

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**  
**Monday, September 22, 2008**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Vice Chair Georgie Hilker Richard Aguilar	Kirstin Beach Craig Peterson Natalie Haas Steffen	Roger Scherer Peggy Leppik Brian McDaniel
Members Absent	Mary Hill Smith, Chair	Daniel Wolter	Peggy Leppik
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
Others Present	Robert Lilligren, City of Minneapolis		

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair A. Meeks called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm on September 22, 2008 in the Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers. While awaiting a quorum, Chair Meeks requested that staff proceed with the Employee Recognition.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Bruce Howard, Director of Marketing; Christy Bailly, Assistant Director of Field Operations; and Christine Kuennen, Manager Transit Control Center, introduced the following employees and recognized their outstanding contributions toward the success of Metro Transit operations in both the 2008 Minnesota State Fair and the Republican National Convention: Eric Isakson, Maria Cone, Linda Cameron, Dan Bullock, Brian Morse and John Spurgetis.

Chair Meeks and GM Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations and presented each employee with a certificate of achievement.

A quorum being present, the meeting continued.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was amended to delete information item #4, 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program. It was then moved by McDaniel, seconded by Beach to adopt the amended agenda for the September 22, 2008 meeting. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

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

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported on the following:

- 1) The number of Go-To cards in circulation exceeded 100,000 for the first time, according to an August sales operations report. Customers using Go-To cards – including Metropass, College Pass, U-Pass and retail cards – account for approximately 25 percent of rides taken this year.
- 2) Transit’s online trip planning tool has also experienced record use, on track to achieve in 9 months what was recorded for all 12 months of 2007.
- 3) The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has given its approval for a Northstar commuter rail station to be

located in Fridley, provided that it is funded with local dollars and does not interfere with the Northstar development schedule already in place. Construction in Fridley will be managed by the Anoka County Regional Rail Authority, which will file an application for funding through the Counties Transit Improvement Board.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported on the following:

- 1) There was a determination by the UPA steering committee that Mn/DOT and Met Council will jointly file a request for an amendment to the Urban Partnership Agreement from the US DOT. The requested amendment includes the deferment and reallocation of two stops on the Cedar Avenue Transitway plan and an extension of the 9/30/09 deadline for the majority of the projects to 12/31/09. This would bring the timing in line with the Marquette/2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue project, helping to prevent any further disruption while the downtown detours are in place and maximize the positive impact of the UPA improvements.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

SW 2008-207 Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Contract for an Automated Bus Location System

Sam Jacobs, Metro Transit Director of Bus Transportation, presented this item and answered general questions about the functionality of the system. It was noted that the wording of the project summary was unclear with regard to the contract terms. Jacobs will amend the item to clarify.

**Motion** by McDaniel, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract with Ubisense, Inc. to supply and install an automated bus location system in Metro Transit's five operating facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$983,337.

The Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a five year contract with Ubisense, Inc. for maintenance and support of the automated bus location system in Metro Transit's five operating facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$349,236.

Motion passed.

SW 2008-244 Northstar Commuter Rail Fares Public Review

Adam Harrington, Metro Transit Senior Manager Operations Planning, presented this item. There was discussion of fare structure and ridership projections.

**Motion** by McDaniel, seconded by Peterson,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize proposed Northstar Commuter Rail Fares as set forth below for public comment at public hearings October 15<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Big Lake \$7.50

Elk River \$5.50

Anoka \$4.00

Coon Rapids \$4.00

Fridley \$3.25

Non-downtown station-station \$3.25

On a demonstration basis, discounted off-peak, weekend and "Special Event" fares will be developed within or below these fare ranges in consideration of non-commute users, lower parking pricing and congestion levels in downtown Minneapolis during non-peak periods.

Motion passed, with Scherer voting no.

SW 2008-252 2009 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, presented this item and answered questions from the committee.

**Motion** by Scherer, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to apply for grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following capital and operating projects:

1. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) capital for Preliminary Engineering and Final Design: \$10.232 million (January-June 2009; subsequent capital funding applications required)
2. Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) capital for Apple Valley Transit Station: \$6.95 million (CY09; one-time)
3. Hiawatha LRT operating: \$7.5 million (CY09; on-going)
4. Northstar Commuter Rail operating: \$3.5 million (CY09; on-going)
5. I-35W Lakeville BRT operating: \$62.5 thousand (October-December 09; on-going)
6. Cedar Avenue Lakeville BRT operating: \$22.5 thousand (October-December 09; on-going)
7. Metropolitan Council transit operating assistance: \$30.783 million (CY09; one-time)

Motion passed, with Steffen voting no.

SW 2008-262      Regional Fare Collection System Contract with Cubic Transportation Services, Inc.

Ed Petrie and Tom Randall presented this item. Along with Brian Lamb they responded to questions and concerns of committee members.

**Motion** by Scherer, seconded by McDaniel,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Negotiate and execute a sole source Agreement with Cubic Transportation Systems in an amount not to exceed \$2.1M to upgrade the Cubic Nextfare Fare Collection System software, purchase equipment, and develop a distance based fare system for Northstar Commuter Rail which will be integrated with the Regional Fare Collection System.
- Execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for reimbursement in the full amount of \$881,371 for the Northstar Commuter Rail Software Development and Implementation from federal and local funds currently available within the Northstar Full Funding Grant Agreement.
- Execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for reimbursement in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 for additional Cubic Fare Collection Equipment and/or Other Fare Collection System Modifications from federal and local funds currently available within the Northstar Full Funding Grant Agreement.

Motion passed, with Steffen voting no.

SW 2008-251      Forest Lake & Columbus Express Service Demonstration Fare

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, presented this item and answered questions of the committee members pertaining to both the fare increase and service continuation.

**Motion** by Scherer, seconded by McDaniel,

That the Metropolitan Council endorse increasing the regular route fare for the Forest Lake and Columbus to Minneapolis express fare to \$4.75 effective October 1, 2008 on a demonstration basis for up to one year.

Motion passed.

2008-231              2008-2011 TIP Amendment for SP#TRF-0018-08B Routing Software for Coordinating Transit Systems (TAB Action 2008-23)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions or further discussion.

**Motion** by McDaniel, seconded by Beach,

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That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add TRF-0018-08B for routing software for coordinating Metropolitan Council elderly and disability service transit systems.

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

2008-249 Approval of 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Connie Kozlak, MTS Manager Transportation Planning & Programming, presented this item to the committee. There was no further discussion.

**Motion** by Scherer, seconded by Beach,

- That the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed 2009 Unified Planning Work Program with a budget of \$4,010,072.
- That the Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – A Legacy for Users.
- That the Regional Administrator be authorized to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

Motion passed, with Steffen voting no. Item and resolution will proceed to the full Council.

2008-250 Approve Amendment to the 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Connie Kozlak, MTS Manager Transportation Planning & Programming, presented this item to the committee. There was no further discussion.

**Motion** by Peterson, seconded by Hilker,

- That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2008 Unified Planning Work Program, as shown on the attached summary sheet, to reduce the total budget by \$259,804 to \$4,114,640.
- That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached resolution and authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the UPWP agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, to obtain the additional planning funds.

Motion passed, with Steffen voting no. Item and resolution will proceed to the full Council.

2008-248 AVL Contract for Regional Fleet

John Harper, MTS Supervisor of Contracted Services, presented this item and answered questions about the functionality and pricing.

**Motion** by Peterson, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Continental Corporation (formerly Siemens) to purchase Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) and Automatic Passenger Counter (APC) systems to be utilized by Metropolitan Transportation Service and Suburban Transit providers in an amount not to exceed \$6,654,100.

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

2008-253 Authorization to Exercise Gillig Contract Options to Replace Plymouth Buses

Alex Curtiss, Manager MTS Fleet Services, presented this item. There were no questions from the committee.

**Motion** by McDaniel, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise existing options on contract #07P162 with Gillig Corporation to purchase two replacement buses in addition to the thirteen buses approved under Council action item #2008-215 for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$5,575,000.

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

2008-254            Authorization to Purchase Replacement Metropolitan Transportation Services Small Buses

Alex Curtiss, Manager MTS Fleet Services, presented this item. There were no questions from the committee.

**Motion** by Hilker, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with the following vendors for small buses:

1. Hogle Bus Co. Inc. (437103) for 25 Regional Fleet buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,444,363
2. North Central Bus Sales (437102) for 19 Regional Fleet buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,168,035

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

## **INFORMATION**

1. Performance Measures Report for August 2008

Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operating Officer, and Metro Transit Police Chief Dave Indrehus reported on bus and rail performance including reliability, safety and security.

2. Monthly Ridership Report for August 2008

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Director of Marketing, presented ridership figures and a marketing update for August.

3. 2008 State Fair Update

Bruce Howard provided a brief recap of Metro Transit State Fair operations including breakdown of ridership figures and some historical comparisons.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Arlene McCarthy noted that beginning in October the Transportation Committee would resume holding the first meeting of the month at Met Council Chambers and the second at Metro Transit. It was suggested that the meeting location schedule be adjusted in an effort to simplify travel. McCarthy will consult with Chair Smith and notify committee members and staff of any location changes.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Meeks adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m., September 22, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary