

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, July 28, 2008

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

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, M.Hill Smith called the July 28, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm at Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Hilker to adopt the agenda for the July 28, 2008 meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Hilker to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Jerry Gudim, Manager Nicollet Garage, introduced Nicollet Dispatcher Michael Rossini. Rossini is being recognized for his 33 years of service to Metro Transit, during which he has worked as a dispatcher at all five garages. Gudim noted Rossini’s professionalism as both a dispatcher and as union steward for Nicollet and credited his ability to foster a positive work environment with significantly reducing employee grievances and maintaining strong, productive labor/management relations.

Chair Smith and General Manager Lamb offered Rossini their thanks and congratulations and presented him with a certificate of recognition.

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

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

- 1) A memorial service will be held at Gold Medal Park on Friday, August 1, to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the I-35W bridge collapse. Metro Transit will offer free shuttle service to and from Gold Medal Park. Information and downloadable passes are available on the Transit website.
- 2) Members of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local #1005 will be voting on a new contract offer on August 2 and August 3. The current two-year contract with Metro Transit will expire on July 31.
- 3) The 2008 Minnesota State Bus Rodeo was held on July 19 in Bemidji. Darell Hanson of Nicollet Garage won second place in the Large Bus division.
- 4) The Fifth Annual Local Rail Rodeo was held on July 26 at the Hiawatha LRT O&M facility. Harry Mandik won the operator competition, which consisted of three events. The Rail maintainers competed in eight events testing knowledge and ability. The three top performers were Chris Anderson, Vernon Goble and Margo Trujillo. These four individuals will represent Metro transit at the International Rail Rodeo to be held in

Chicago in June 2009.

- 5) The 28th Avenue Park and Ride opened to customers on July 22. On that day 200 cars were parked at the facility; by July 25 the number was 600. A grand opening event is scheduled for August 11.
- 6) The NexTrip tool was launched last week providing real-time schedule information to customers via metrotransit.org and through TransitLine, portable devices and location signs.
- 7) Site preparation began last week on the Northstar commuter rail Elk River station. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in early September. Operation of the 40-mile rail line is set to begin in late 2009.

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

- 1) A preliminary draft of the Transportation Policy Plan has been mailed to Council Members for review. Council Members are invited to offer input at any time during the review process and at Met Council and Transportation Committee meetings when the TPP is presented. The Council will vote in September whether to adopt the preliminary document as a draft to go forward.
- 2) A meeting of the Legislative Oversight Commission will be held in the Heywood Chambers on July 29 focusing on the proposed fare increase. Information will be presented that was included in earlier public hearings, with the addition of more detailed data on MVST contributions and fuel costs.
- 3) The Federal Transit Administration has hired consultant teams for each of the Urban Partnership Agreement regional recipients to ensure that proper before and after measurements are established for UPA projects. The team for the Twin Cities region will be in town next week to meet with UPA project staff.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2008-199 Authorization to Execute Grant Agreements with Southwest Transit and MVTA for Replacement Bus Purchases

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

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik,

1. That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Southwest Transit for \$490,000 to replace six small transit buses.
2. That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with MVTA for \$2,030,000 to replace five 40-foot transit buses.

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

2008-200 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: MnDOT Metro District. Add SP#TRLF-08-01 Ramp B new entry/exit off 2nd Avenue North in Minneapolis (TAB Action 2008-20)

This item was presented by Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item and responded to questions from committee members regarding fund allocation.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a Transportation Revolving Loan Fund (TRLF) project for a new entry/exit off 2nd Avenue North to access the I-394 Ramp B.

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

2008-201 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: Add SP#TRLF-08-02, elevated pedestrian walkway from Ramp A to the Twins Ballpark over 7th Street N in Minneapolis (TAB Action 2008-21)

This item was presented by Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item and responded to questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a Transportation Revolving Loan Fund (TRLF) project for elevated pedestrian walkway from Ramp A to the Twins Ballpark over 7th St. N in Minneapolis.

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

2008-202 2008-2011 TIP Amendment: Add SP#TRLF-08-03, enhancements to transit facilities and pedestrian wayfinding – ABC Ramps at I-394 in Minneapolis (TAB Action 2008-22)

This item was presented by Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item and responded to questions from committee members.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement (TIP) to include SP#TRLF-08-03 Enhancements to transit facilities and pedestrian wayfinding – ABC Ramps at I-394 in Minneapolis

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

2008-203 Authorization to Exercise Contract Option to Purchase 11 Articulated Transit Buses

This item was presented by Metro Transit Director of Purchasing Chris Gran. Committee member questions regarding fuel choice for buses were asked and answered.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an existing contract option with New Flyer of America, Inc., to purchase 11 sixty-foot, articulated low-floor transit buses in an amount not-to-exceed \$6,500,000.

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

2008-205 Design Services for Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Signalization Due to Platform Extensions

MarySue Abel, Metro Transit Principal Engineer, presented this item and answered committee member questions regarding functionality.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract for design and construction support services relative to the Signal System for Platform Extensions and Reverse Crossing Start Operations along the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (HLRT) line.

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

2008-208 Interdivisional Transfer of Vehicles

This item was presented by Tom Humphrey, Assistant Director of Bus Maintenance for Metro Transit. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Steffen,

That the Metropolitan Council approve the interdivisional transfer of four (4) buses from Metro Transit assets to Metropolitan Transportation Services regional fleet assets.

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

INFORMATION

1. Performance Measures Report for June 2008
Julie Johanson, Deputy Chief Operations Officer – Bus, and AJ Olson, Deputy Chief of Metro Transit Police, reported on bus and rail performance, reliability, safety and security.
2. Monthly Ridership Report for June
Metro Transit Director of Marketing Bruce Howard provided an update on ridership levels and current and planned marketing initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:12 p.m., July 28, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary