

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, May 14, 2007**

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

CALL TO ORDER

M.Hill Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on May 14, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul. There was not a quorum at the start of the meeting, so Smith began the meeting with non-business items.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Finance & Planning MTS, presented a recognition award to Cole Hiniker, Financial Planning Technician in Metropolitan Transportation Services.

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, presented a recognition award to Brian Montgomery, Provider Liaison in Metro Mobility.

DIRECTOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORT and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services reported on the Transportation Finance Bill at the Legislature. The House voted earlier today, and the Senate is presently voting. A governor veto is anticipated because the bill contains gas tax and sales tax increases.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that today Metro Transit is making its transition to the temporary lot at the 28th Ave. Park and Ride location. Metro Transit has been tracking ridership closely with gas price fluctuation, and indications are that the ridership is increasing. He reported that committee member Hilker attended the Living Green Expo, where the “Go-Greener” logo-wrapped hybrid bus was on display.

INFORMATION

2. Performance Measures Report for March and April

Vince Pellegrin, Metro Transit, reported on the Bus and Light Rail performance measures for March and April.

A quorum was now present, the meeting continued with business items.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Susag to adopt the agenda for May 14, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Wolter, seconded by Susag to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2007 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

Motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Susag to approve the following consent item. Motion passed.

2007-150 Approval of Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom FY 2006-2007 Solicitation Package

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Solicitation Packages and their release to the public for solicitation of project applications.

BUSINESS –Action Items

2007-128 Minnetonka Area Transit Services Contract

Bruce Dreier, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. He and John Harper, Supervisor Contracted Transit Services, answered questions from committee members and provided explanations for the staff recommendation.

Mr. Ron Bloch, Senior Community Services (SCS) also appeared before the committee to speak in opposition to the staff recommendation.

Aguilar voiced a desire to look into reconsidering the contract award. McCarthy stressed the importance of following procurement policies and procedures.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Wolter, motion passed with Aguilar voting against.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Midwest Paratransit Services, Inc. to provide Minnetonka Area Dial-A-Ride Transit Service from July 2, 2007 to June 30, 2012, in an amount not to exceed \$2,833,857.

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

2007-171 Authorization to Terminate Contract #06P022 with First Student, Inc., and Award Contract for BE Line/494 and Roseville Area Circulator Transit Service

Deborah Ellis, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Georgacas, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. Terminate contract #06P022 with First Student, Inc. to operate Roseville Area Circulator Transit Service and I-494 Transit Service, effective June 30, 2007.
2. Execute a contract with Transit Team, Inc. to provide BE-Line/I-494 Transit Service from July 1, 2007 to June 1, 2012, for an amount not to exceed \$14,179,258.
3. Execute a contract with Lorenz Bus Service, Inc. to provide Roseville Area Circulator Transit Service from July 1, 2007 to June 1, 2012, for an amount not to exceed \$4,635,586.

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

2007-142 Authorization to Award Contract for Coach Buses

Andrew Krueger, Fleet Manager, Metro Mobility, presented this item to the committee and provided a clarification in answer to Smith's question about the type of buses to be replaced; the buses being replaced are not low floor models.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Motor Coach Industries for three coach buses, to be utilized by regional transit providers, in an amount not to exceed \$1,468,000.

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

2007-172 Approval of the 2007 Regional Solicitation - TAB Action 2007-27
Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. The item has not changed since it appeared before the committee as an information item on April 23. There were no questions from committee members.

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

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2007 Regional Solicitation Package for release to the public for solicitation of project applications including the schedule of events.

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

2007-174 Approval of the 2007 Bridge Improvement and Replacement Regional Solicitation Criteria -
TAB Action 2007-28

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. The item has not changed since it appeared before the committee as an information item on April 23. MnDOT had been doing this solicitation, but over the years it has evolved so that the TAC/TAB process of evaluating the proposals has taken place. It has been agreed with MnDOT that Metropolitan Council will take over the Bridge Solicitation for 2007. There were no questions from committee members.

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

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2007 Bridge Improvement and Replacement Solicitation Criteria for release to the public along with the full Solicitation Package on May 25, 2007.

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

2007-167 South Garage Addition and Renovation

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit, presented this item and answered questions from committee members.

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

Motion:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with Parkos Construction Company, Inc., for the construction of the South Garage Addition and Renovation.

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

2007-181 Northstar Corridor Development Authority and Minnesota Ballpark Intergovernmental
Cooperation Agreement

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit, presented this item and answered questions from committee members regarding the 5th Street Bridge reconstruction. He explained each agreement and the responsibilities of the parties involved. Smith thanked Fuhrmann and staff for their hard work on these complicated and time-sensitive agreements.

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

Motion:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement Regarding Northstar and Ballpark Projects.

2007-182 Metropolitan Council and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Track, Platform and
Overpass Agreements

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit, presented this item and answered questions from committee members; he stated that this item has had a few revisions since the original mailing and confirmed that the committee members had the most recent item. There were no further questions from committee members.

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

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute with BNSF Railway:

- Platform leases for Big Lake, Elk River, Anoka, Coon Rapids and Minneapolis Stations;
- Track agreements for Big Lake (2) and Minneapolis (2) Stations;
- Overpass agreements for Coon Rapids and Minneapolis Stations, and

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Delegation and Funding Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation for the acquisition of certain property interests from BNSF for construction and operation of Northstar.

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

2007-183 Northstar Locomotive Procurement

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit, presented this item and answered questions from committee members and clarified to the committee that this motion is to NOT cancel the option for four locomotives.

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

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council take specific action directing the Regional Administrator not to cancel by May 31, 2007, the option contract with Motive Power for four MP36 remanufactured locomotives.

2007-170 Policies and Standards for Advertising

Dave Theisen, General Counsel's Office and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing, presented this item to the committee. Theisen passed out copies of the proposed policies with the changes "red-lined", as the copy provided earlier did not highlight the changes. Theisen and Howard answered questions regarding the determination of what Metro Transit facilities would be "designated" for advertising.

Motion made by Georgacas, seconded by Wolter, motion passed:

Motion:

That the Committee recommend the Metropolitan Council: (1) designate advertising space on its buses, light rail vehicles and other Metro Transit facilities as a nonpublic forum; and (2) approve the attached proposed *Policies and Standards for Advertising on Metro Transit Facilities*.

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

INFORMATION

1. I-94 & Brockton Interchange Proposal

Councilmember Scherer gave an introduction for this item.

This is a model of public/private partnerships being effective in integrating land use and new development with transportation improvement. This project proposes a strategy to address transportation improvements needed to serve the area, and addresses funding alternatives for such improvements. The following persons representing the partnership appeared to speak to the committee:

Mayor Doug Anderson, City of Dayton

Mayor Paul Przybilla, City of Rogers

Elwin Tinklenberg, President Tinklenberg Group

Tom Gump, The Beard Group

Chris Roy, MnDOT, also appeared and touched on overall funding, regional plans, and the process for a new interchange.

2. Transit Police Update/Security Initiatives

David Indrehus, Metro Transit Police Chief, gave an update on the Transit Police Security status and statistics. He also introduced four new members to the Police Force: Holly, Bosco, Izzy and Cooper – canine officers used in bomb detection.

3. Monthly Ridership Report for March and April

Ed Petrie and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit, gave ridership reports on their respective areas for March and April 2007.

4. Report SMARTCoM in Action

Christine Kuennen and Gary Nyberg, Metro Transit Control Center, presented this item to the committee. They gave a demonstration on some of the aspects of SMARTCoM, and its monitoring abilities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Smith reminded members that there will not be a meeting on May 28, 2007, Memorial Day Holiday. The next scheduled meeting is June 11, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. May 14, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary