

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, January 14, 2008**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Vice Chair Georgie Hilker Daniel Wolter	Russ Susag Roger Scherer Kirstin Sersland Beach	Peggy Leppik Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Mary Hill Smith, Chair	Natalie Haas Steffen	Brian McDaniel
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, A.Meeks, Vice Chair called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on January 14, 2008 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Wolter seconded by Scherer to adopt the agenda for January 14, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Scherer seconded by Wolter to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2007 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

There was no Employee Recognition as listed on the agenda. Meeks stated that Information Item No. 4 from the agenda would be incorporated into the Transit General Manager report. There were no objections from committee members.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services gave an update on the Minnetonka Dial-a-Ride Service which is generally going well. Route 641 was expanded to the communities of Deephaven, Greenwood, Excelsior, Navarre, Shorewood and Tonka Bay. DAR ridership is up 5% from last year on this route. A fixed-route shuttle was expanded into an all day Dial-a-Ride. That service is now available in Spring Park and Mound. Ridership on this route (Rte 678) is 8 times higher than last year at this time. Meeks requested that this information be passed on to Judd Schetnan, Director Government Affairs, so he can report back to the legislature. McCarthy also reported that last year the Vanpool budget was short, after the 3-year demonstration passed and the program was no longer 100% federally funded. To offset the shortfall, vans outside the metro area were charged more. In 2007, Metropolitan Transportation Services applied to MnDOT for JARC funds to be used outside the 7 county metro area. We were awarded \$75,000; in 2008 the surcharge can be removed from those vanpools. Budget amendments may be required at a later date.

On Monday 1/07/08, as part of the I35W service, Route 288 from Forest Lake to Downtown Minneapolis began. These commuter coach buses are about ½ full, with an average of 32 passengers per trip. This project is a 1 year service and funded with the I-35W bridge collapse funding.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that 19 new hybrid buses that were received January have been operating for 1 ½ month. The fuel economy of these buses is better than projected. These buses have about

31% better fuel economy than the standard buses.

Last year the Council approved hiring Community Services Officers (CSOs) to augment the Metro Transit Police Force. These officers are non-sworn officers, and support the Transit Police Patrol, Investigative and Administrative Divisions. They will prepare reports, provide information and direction to the public, observe and report hazardous conditions, provide traffic and crowd control, assist sworn officers with fare compliance and coordinate repairs of department vehicles. The CSO program also gives the participants training and job experience. Metro Transit Police Chief Dave Indrehus introduced the officers:

Sophia Boumeester

Yusuf Jibril

Kelly Franco

Daniel Sachi

Indrehus also presented a hand-out highlighting the Metro Transit Police Department. Leppik suggested that this handout be available on the buses and trains. Lamb also said Metro Transit may also look into an interior placard for the buses.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2008-9 2008-2011 TIP Amendment to include SP#141-091-01 NMTP-MNPT(007), Section 1807:
Bicycle Racks for the City of Minneapolis- TAB Action 2007-61

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst, 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 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#141-091-01;NMTP-MNPT(007) Bicycle Racks for the City of Minneapolis (TAB Action 2007-61).

2008-10 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: Scope Change for Washington County SP#82-618-14, CSAH 18
Reconstruction (TAB Action 2007-62)

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst, 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 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to approve the following:
Request by Washington County to change the scope of SP#82-618-14 for Washington County CSAH 18 to install three roundabouts instead of three signalized intersections and a frontage road (TAB Action 2007-62).

2008-20 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: Scope Change for Metro Transit SP#CM-14-03 Vehicle Purchase
and SP#CM-05-03 Service Implementation (TAB Action 2007-63)

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst, 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 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to approve the following:
Request by Metro Transit to reduce the total cost of SP#CM-14-03 from \$5,941,761 to \$3,025,625 and SP#CM-05-03 from \$1,269,931 to \$926,930 (TAB Action 2007-63).

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair Meeks stated that the above three items (2008-9, 10 & 20) could move to the full Council as **CONSENT ITEMS**.

2008-11 Union Pacific Railroad Abandonment, Carver and Scott Counties

Charles Carlson, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planner, presented this item to the committee. This item also appeared before the Environment Committee on 1/08/08 and was approved. Carlson gave a brief history of the item and answered questions from committee members as to the river crossing and the responsibility for the condition and safety of the railroad bridges and any “log jams” they may create. Motion by Wolter, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to take appropriate action on behalf of the Council to facilitate a response to the railroad abandonment process on the Chaska Industrial Lead, Union Pacific Railroad [STB Docket AB-33 (Sub. No. 255)] and to begin negotiation of public and private use of the railroad corridor with appropriate public entities and Union Pacific Railroad.

2008-15 2008-2013 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, presented this item to the committee and answered Meeks’ question about how long the Metro Council will be providing “gap” financing for the Northstar passenger coach cars. Petrie also stated that the Management Committee will hear specifics as to financing and repayment at their meeting

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Council:

Amend the 2008 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding authority as follows:

- Metro Transit \$44,350,123

Amend the 2008 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing spending authority as follows:

- Metro Transit \$15,900,000

2008-21 American Boulevard Light Rail Transit (LRT) Station Interagency Agreement with City of Bloomington

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Director of Engineering & Facilities, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members concerning spacing of LRT stations, CMAQ funding, City of Bloomington contribution. After each step (constructability analysis, design, construction bidding) the project and funding will be examined and the project will advance accordingly if approved at each step.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington relative to the partial funding of the proposed American Boulevard Light Rail Transit (LRT) Station.

2008-22 Como Park Subrecipient Agreement

Julie Johanson, Metro Transit Assistant General Manager Administration, introduced Arin Knutson, Grants Specialist Metro Transit. Knutson presented this item to the committee. She explained that this is a “pass-through” of federal funds to the City of St. Paul from the FTA and will be used to establish a circulator, off-site parking, and bus shelters (Zoo and off-site) at Como Park between the Zoo and the Conservatory.

In answer to Meeks’ question, Knutson stated this service will be provided by a private provider, the buses will not have a Metro Transit logo. Leppik suggested marketing of the off-site parking location and availability, Knutson stated this will be the responsibility of the City of St. Paul.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a subrecipient agreement with the City of St. Paul for the FTA Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Como Rider Program Appropriation (E-2005-BUSP-246).

2008-25 Northstar Commuter Coach/Cab Car Procurement

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, gave the budget background of the item and the actions taken by the council in December 2007. He also introduced Rich Rovang, Assistant General, Manager-TSD, and Chris Gran, Director Purchasing. Rovang gave a summary of the key dates, type and style of the cars, and the detail price for the cars. Rovang answered Meeks' question as to a possible reason for lack of bidders on the project, and Beach's question whether Metro Transit considered purchasing used vehicles.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute a funding agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for reimbursement of costs incurred by the Metropolitan Council in procuring the passenger cars.
- To negotiate and execute a contract with Bombardier Mass Transit Corporation, contingent upon execution of a funding agreement for reimbursement of costs from MnDOT, in the amount of \$43,950,123 to manufacture 12 coach and 5 cab bi-level commuter rail passenger cars for the Northstar Corridor Commuter Rail Project.

INFORMATION

1. Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)

Connie Kozlak, Manager Systems Planning Metropolitan Transportation Services, gave an update on the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP). The Principal Arterial (PA) Study and the Transit Master Study will give input into the TPP. Kozlak answered questions from committee about what, if any, changes might be anticipated.

2. Transit Master Study Update

Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning, Metropolitan Transportation Services, gave a presentation on the Corridor Analysis portion of the Transit Master Study. She also answered questions regarding the Governor's Bonding Bill which came out today.

The Principal Arterial Study, Transit Master Study and the 2008 Update of the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan will be the focus of the February 6 Committee of the Whole meeting.

3. Go-To Card Update

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, and Tom Randall, Metro Transit Sr. Manager Revenue Operations, gave a presentation regarding the benefits of GoTo cards, achievements, growth in the cards issued, and future activities of the program.

4. Community Service Officers (CSO's) Introduction

This item was included in Metro Transit General Manager report earlier in the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion, second and pass to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. January 14, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary