

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, June 11, 2007**

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Georgie Hilker Daniel Wolter Annette Meeks	Russ Susag Brian McDaniel Chris Georgacas	Peggy Leppik Richard Aguilar Natalie Haas Steffen
Members Absent	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 June 11, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Susag seconded by Wolter to adopt the agenda for June 11, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Susag, seconded by Wolter to approve the minutes from the May 14, 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 delegated her report to M.Hill Smith who spoke regarding the Fly-In in Washington D.C. that Smith attended last week along with Amy Vennewitz and Judd Schetnan. Smith reported that they met with Mary Peters, Transportation Secretary, and received a firm commitment from Peters that the full funding grant will be coming soon for Northstar. They also talked to a number of different people about structures for funding that would improve our financial situation. The cities and counties were also in this discussion.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that the Twin Cities was one of nine initial applications nationwide that was approved by the US DOT just last week for further consideration for funding through the Urban Partnership Agreement. In August, the federal government hopes to identify a couple of regions that will receive a package for a 3-year plan to demonstrate proposals for improving congestion. Bus ridership exceeded last year's figures for the months of April and May. The last time this type of growth occurred (month to month comparison) was in 1999.

Lamb reported on the Hiawatha LRT accident which resulted in the death of a 79 year old woman on Friday. The investigation is on-going, the staff worked very effectively through LRT operations, and continues to work with the Minneapolis Police Department during the investigation. M.Hill Smith requested a follow-up report on the results of discussions about any safety measures at the platforms or increased education to the public regarding light rail safety. On Saturday, an insulating cable broke, the catenary sagged for about a half a mile. Service was switched to single track with about a 15 minute frequency. Service was restored by late afternoon. Further evaluation and testing will be done, and a plan of action prepared to prevent this breakage in the future. Findings and "next steps" may be available in the next few weeks.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

There were no consent items.

BUSINESS –Action Items

In response to Chair Smith's question, Arlene McCarthy explained the Same Week items were necessitated due to cancellation of the May 28, Transportation Committee meeting.

SW 2007-193 2007-2010 TIP Amendment: MnDOT Metro, Add lift-equipped vehicle purchases funded through the Section 5310 Program, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities – TAB Action 2007-36

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include bus purchases from the Section 5210 Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program.

SW 2007-194 2007-2010 TIP Amendment: MnDOT SP #880-M-SRS1-08: Safe Routes to School Infrastructure and SP #880M-SRS2-08: Safe Routes to School Non-Infrastructure – TAB Action 2007-37

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include MnDOT SP#880M-SRS1-08: Safe Routes to School Infrastructure and SP#880M-SRS2-08: Safe Routes to School Non Infrastructure.

SW 2007-204 Metro Mobility Agency Contract Award

David Jacobson, General Manager Metro Mobility, presented this item to the committee. He explained the changes since the last RFP and he and Gerri Sutton, Asst. Dir. Contracted Services, answered questions from M.Hill Smith regarding fuel and N.Haas Steffen regarding limits in the lease agreement on MTS-owned vehicle usage.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract for the operation of Metro Mobility agency transportation service for the term October 1, 2007 through June 30, 2012 with Laidlaw Transit Services (LTS), Inc., for an amount not to exceed \$22,090,000.

SW 2007-210 UPWP Budget Amendment

Connie Kozlak, Metropolitan Transportation Services Manager Systems Planning, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee member Haas Steffen as to where the money will be used, whether this would "free up" dollars in the budget and if this item will be part of an amendment to the operating budget.

Motion by Haas Steffen, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

- That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2007 Unified Planning Work Program, as shown on the attached summary sheet, to add \$921,111.

- That the Metropolitan Council adopt the resolution as attached to the business item and authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the UPWP agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, to obtain the additional planning funds.

2007-217 Ratification of Declaration of Emergency to Extend Contracts with Senior Community Services

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee and gave the explanation for the declaration of emergency that has been signed by the Regional Administrator to extend contracts.

As an aside, Lamb stated that at the July 11 Council meeting, there will be discussions about the procurement process, frequency of protests, and how situations are/have been handled.

Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Haas Steffen, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council ratify the attached *Justification for and Declaration of Emergency* for amendments to contract numbers C- 97-67 and SG-02-053 between the Metropolitan Council and Senior Community Services.

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

2007-64 Central Corridor Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Strategic Plan

Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity, presented this item. She stated that this item first appeared as an information item to the T.C. in February. She encouraged comments to the plan at that time. Two comments were received but were not incorporated into the plan, thus the plan remains as it was presented in February.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council approves the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Strategic Plan.

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

2007-146 Authorization to Purchase Hospital 347 Beds

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, presented this item and answered questions from committee members regarding the status of Certificate of Compliance with State Dept. of Human Rights, and comparable costs of hospital beds.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Haas Steffen, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Determine that the inaccurate statement described below is a non-material deviation in Hill-Rom Company's bid and accept the bid, and
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase 347 hospital beds from Hill-Rom Company, Inc. in the amount of \$2,583,415 and to transfer title to the 347 hospital beds to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with the Exchange Agreement between the Council and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

2007-211 Authorization to Purchase Digital Recording Systems

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, presented this item and answered questions from committee members regarding the use of older camera equipment – to be used for parts.

Motion by Haas Steffen, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase 240 digital video recording systems from Verint Video Solutions at a total cost of \$1,173,360.
Hearing no objection, M. Hill stated that this item could go to the full Council as a consent item.

2007-213 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute an On-Call Engineering Services Contract for Hiawatha Light Rail Transit

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, presented this item and he and Art Crabtree, Director-Rail Systems, answered questions from committee members regarding current contract holder, average expenditures for last 3 years.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an on-call engineering services contract with LTK Engineering Services to support Hiawatha Light Rail Transit for a three-year term.

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

SW 2007-216 Sole Source Procurement Contract with Siemens for Software and Hardware Maintenance Agreement

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, presented this item; there were no questions from committee members

Motion by Haas Steffen, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to make on-going maintenance and support service payments on a sole-source basis for installed software and hardware for the Siemens Transit Master system. The agreement is for three years with an annual base cost of \$380,830.

SW 2007-214 Award Professional Engineering Contract for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

Jim Alexander, Manager – Transitways Design, presented this item to the committee. Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, and Rich Rovang, AGM-Transit Systems Development, were also present to answer questions from committee members.

Discussion and questions involved fare collection technology, current funding commitments by others and concern about Met Council committing \$91 M funding, explained by Fuhrmann that MC can cancel the contract at any time if funding is not received. Meeks questioned the amount for consultant office lease, equipment and staffing, etc. and Rovang answered.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Leppik, motion passed, with Meeks voting against.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute a professional services contract with DMJM Harris for Engineering Services for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) project in an amount not to exceed \$91 million.
- To issue a Notice-To-Proceed for Preliminary and Advanced Preliminary Engineering activities through the end of calendar year 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$35.5 million.
- To approve amendments to the Central Corridor Light Rail Project Engineering Services contract such that the cumulative amendments do not exceed \$4.5 million and any individual amendment does not exceed \$250,000.

2007-215 Authorization to make College Pass Program Permanent

Ed Petrie, Director of Finance Metro Transit, and Bruce Howard, Director of Marketing Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Meeks, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Go-To College Pass as a permanent program and authorize the Regional Administrator to continue to enter into formal agreements with colleges/universities for the sale of these semester transit passes.

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

INFORMATION

1. Hiawatha Light Rail Ridership Analysis

John Levin, Metro Transit, gave a presentation covering statistics, surveys, staff observations, ride counts for bus/rail connections and future developments for the Hiawatha LRT.

2. Anishinabe Academy Hiawatha Light Rail Park-and-Ride

Wayne Schafer, Metro Transit, gave an update of the status on this item. A new 8-year lease was signed in March allowing 104 additional parking spaces, which helps relieve neighborhood parking; the new lot took 1 day to fill.

3. Principal Arterials and "A" Minor Arterials Highway Needs and Functional Classification Study of Roadways

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. The Principal Arterial study is a precursor to the Transportation Policy Plan that will be adopted by the end of 2008. The entire principal arterial system has not been looked at thoroughly in a number of years (no expansion of plan since approx. 1988). The study is in a technical analysis phase at this time. The Functional Classification Study looks at 135,000 roads in the state, the MPO must look at their roads, last done in 1993. TAC Planning & TAC worked very hard at this; on April 18, 2007 the TAB adopted the new Functional Classification System which will be utilized in the Regional Solicitation.

6. Community Based Study (CBS)

Jody Jacoby, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. The Council intends to study the funding that is given out to Community Based Programs to provide dial-a-ride services in areas where fixed route transit service is not available, and eight programs which were transferred from MnDOT in 1984. Funding is provided on a ridership performance-based basis. Staff is proposing to conduct a study addressing several questions about the Council's role, funding the programs, flexibility in the programs and more.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

M.Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m. June 11, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary