

Metropolitan Council

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

---

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, March 24, 2008**

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Roger Scherer Annette Meeks, Vice Chair	Georgie Hilker Natalie Haas Steffen	Peggy Leppik Kirstin Sersland Beach
Members Absent	Daniel Wolter	Richard Aguilar	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, Mary Hill Smith, Chair called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 pm on March 24, 2008 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Hilker seconded by Steffen to adopt the agenda for March 24, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Hilker seconded by Scherer to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2008 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Brian Lamb introduced Mark Johnson, Heywood Garage Manager, who recognized the following employees for their work on the Black History Month celebration. The celebration was planned by the employees with little budget or direction. Over 150 people attended; there was food, live music and guest speaker Alan Paige.

The employees are:

Anthony Williams, Traci Williamson, Marjorie Bridgewater, Anthony Harris, Demetairs Bell, James Cushenberry and Tracey Jackson.

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

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that on March 18<sup>th</sup>, Metro Transit received a plaque for a Community Partnership Award from Lake Street Council for participation in various programs.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> Councilmembers Hill Smith and Sersland Beach attended the Bus and Rail Operators award luncheon at the Minneapolis Hilton. The following numbers were recognized: 22 Master operators, 16 Prestige Master Operators, 5 Superior Operators, 2 Lead Operators and 19 25-year safe driving operators.

Lamb reminded members of an open house for the Rte. 19H extension to be held from 6-8 pm on 4/17 at St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church, at 43<sup>rd</sup> and Thomas Ave. No.

The Commuter Challenge will begin this week with a kick-off on 4/01 from 4-6 pm, at the Uptown Transit Center.

The kick-off is Hollywood Style with celebrity look-alikes. Contact Metro Transit Marketing for more details.

The Go-To Card usage continues to expand. 30% of people using bus & rail use the Go-To Card.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, called attention to a copy of a powerpoint presentation that Chair Peter Bell presented at the House Transportation hearing last week. The presentation identifies the FY 2008 and FY 2009 budget shortfalls and potential solutions. The committee discussed content in the presentation. McCarthy will distribute copies to councilmembers that are not on the Transportation Committee.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

### 2008-77 Disposition of Surplus Hiawatha Corridor Property

Tom Thorstenson, Director Engineering & Construction Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee. After a brief presentation by staff, Brian Lamb indicated that we had placed a permanent easement adjacent to the LRT station to provide for a future transit connection with the 29th Street Corridor. The Committee amended the proposed action to state that the Council would retain the easement, as a condition of the sale. Council Member Scherer inquired as to the size of the property. The property being sold totals 25,238 square feet, about 0.6 acres. The easement consists of 14,162 square feet and is sandwiched in between the property being sold and the LRT station.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Meeks:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to proceed with the sale of a property previously deemed surplus by the Metropolitan Council on February 6, 2006, located at Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue to Wellington Management for \$250,000.

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

### 2008-78 Design and Implementation Services for Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Transit Technologies Project, Project 63740

Craig Lamothe, UPA Project Manager Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee.

After a brief presentation by staff, the item was moved by Council member Leppik and seconded by Council member Hilker.

The item passed on a voice vote of 6 to 1, with Steffen voting no. Hearing no objection, M. Hill Smith stated that this item could go to the full Council as a Consent Item.

### 2008-86 Authorization to enter into a contract for coach buses

Alex Curtiss, Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Manager, presented this item to the committee. There was no further discussion or questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Meeks:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Motor Coach Industries for five (5) coach buses, to be utilized by regional transit providers, in an amount not to exceed \$2,572,500.

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

### 2008-85 Authorization to enter into a grant agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority for the purchase of six replacement buses

Alex Curtiss, Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Manager, presented this item to the committee and answered question from committee Scherer as to the difference in the bus prices between this business item and the item preceding (2008-06), the difference being the type of buses being purchased.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a grant agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority for the purchase of six replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,100,000.

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

### 2008-79 FAA 2008 Planning Grant

Chauncey Case, Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner, presented this item to the committee. There was no further discussion or questions from committee members.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached resolutions and authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a state-aid agreement with MnDOT Aeronautics for purposes of fund disbursement if a grant offer is received and accepted.

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

2008-87          2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment, Central Corridor  
Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no specific questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the 2008 New Starts funding appropriation E-2008-NWST-031 of \$10,192,000 for Central Corridor Light Rail pre-construction activities.

The item passed on a voice vote of 5 to 2, with Steffen and Meeks voting no.

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

2008-88          Lowry Avenue Intermodal Freight Connector

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee and explained that the item has been reviewed and approved by the TAB. TAB comments have been added to the action for this item. Ohrn answered question from committee member Leppik stating that this project will not take priority over other projects already ranked and in the queue.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Meeks:

That the Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to support adding a new route to the FRWA Official National Highway System (NHS) Listing of Intermodal (Freight) Connector Routes in Minnesota. The proposed route would link the Canadian Pacific CP/Shoreham Intermodal Rail Yard and Port of Minneapolis to Interstate 94. That the route utilizes 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE, 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, Trunk Highway 47 (University Avenue), CSAH-153 (Lowry Avenue), 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North and Dowling Avenue; and

That Service to the CP/Shoreham Intermodal Yard is part of the Regional Commercial Freight System as shown on Fig. 2-16 of the Metropolitan Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) and recognized in the Metropolitan Council 2030 Framework and the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan; and

That support for this addition to the NHS Intermodal (Freight) Connector Route Listing is for the pursuit of additional federal funding for the Lowry Avenue Bridge outside of Minnesota's normal formula federal funds (either existing or future); and

That MnDOT and Metro Council be encouraged to complete a comprehensive study that will set regional priorities for freight connectors (including this route). Future regional support for funding and NHS connector designation will be based on the prioritized list resulting from that study.

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

## **INFORMATION**

1. Performance Measures Report for February

Vince Pellegrin, Metro Transit, gave the performance report for bus and rail for February 2008; and Dave Indrehus, Metro Transit Police, reported gave a report of same from the Police Department.

2. Monthly Ridership Report for February

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit, and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing, gave the ridership reports for February 2008.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m. March 24, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary