

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, October 8, 2007

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Georgie Hilker Daniel Wolter Roger Scherer	Natalie Haas Steffen Brian McDaniel Kirstin Sersland Beach	Peggy Leppik Richard Aguilar Russ Susag
Members Absent	Annette Meeks		
Staff Presiding	Tom Thorstenson, Acting GM 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 October 8, 2007 at Metro Transit Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter to adopt the agenda for the October 8, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2007 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

There was no Employee Recognition item at the meeting.

PRESENTATION - Red Rock Corridor Alternatives Analysis

Myra Peterson, Washington County Commissioner, and Mike Rogers, Transportation Planner with the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority, presented an overview of the planned Red Rock Corridor commuter rail line between Hastings and downtown St. Paul and reported on analysis results. They answered questions from committee members regarding study assumptions, high-speed service development, and ridership and costing projections.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported on two public forums held for Metro Mobility last week. Feedback from attendees and other Metro Mobility users was generally positive. Customers reported they particularly like the Web-based reservation system. There was some concern that the service tends to be overbooked/overloaded, which in turn causes schedule delays. There was also a suggestion that Hiawatha LRT cars display a handicapped designation to clarify the location of wheelchair access to the trains.

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Director of Engineering and Facilities and Acting General Manager, reported that Brian Lamb and several other Transit management staff were attending the APTA Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC, where Transit had won a first-place AdWheel Award for its television commercial, "Fix It." This

commercial and another, entitled "Eternity," will be running approximately 700 times from now through November 18, primarily during morning and evening newscasts.

Effective October 1, the Central Corridor Project Office has been relocated to the Griggs Midway building at University and Fairview Avenues in St. Paul.

A new, temporary park-and-ride lot will be opened in Maplewood to add capacity in that area. The lot is located on the site of a former Ramsey County Library branch and will be used until April 2008. Transit is currently conducting its annual park-and-ride survey of users of the lots. Results are anticipated to be reported in November.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

None

BUSINESS –Action Items

2007-324 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Arlene McCarthy presented this item to the committee and responded to general questions from committee members regarding local match of funds, timeline for legislative approval and impact on other transportation projects.

Motion by Wolter, 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 the Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) transit investments.

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

2007-325 Exchange of CMAQ Funds

Arlene McCarthy presented this item to the committee and answered questions regarding possible restrictions and caps on funding from various sources.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) approval of the exchange of CMAQ Hiawatha LRT Land Assembly Project (MN-90-X139) funding with Hennepin County Hiawatha LRT Operating Funds and reflect this exchange in the 2007 Annual Report.

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

2007-326 Authorization for Sole Source Purchase of Light Rail Vehicle Parts

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, and Sheri Gingerich, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Rail, presented this item to the committee and answered questions about current and future funding levels and procurement schedule.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase light rail vehicle parts on a sole source basis from the vendors listed below in the amounts requested.

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

2007-331 Authorization to Award Contract for 314 Transit Buses

Chris Gran and Jan Homan, Metro Transit Director of Maintenance, presented this item to the committee. They answered questions from committee members regarding current funding status and the quality of the bid. Gran noted that the most recent Gillig Corporation bid represents a savings of approximately \$3,000 per diesel bus and \$5,000 per hybrid, or a total of approximately \$1.2 million, as compared to the previous Gillig bid. Homan added that this bid reflected a number of design enhancements from the previous BAFO. There were significant life-cycle costing benefits to the buses as well. There was discussion of including this item as a same-week item at the Met Council meeting on October 10, 2007. A. McCarthy will look into the feasibility of amending the Council meeting agenda to add this item. Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Gillig Corporation for the purchase of 314 forty-foot transit buses, with an option for up to an additional 300 buses, in accordance with the Council's specification and Gillig's Best and Final Offer dated September 26, 2007, contingent on satisfactory results from the Buy America Pre-Award Audit.

2007-332 SW Authorization to Execute Contracts for Property for Apple Valley Transit Station Expansion

Connie Kozlak of MTS presented this item to the committee and answered a question from a committee member regarding the size of the property. A. McCarthy noted that the City of Apple Valley has discontinued its permitting procedure for park-and-ride usage.

Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Regional Administrator be authorized to execute a contract with Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) in the amount of \$4,570,000 to pass through state bond funds to purchase property for expansion of the Apple Valley Transit Station.

2007-333 Northstar Locomotive Graphic Design

Mark Fuhrmann, Northstar Project Director, Sharon Feiner, Metro Transit Supervisor of Creative Services, and Charles Decker, Metro Transit Graphic Designer, presented the design to the committee. They answered questions from the committee about the usage of various logos on the locomotive and the potential design of the other cars.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

Staff recommends that the Metropolitan Council approve the Northstar locomotives' exterior graphic design as presented in the attachment.

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

INFORMATION

1. Performance Measures Report for August
Sheri Gingerich presented the Operations performance goals, noting in particular the high ridership

levels on light rail. Transit Police Chief David Indrehus presented performance data for Safety/Security. Indrehus highlighted the positive results of the increase in police presence on transit vehicles and explained the procedure for requesting a patrol at and around bus stops.

OTHER BUSINESS

M. Hill Smith inquired about the possibility of holding a future Transportation Committee meeting at the new CCPO in St. Paul. M. Fuhrmann responded that he will work with staff to coordinate hosting an upcoming meeting, and he invited all Council members to attend an open house at the new offices to be held on October 26.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm October 8, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary