

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, September 24, 2007

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Georgie Hilker Daniel Wolter Roger Scherer	Natalie Haas Steffen Brian McDaniel Kirstin Sersland Beach	Annette Meeks Richard Aguilar Russ Susag
Members Absent	Peggy Leppik		
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 24, 2007 at Metro Transit Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter to adopt the agenda for the September 24, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Hilker, seconded by Susag to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2007 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Metro Transit Police Captain Robert Elmers introduced Officer Joe Dotseth and commended him on his performance and professionalism over the three years since he joined the force. The Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #3, now known as the Metro/Transit Lodge, named Officer Dotseth its Member of the Year. Officer Dotseth was presented with a plaque by Chair Smith and General Manager Lamb, and he will be featured in the Fall 2007 issue of the Fraternal Order of Police magazine.

Wayne Babcock, Transit Control Center manager, introduced and recognized Jim Chisholm, Transit Control Center supervisor. Chisholm was commended for his outstanding performance in coordinating the many aspects of Metro Transit dedicated bus service during the 12 days of the 2007 State Fair.

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

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit noted that with the closing of the 2007 Minnesota Twins season, Transit would now be gearing up for its light rail service supporting the Vikings and Gophers home seasons. In addition, the Hiawatha line airport shuttle service has now been restored with the reopening of the Humphrey terminal.

The Minnesota Historical Society is currently running an exhibit called “Right on Lake Street,” which explores the past and present of the historic Minneapolis neighborhood. The entrance to the exhibit is a walk-through model of a Metro Transit Route 21 bus, and there is also an interactive tour of the Lake Street area on the MHS website. Both activities provide a positive tie-in to Transit’s “21 Hop & Shop” program.

The 2007 Rodeo operator skills competition is being held at the Como turnaround at the state fairgrounds. GM Lamb extended an invitation to Council members to try their hand at driving one of the buses during the Rodeo.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported that Metro Mobility rides are up 6% from mid-August into September, 2007, as compared to the same period in 2006. This development is being studied by MTS while any issues related to on-time performance and denial rates are being closely monitored and addressed.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

None

BUSINESS –Action Items

2007-284 Approval of the Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Solicitation Project Selection

Cole Hiniker, MTS Planner, presented this item to the committee and answered general questions from Council members regarding approval deadlines and FTA funding requirements.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Meeks, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the list of projects recommended for funding under the federal Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for and accept grants from Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for up to \$1,466,293 for the JARC program and up to \$1,028,308 for the New Freedom program to fund the recommended projects.

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

2007-285 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Authorization to File Grant Application

Elaine Koutsoukos, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item to the committee. Connie Kozlak of MTS provided clarification of the scope of the program and will adjust the wording of the resolution to reflect that clarification.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

- That the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed 2008 Unified Planning Work Program with a budget of \$4,374,000.
- That the Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century – A Legacy for Users.
- That the Regional Administrator be authorized to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

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

2007-311 Metro Mobility Agency Service Contract Amendment

Dana Rude, MTS Assistant Transportation Manager, presented this item to the committee and answered questions regarding ridership levels and budget structure.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the 2003 Contract for the Operation of Metro Mobility Agency Paratransit Service with Laidlaw Transit Services (LTS), Inc. (02P045) for the amount of \$285,000. This amendment increases the maximum contract authorization from \$19,437,285 to \$19,722,285.

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

2007-312 SW Authorization to Purchase 15 Sixty-Foot, Articulated Buses

Chris Gran, Director of Purchasing, presented this item to the committee. He answered general questions regarding the terms and the status of the procurement process. Motion by Susag, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an existing contract option with New Flyer of America, Inc., to purchase up to 15 sixty-foot, articulated buses to be delivered by April 2008 in an amount not to exceed \$8.6 million.

INFORMATION

1. Monthly Ridership Report for August
Ed Petrie, Director of Finance, and Bruce Howard, Director of Marketing, presented the August ridership report to the committee, highlighting record bus ridership levels. Light-rail ridership is up, largely due to the reinstatement of shuttle service between MSP airport terminal, and a number of park-and-ride lots are at full capacity.
2. 2008-2013 CIP and 2008 Capital Budget
Brian Lamb and Arlene McCarthy presented this item to the committee and answered general questions regarding budget projections.
3. Northstar Locomotive Design
Mark Fuhrmann, Project Director, presented the proposed Northstar graphic design along with examples of designs used in other commuter rail lines in the U.S.
4. I-35W Emergency Service Plan
John Levin, Director Metro Transit Service Development, provided a recap of initial and ongoing actions and challenges in response to the I-35W bridge collapse and outlined future goals of the response plan. There were general questions regarding funding and service and facility improvements.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

M. Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm September 24, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary