

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, February 11, 2008**

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair	Annette Meeks, Vice Chair	Peggy Leppik
	Georgie Hilker	Russ Susag	Richard Aguilar
	Daniel Wolter	Kirstin Sersland Beach	Brian McDaniel
Members Absent	Roger Scherer	Natalie Haas Steffen	
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, Mary Hill Smith, Chair called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on February 11, 2008 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Wolter seconded by Hilker to adopt the agenda for February 11, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Wolter seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2008 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services thanked members for attending the Committee of the Whole meeting which included a presentation on the Transit Master Study, the Principal Arterial Study and the Transportation Policy Plan. Staff will follow-up with meetings with each of the counties to present to their county boards. Council members are being notified of the meetings to be held in their districts so that they have an opportunity to attend. Staff is also considering regional meetings to give more opportunities for people to attend.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that under the new advertising contract with Titan Outdoor Advertising, the advertising company has been looking into innovative ways to advertise. As a result, Metro Transit is considering "station domination graphics", whereby an advertiser is allowed to control the advertising at the station and advertise on the posterboard, outer shell, etc. Metro Transit is testing this concept with the "Go Greener" theme as an example. Lamb presented photos of the concept.

**BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

THERE WERE NO BUSINESS ITEMS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT THIS MEETING.

**INFORMATION**

1. Transit System Evaluation

Cole Hiniker, Metropolitan Transportation Services Financial Planner, gave a presentation on the Transit System Evaluation and provided the full report to members. By legislative mandate, the report is February 11, 2008 Transportation Committee Meeting

performed every 4 years. Some of the information included in the report: number of routes, type of provider, annual ridership by provider, subsidy numbers, ridership goals, peer comparisons, etc.

## 2. 2007 Regional Ridership Report

Elaine Koutsoukos, Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner, gave a presentation on the 2007 Annual Regional Ridership. Some of the information included in the report: ridership by provider, ridership by type of service, comparison to 2006, performance by provider type, comparison to 2030 goal and 2007 ridership highlights. Total regional ridership in 2007 was 89.3 million. Arlene McCarthy stated that this report includes yearly numbers as a kick-off for quarterly regional ridership reports that MTS plans to provide in the future.

## 3. Potential Ridership Survey

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit, reported that a survey of potential riders has just been completed. The survey included the 11-county Metro area and Pierce and St. Croix Counties in Wisconsin. Howard gave a presentation of sample questions asked and responses received.

## 4. Demonstration of Web--Based Mapping Capability on Trip Planner

Bob Gibbons, Metro Transit, introduced John Howley and Art Brakob, who have been working on this project. Gibbons stated that on Tuesday morning 2/12/08, Metro Transit will activate enhancements to the on-line trip planner available on the web. Brakob gave a demonstration of the trip planner. The site has been improved with maps, schedule of trip legs, personal schedule capabilities, etc. Marketing to the existing and potential riders is the next step in the project.

## 5. FY 2009 Appropriation Requests

Julie Johanson and Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit, gave a report on the FY 2009 appropriation requests from Congress in Washington D.C. The bus capital request for \$10 M is for the Hybrid buses purchased, the Central Corridor request figure has yet to be finalized, and the \$71.2 M request for Northstar will complete the funding for that project.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m. February 11, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary