

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, March 10, 2008**

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

Prior to the regular business at the meeting of the Transportation Committee, the Committee and interested parties were part of a tour of Metro Transit Smith Avenue Transit Center on board a new Articulated Bus. This tour was given by Pat Jones and Lee Bennett of Metro Transit.

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Mary Hill Smith, Chair called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:37 pm on March 10, 2008 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Scherer seconded by Leppik to adopt the agenda for March 10, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Leppik seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the February 25, 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, gave an update on Route 288 which was implemented in early January with 100% federal funding due to the 35W Bridge collapse. This is the service between Forest Lake and Downtown Minneapolis. The route started with 270 riders per day, the highest has been 350 trips per day. Metro Transit staff is working to add another Park and Ride stop to the route. MTS is also working on bus-only shoulders in the area.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that representatives of Hiawatha Light Rail staff met with Detroit Downtown Partnership Group from Detroit, MI today. The Detroit group was in town on a fact finding mission for information on transit orient development, station design, rail car design, system operating costs, etc. This will help in their effort to build a 3.5 mile light rail trolley line in downtown Detroit.

The Bombardier contract was executed on March 5, 2008 for 17 cab and coach cars for the Northstar Corridor in the amount of \$43,950,123.

Drive Less is the theme for the 2008 Commuter Challenge which kicks off on April 1, 2008. Lamb invited committee members to any of the three employer kick-off meetings: March 13 – Aveda Headquarters in Blaine, March 18 – Landmark Center in Downtown St. Paul, and on March 19 – Best Buy Headquarters in Richfield. Metro Transit Marketing will follow up with e-mails regarding these meetings.

February ridership showed an 11% increase over last February. However, the MVST revenues are projected to decrease 7% from originally forecasted, this would be approximately \$19 M impact in this biennium. The Governor has also announced a \$30 M reduction for the Metro Area Transit General Fund. This is a \$49-\$50 M cumulative “hole”. Staff is working on solutions and will keep the committee updated on options.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2008-66 Authorization to Award Contract for Gasoline Supply

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing presented this item and answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Eagan Oil Company to supply gasoline in accordance with Council specifications and Eagan Oil Company’s bid price for a two-year term, with options to extend the contract term up to an additional twenty-four months.

Motion passed.

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

2008-68 Authorization to Amend a Contract with Southwest Transit for Station Debt

Cole Hiniker, Metropolitan Transportation Services Financial Planning Technician, presented this item to the committee.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a \$350,000 contract amendment with Southwest Transit for the Southwest Transit Station debt service, for an amended total contract amount not to exceed \$1,459,394.

Motion passed.

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

SW 2008-63 Subordinate Funding Agreement #2 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project

Gary Berger, Central Corridor Manager of Administration, presented this item to the committee. The Metropolitan Council previously established the framework for agreements with MnDOT on 5/23/07. Each subordinate agreement provides the pass through of funds. Lamb answered question from Steffen as to eligible reimbursement of these funds at the time of the FFGA.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #2 in the amount of \$648,465 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project for 2008.

Motion passed.

SW 2008-65 Transit Vehicle Graphics

Bruce Howard, Director of Marketing Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee. This item is a follow-up of the vehicle graphics item from the February 25th meeting. Howard presented a brief recap of the proposed graphics item. The business item includes a recommendation of how to implement the graphics to the fleet. Howard stated that this recommendation has been endorsed by Metro Council staff, Metro Council members that are part of the vehicle graphics work group, NCDA staff and NCDA Executive Board.

Lamb answered questions from committee members.

Motion by Wolter, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the new exterior graphic designs for transit vehicles including those for Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) fixed-route buses, Hiawatha light-rail vehicles (LRVs), Northstar commuter rail coach cars, Metro Mobility vehicles and community-based (dial-a-ride) buses. The Northstar locomotive design was previously approved.

Motion passed.

Steffen suggested looking at a “branding” of a name for the entire transit system in the future because citizens may get confused with the various names for the LRT, commuter rail, and bus lines.

INFORMATION

There were no information items presented at this meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m. February 25, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary