

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee

Monday, July 9, 2007

Members Present Mary Hill Smith, Chair Russ Susag Peggy Leppik
 Georgie Hilker Brian McDaniel Richard Aguilar
 Daniel Wolter Roger Scherer Natalie Haas Steffen
 Annette Meeks

Members Absent Beach, Kirstin Sersland

Staff Presiding Brian Lamb, General Manager Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan
 Metro Transit 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 July 9, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by McDaniel seconded by Hilker to adopt the agenda for the July 9, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the June 11, 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 reported that Washington, Dakota and Ramsey Counties are presenting results of the alternatives analysis study of the Red Rock Corridor, which is a Tier II Transitway in the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). Public meetings will be held in late August and September. They will be asked to report to the Transportation Committee on the study results and public input most likely in October.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that six of ten low-floor articulated buses that had been on order are being put into service today. Yesterday, a ground to cloud lightning strike occurred on the LRT. Overhead electricity was lost at several stations for about 1 ½ hours. Some circuits were not repaired until into the evening. Metro Transit continues to work with the designer toward a solution to the risks from lightning strikes. The first fully-executed Northstar construction contract is complete. A notice to proceed was issued for the downtown intermodal station. The US Secretary of Transportation will have a presentation with the Governor that M.Hill Smith will attend, as an unofficial “kick-off” for the Northstar full funding agreement. June bus and rail ridership numbers are looking strong, final figures will be reported at a later date.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

2007-226 Authorization to Execute Contracts with SouthWest Transit and MVTA for Expansion Vehicles
Motion by Leppik, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Regional Administrator be authorized to execute sub-grant agreements with SouthWest Transit and

Minnesota Valley Transit Authority to pass through federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The sub-grant agreements shall not exceed \$7,160,303.

BUSINESS –Action Items

SW 2007-243 Senior Community Services’ RFP Award Phase Protest regarding Minnetonka Area Dial-A-Ride Transit Service

Tom Weaver, Regional Administrator presented this item to the committee. Hill Smith reminded the committee that this is not an action to vote on the contract, but is a vote to affirm the previous action taken, following the appeals process. Weaver gave a background and explained the protest review procedure that was followed. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council: (1) affirm the Regional Administrator’s May 23, 2007 denial of Senior Community Services’ award phase protest regarding the Request for Proposals for Minnetonka Area Dial-A-Ride Transit Services; and (2) affirm its May 23, 2007 action authorizing the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Midwest Paratransit Services, Inc. to provide Minnetonka Area Dial-A-Ride Transit Services, but for a five-year period beginning September 1, 2007 rather than July 1, 2007.

Discussion followed regarding the garage lease issue. At M.Hill Smith’s direction, Metropolitan Council staff will work with Senior Community Services to reach a satisfactory resolution with SCS regarding the remaining 16 months of the lease. Staff will return to the Transportation Committee with a report on the resolution reached.

2007-205 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie, Director of Finance Metro Transit, and Amy Vennewitz, Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Finance & Planning, each presented their respective division’s portion of this item and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Scherer, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2007 Operating Budget as shown on the summary sheets attached as part of the business item.

2007-206 2007-2012 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, and Amy Vennewitz, Metropolitan Transportation Services Director of Finance & Planning, each presented their respective division’s portion of this item and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2007 Authorized Capital Program (Multi-year authorization) by adding \$520,000 in capital authority to the Transportation Division, as detailed in **Attachment 1**.
- Amend the 2007 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by adding \$128,610 in appropriations to the Transportation Division.
- Amend the 2007 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding and removing authority as follows:
 - Continuing projects

New funding	\$ 520,000
Transfers from completed projects	<u>262,009</u>
Total continuing projects	\$ 782,009
Completed projects	<u>(8,009,350)</u>
Total	(\$ 7,227,341)

2007-240 Authorization to Execute Contracts with Southwest Transit for Station Debt and Trolley Purchase and Minnesota Valley Transit Authority for Garage Facility Debt and Repairs
Reggie Turner, Metropolitan Transportation Services Principal Financial Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contracts with Southwest Transit for \$400,000 for the SW transit station debt service, and \$140,000 for the remaining balance of a trolley purchase.

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contracts with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority for \$400,000 for the garage facility debt service, and \$207,000 for other facility repairs.

2007-227 Interagency Agreement with Hennepin County for Traffic Signal and Pedestrian Improvements
Pat Jones, Metro Transit Manager Facilities Engineering, presented this item to the committee; there were no additional questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with Hennepin County for traffic signal and pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue, Minneapolis.

2007-241 Sale of Surplus Property at 24th Street and Hiawatha Avenue, Minneapolis
Pat Jones, Metro Transit Manager Facilities Engineering, presented this item to the committee. He, Brian Lamb and Tom Thorstenson answered questions from committee members regarding clean-up costs and appraised value of property.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Meeks, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council declare three remnant parcels at 24th Street and Hiawatha Avenue as surplus and authorize the Regional Administrator to dispose of such surplus properties through direct conveyance to the neighboring property owners and transfer the proceeds to Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

INFORMATION

1. Parking Structures Update and Access Controls

Tom Thorstenson introduced MarySue Abel, who gave an update on parking structures and access controls:

- 63rd Ave/Bottineau Blvd. – open March 2007, 2-story, 550 vehicle capacity.
- Co. Rd. 73 & I-394 in Minnetonka – open June 2007, 3-story, 750 vehicle capacity.
- 28th Ave. Station in Bloomington – under construction 1,450 vehicle ramp + 150 vehicle surface capacity, scheduled to be complete in late summer 2008. Ms. Abel answered questions regarding access control at the 28th Ave. Station Park and Ride.

2. Memorandum of Understanding with Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board to Operate Buses on Minneapolis Parkways

Adam Harrington, Metro Transit, reported on a “new” joint board made up of 2 Minneapolis Park Board members, 2 Metro Council members and 1 third party. This joint board will be working on issues pertaining to authority and conditions for Metro Transit to operate services on new Minneapolis Parks Board parkways.

3. Metro Mobility Web-based Scheduling Rollout

Matt Yager, Senior Systems Integration Analyst - Metro Mobility, presented this item to the committee. The project has been in the “testing” stage (Phase I) with 60 registered users. Yager reported on the monthly usage of this program and customer survey results. Phase II will begin with 500 users and will go through December 2007, with full “rollout” planned for 2008.

4. Update of Planning Process Prospectus

Ann Braden, Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner, presented this item to the committee. The current Planning Process Prospectus was adopted in December 1996. The document describes the transportation planning and programming in the Metro area, roles and responsibilities among the different agencies, serves as a basis for the Metropolitan Planning Agreement (a federal requirement that the Metro Council and MnDOT agree on procedures to perform planning and program). An update is needed to reflect changes in federal law. The proposed schedule was presented, with the final document scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007 or early 2008.

OTHER BUSINESS

M.Hill Smith reminded members that the next scheduled Transportation Committee meeting (07/23/07) will be held at Metro Transit’s F.T. Heywood facility. The committee will discuss having more meetings at that location for a time period, since the meetings were held in St. Paul throughout the legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary