

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**  
**Monday, September 10, 2007**

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

**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 September 10, 2007 at Metro Transit Chambers, Minneapolis.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda for the September 10, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the August 27, 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 a special session of the legislature has been announced by Governor Pawlenty to address flood relief in southern Minnesota. The session is scheduled to begin at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 11, and is not likely to include any discussion of transportation funding issues.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that Transit will kick off its annual charitable giving campaign on September 24. The drive will last until November 2, and Transit will host three fundraisers during the campaign.

The official groundbreaking ceremony for Northstar Commuter Rail was held at the Big Lake site on September 6. Construction of the Vehicle Maintenance facility is continuing, with precast walls scheduled to be erected in late October and the structure enclosed during December.

Based on preliminary ridership reports, Metro Transit recorded 7.3 million rides during the month of August. This represents the highest August ridership since 1979, and the highest of any month since May, 1982.

State Fair bus service this year provided 986,114 rides, which equates to approximately 1 in 3 fairgoers. This figure is 53,592 higher than 2006 levels and surpassed the previous record of 955,000 rides, set in 2005. Maria Cone, Metro Transit Marketing Specialist, presented a summary of 2007 State Fair participation, providing a breakdown of ridership numbers and highlighting successes including Go-Greener pledges and a one-day ridership record on August 25. Lamb recognized the following individuals for their outstanding effort and contribution to this year's success: Eric Isakson, Maria Cone, Wayne Babcock, Georgia Stinson, Jim Chisholm, Lisa Johnson, and Silas Sharp.

**TOUR OF TRANSIT INFORMATION CENTER**

Bob Gibbons, Metro Transit Director of Customer Service, and John Howley, Manager of TIC, provided a

tour of the Transit Information Center at Metro Transit's FT Heywood offices. Howley made a brief introductory presentation to the committee prior to the tour.

## **BUSINESS – Consent Items**

2007-283 Controlled Access Approval for the I-94/Radio Drive Interchange in Woodbury (M.C. Review No. 20065-1)

Motion:

1. That the Metropolitan Council, as required by Minnesota Statute 473.166 (Approval of construction of a controlled access facility) approve a request by Mn/DOT to reconstruct an interchange at Radio Drive and I-94 in Woodbury.
2. That any significant changes in the design of the proposed project are subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

2007-283 Interagency Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) for Road Salt

Motion:

The Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an annually renewable Interagency Agreement with Mn/DOT for road salt.

Motion for consent by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

## **BUSINESS –Action Items**

SW 2007-293 Authorization for Sole Source Procurement of AutoCAD Software and Other Specialized Engineering and Project Management Software.

Gary Berger, Central Corridor Administrative Manager, presented this item to the committee and answered general questions from committee members regarding the sole-source process.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase AutoCAD and other specialized engineering and project management software totaling \$484,179 through sole source procurement.

2007-294 Scott County and DARTS Contract Amendments for ADA Service

Dana Rude presented this item to the committee. Arlene McCarthy provided committee members with one minor clarification.

Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to amend the 2007 Transit Provider Assistance Agreements with DARTS (06P179) and Scott County (06I025) to increase the total reimbursement for 2007 ADA paratransit service per the following table:

	<u>Authorized 2007 Funding</u>	<u>Proposed Increase</u>	<u>Amended 2007 Funding</u>
DARTS	\$2,022,700	\$220,000	\$2,242,700
Scott County	\$325,300	\$115,000	\$456,000

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

2007-295 Metro Transit Master Contracts

Pat Jones, Metro Transit Manager of Facilities and Engineering, presented this item to the committee. Brian Lamb provided clarification on the use of master contracts covering multiple projects. Motion by Susag, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute six Metro Transit Master Contracts, each valued at \$300,000.

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

2007-298 Transfer Three Buses to MTS

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, presented this item to the committee and along with Arlene McCarthy answered questions from committee members regarding allocation of inventory and condition and rotation of fleet vehicles.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the interdivisional transfer of three (3) buses from Metro Transit assets to Metropolitan Transportation Services regional fleet assets.

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

SW 2007-299 Controlled Access Approval for the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis (MC Review No. 20087-1)

Connie Kozlak, MTS Manager of Systems Planning, presented this item to the committee and answered general questions regarding structure, routing and potential usage. A. McCarthy noted that Mn/DOT will be present at the September 26 Metropolitan Council meeting to provide a more detailed plan. Motion by Susag, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

1. That the Metropolitan Council, as required by Minnesota Statute 473.166 (Approval of construction of a controlled access facility) approve a request by MnDOT to reconstruct the I-35W bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis.
2. That any significant changes in the layout of the proposed project are subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

## INFORMATION

1. State Fair Update  
(Presented earlier in the agenda by Maria Cone as part of Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb's report.)
2. Rushline Corridor Update  
Alicia Vap of the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority and Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Rhinehart reported on the status of the development of the Rushline commuter rail corridor

along the east side of the metro area between downtown St. Paul and Hinckley. They answered questions from committee members regarding existing structure, financing and potential ridership.

3. Transit Master Plan Home/Work Commute Data  
Amy Vennewitz and Carol Becker and of MTS presented information on the concentration of jobs in the major employment centers of the Twin Cities metro area and the distribution of workers who commute to those jobs. They answered questions from the committee regarding the data.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

M. Hill Smith announced that there would be no meeting of the Transportation Committee on November 12, 2007.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

M. Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm September 10, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary