the Black History Month celebrations over the years. They coordinate the event which includes food, music and speakers. This year's speaker was Robyne Robinson from Channel 9. Employees are: Chuck Robinson, Valerie Robinson, Tracey Jackson, Traci Williamson, James Cushenberry.

Bob Gibbons presented recognition awards to employees of the Transit Information Center for their quantity and quality of service. Employees are: Carol Hanson, Ann Rykowski, Lisa Sovde, Amy Gudmestad, Dee Molean. Dee Molean, Manager TIC, was also recognized for her work as she will be retiring next month after 27 years of service.

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

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

The St. Patrick's Day Miller Free Rides totaled 80,000 rides, which will be reimbursed by Miller Co. This represents a 55% increase over last year. Hill Smith requested additional information, if any, pertaining to the bus procurement (item from 3/12/07 Transportation Committee) that will be heard at the full Council meeting on 3/28/07, be provided prior to the Council meeting taking place on that day. Lamb agreed and will bring additional analysis information to the meeting on 3/28/07.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services stated that the Transit Master Plan update information that was presented at the 3/12/07 Transportation Committee meeting will be presented at the Metropolitan Transitways Development Board (MTDB) meeting on Wednesday. Counties will hear the

information at this meeting, and staff has offered to appear at individual county board meetings, if it would be more convenient.

McCarthy also gave an update of the Legislative session. Amy Vennewitz was present to answer any questions that committee members had regarding the Legislative session.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

Motion was made by Wolter, seconded by Meeks to approve the following consent items. Motion passed.

2007-104 2007-2010 TIP amendment: City of St. Paul, Add SP # 164-070-07, Planning and Pre-design of Twin Cities Bioscience Corridor to FY 2007. TAB Action 2007-16

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to Amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add SP#164-070-07 Planning and Pre-design of Twin Cities Bioscience Corridor in FY 2007.

2007-105 2007-2010 TIP Amendment: Washington County, Move SP #82-619-14, Reconstruct Off-Road Bike Trail from FY 2008 to FY 2007 and defer SP #141-595-01, Downtown Minneapolis circulator transit terminal from FY 2007 to FY 2008. TAB Action 2007-17

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to move SP #82-619-14 Reconstruct Off-Road Bike Trail from FY 2008 to FY 2007 to be carried out with the mill and overlay on CSAH 19.

2007-106 2007-2010 TIP Amendment: Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, Add three projects to FY 2007: Grand Rounds CMP Implementation Seed Grant, SP #91-060-064; Grand Rounds Scenic Byway Observation Area and Amenities, SP #91-060-067; and Great River Road National Scenic Byway Marketing, SP#91-060-072. TAB Action 2007-18

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add three Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board projects to FY 2007: S#91-060-064, Grand Rounds CMP Implementation Seed Grant; SP#91-060-067, Grand Rounds Scenic Byway Observation Area and Amenities; and SP#91-060-072, Great River Road National Scenic Byway Marketing.

2007-109 2007-2010 TIP Amendment: Metro Transit, Add SP #CM-15, Acquisition of Expansion Bus, to FY 2007. TAB Action 2007-19

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by adding SP #CM 15 Acquisition of an Expansion Bus to FY 2007.

2007-110 2007-2010 TIP Amendment: Metro Transit, Add funds to SP #TRF-TCMT-07G, LRT Vehicle Overhaul, in FY 2007 and reduce funding for SP #TRF-TCMT-07, Heywood Bus Garage Expansion. TAB Action 2007-20

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add funds to SP#TRF-TCMT-07G, LRT Vehicle Overhaul in 2007, and reduce funding for SP#TRF-TCMT-07, Heywood Garage Expansion.

2007-121 2030 Transportation Policy Plan Modification

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council modify the language in Chapter 5 of the Transportation Policy Plan 5th bullet under Criteria for Evaluating Revenue Sources to read: “The revenue sources should be predictable and not fluctuate significantly from year to year.”

BUSINESS –Action Items

2007-119 **SW** Northstar Locomotive Procurement

Beth Widstrom-Anderson, Mark Fuhrmann and Rich Rovang responded to questions on Northstar locomotive procurement related to Council bonding authority, the schedule for approval of the Full Funding Grant Agreement and cancellation provisions in the agreement. Motion by Steffen, seconded by Susag, motion passed unanimously.

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Negotiate and execute funding agreements with MnDOT for reimbursement of locomotive payments and interest expense from Full Funding Grant proceeds and with the Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA) for reimbursement of local match funds.
- Negotiate and execute an Intergovernmental, Joint Powers, and Assignment Agreement with Utah Transit Authority assigning the rights for the Council to exercise an option to purchase remanufactured locomotives.
- Exercise a Northstar option under the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) contract with Motive Power Inc. for four remanufactured MP-36 locomotives in an amount not to exceed \$10,973,000 with the following conditions
 - execution of the reimbursement agreements with Mn DOT and NCDA
 - receipt of a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) from the Federal Transit Administration;
 - inclusion of a no-cost cancellation clause in the contract.

That the Metropolitan Council direct the Regional Administrator to cancel by May 31, 2007 the option contract with Motive Power under the no-cost cancellation clause unless the Council has taken specific action to allow the option contract to continue past May 31, 2007.

2007-103 Contract Amendment for Route 720

Jody Jacoby, Metropolitan Transportation Services and Cyndi Harper, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee and gave a background, details and marketing efforts for this route.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Meeks, motion passed.

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a West Metro Transit Redesign contract amendment with Laidlaw Transit Services for operation of the new Route 720 in an amount not to exceed \$240,000.

Hearing no objections, Hill Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2007-107 **SW** Adoption of the Metro Area Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Action Plan

Arlene McCarthy explained that this item is appearing as a same week item because MnDOT has requested Metropolitan Council to expedite this item. MnDOT has an RFP for the Greater Minnesota Share of Funding and their RFP cross-references this item. Cole Hiniker, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item. The public comment period has passed and comments have been incorporated into the plan. The item has been approved by the TAB, TAC and TAAC.

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

That the Council adopt the Twin Cities Metro Area Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Action Plan as the coordinated public transit-human services plan for the region. The plan will be available Thursday afternoon, March 22, 2007:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/transportation/CoordinationPlanAdoption.pdf>

2007-122 Authorization to Execute Contracts to Implement Capital Program

Cole Hiniker and Reggie Turner, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item and answered questions regarding the source of funds to cover the reallocations. The movement of the funds was included in the Capital Budget amendment previously approved by the Transportation Committee, this item allows the execution of the contracts.

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

That the Regional Administrator be authorized to execute contracts for up to \$1,799,876 for a SouthWest Transit garage expansion and up to \$1,704,496 for a Plymouth park-and-ride facility. Hearing no objections, Hill Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item. Hill Smith requested that a sentence be added before this item goes to the full Council that the funds are presently in the budget and are being reallocated.

INFORMATION

1. Performance Measures Report for January and February

Sheri Gingerich presented the statistics for both bus and rail for January and February. Hill Smith requested a more detailed report of on board transit police hours and safety statistics for April.

2. Monthly Ridership Report for February

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit, and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing, reported on the monthly ridership and TDM activities for February. Following questions from committee members, Ed Petrie will correct the legend on slide 4 of the PPT prior to the next report. Bruce Howard reported that the marketing department is working on a spring media campaign and looking at a TV spot; four creative ideas will be provided to Transportation Committee members as an e-mail link and Committee members will be able to respond with their feedback to Howard. Howard will send the link out in the next couple of days.

3. 2007 Commuter Challenge

Bruce Howard reported on the 2007 Commuter Challenge and the goals set for this year. About 200 commuter fairs will be held at employer sites. Employer kick-offs are presently being held, the first day to pledge is April 1. The media kick-off will be held on April 5 at the IDS Crystal Court. A follow-up survey will be held prior to the Commuter Choice Awards event which is scheduled to be held in September.

4. Access Minneapolis

Adam Harrington, Metro Transit and Connie Kozlak, Metropolitan Transportation Services, gave an update on the Access Minneapolis project. The study is an effort with input from the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Metro Transit and Minneapolis Business Partners. Harrington focused on Downtown Minneapolis. Some of the goals are 1) sustaining economic vitality, 2) being competitive regionally and nationally, 3) improving the walkability and livability of downtown environment, 4) offering good transportation choices for people who live in downtown, and 5) serving future growth. A draft schedule matrix was handed out, stating the issues and timelines. There will be an open house-style public review on April 11 & 12, hosted by the City of Minneapolis. The city plans to bring the concept of the plan to their Transportation Public Works and City Council for approval in May. At that time the plan will also come back to the Transportation Committee and Metro Council. In answer to question from Susag, Metro Council is a "technical" partner in Minneapolis's study of streetcars, but is not a funding partner.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m. March 26, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary