

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**  
**Monday, December 8, 2008**

Members Present:     Mary Hill Smith, Chair             Georgie Hilker                     Roger Scherer  
                              Richard Aguilar                     Annette Meeks                     Kirstin Beach  
                              Natalie Haas Steffen

Members Absent:     Peggy Leppik                     Brian McDaniel                     Craig Peterson

Staff Presiding:     Arlene McCarthy, Director             Brian Lamb, General Manager  
                              Metropolitan Transportation Services     Metro Transit

Others Present:     Metropolitan Councilmember Polly Bowles

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, Chair Mary Hill Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 pm on December 8, 2008, at Metro Transit FT Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

There was no Employee Recognition item at this meeting.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Beach to adopt the agenda for the December 8, 2008 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Aguilar to approve the minutes from the November 24, 2008 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion passed.

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

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

- 1) Upon the announcement of the state budget figures last week, Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell and staff began integrating those numbers into the Met Council's budget for the coming fiscal year as well as the upcoming biennium. Chair Bell is expected to provide a summary of the situation at the next meeting of the full Council.

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

- 1) We are facing the first real winter storm of the season for this afternoon's rush hour, and Phase 1 of our winter weather plan has been activated. This includes, among other steps: extra buses and drivers; towing services on standby; sandbags on articulated buses; critical trips identified; and additional monitoring of light-rail service and alignment.
- 2) In anticipation of high light-rail ridership on Friday after Thanksgiving, Transit Police put extra officers on the Hiawatha Line to interact with holiday shoppers. In addition to the regular LRT police contingent, eight more officers created a highly visible police presence that included more than 6,000 fare compliance inspections on 130 train cars. Forty-one citations were written, including 38 for fare compliance.
- 3) Transit police officers rode buses for 1,182 hours last month. Nearly 1,000 of those hours were by officers who ride for their entire shifts, according to a police report. For the first 11 months of the year, officers have

patrolled on-board buses for nearly 17,000 hours.

- 4) The University of Minnesota displayed the new buses to be used for its campus shuttle service last Monday (December 1). One of them is hybrid-electric model that the University purchased by using a contractual option that Metro Transit has with Gillig Corporation. Metro Transit assigned up to three hybrid options to the University Parking and Transportation Services Department. Metro Transit currently has 67 hybrids in its fleet, and the number is expected grow to 172 by 2012.
- 5) This year's Target Holidazzle Parade season is underway in downtown Minneapolis. Saturday, December 13 is Metro Transit's sponsored day, and Councilmembers are invited to ride the Twinkle Bus in the parade on that or any other night during the parade's run. To the public, Metro Transit is offering free rides from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. to the parade on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> as well as the following Saturday, December 20.
- 6) The Northstar Vehicle Maintenance Facility in Big Lake was substantially completed last week and turned over to the Metropolitan Council as the home for Minnesota's first commuter rail line.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

SW 2008-350 Contract Amendment for Forest Lake/Columbus Peak Express Transit Service

Arlene McCarthy presented this item, explaining the proposed funding for the remainder of 2008, for 2009 utilizing leased buses and for 2010 and beyond when Council-owned buses will be utilized reducing the operating cost. She answered questions from the Council members regarding the various funding partners, noting that Washington County will be voting on their funding at a December 16 Board meeting. She explained that both the Columbus City Council and Forest Lake City Council voted regarding paying the Regional Transit Capital (RTC) tax effective in 2010 and directed staff to negotiate an agreement with the Metropolitan Council.

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

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract number 07P210 for peak express transit service in the Forest Lake/Columbus to Downtown Minneapolis corridor. The amendment will extend the contract through December 31, 2009, and increase the contract by \$865,000 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$1,571,128.66, contingent upon project partners finalizing funding commitments.

Motion passed, with Steffen voting no.

SW 2008-356 2008 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Contract Amendments

Paul Colton and Dana Rude of Metro Mobility presented this item. The Committee did not have any questions or comments regarding the action item.

**Motion** by Steffen, seconded by Beach,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the 2008 Transit Provider Assistance Agreements and increase the maximum contract amount by \$70,000 for Human Service Inc. (08I012), \$20,000 for Scott County Transit (08I011) and \$70,000 for the Anoka County Traveler (08I013).

Motion passed.

**Presentation:** Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Quarterly Update (Craig Lamothe 612-349-7690)

SW 2008-361 Acquire Property at 155th Street and Cedar Avenue in Apple Valley

Peter Hanf, Associate General Counsel presented this item and answered questions regarding the temporary and permanent easements, as well as described the businesses that exist in the area.

**Motion** by Steffen, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to acquire fee title and temporary easements on property located at 15455, 15425, 15415, 15405 and 15350 Cedar Ave. in Apple Valley by direct negotiation or by condemnation in accordance with the attached resolution.

Motion passed.

2008-348            Independent Testing Services for Three Urban Partnership Agreement Park-and-Ride Facilities

Lindsay Sheppard, Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities, outlined the need for this professional services contract. Chair Smith asked why all the testing was necessary and whether this is mandated by the Cities. Ms. Sheppard responded that the testing has always been incorporated into projects and is for our quality assurance.

**Motion** by Steffen, seconded by Meeks,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a professional services contract for independent testing services and construction inspection services relative to the construction of three Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Park-and-Ride facilities at a cost of up to \$440,000.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that the item could move forward to the full Council as a consent item.

SW 2008-353      Twin Lakes Park and Ride – Interagency Agreement with the City of Roseville

Tom Thorstenson and Pat Jones, Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities, briefly outlined the need for an interagency agreement with Roseville for the Twin Lakes Park and Ride. There were no questions from committee members.

**Motion** by Hilker, seconded by Meeks,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Roseville relative to the construction of traffic mitigations and assessments associated with the Twin Lakes Park and Ride.

Motion passed.

SW 2008-355      Kenrick Avenue Park and Ride – Interagency Agreement with the City of Lakeville

Tom Thorstenson and Pat Jones presented this item outlining the need for this interagency agreement with Lakeville for the Kenrick Avenue Park and Ride. Councilmember Haas Steffen inquired as to the difference in interagency agreement costs between Lakeville and Roseville. Mr. Jones responded that the Kenrick Avenue site in Lakeville is located on an existing roadway network, and the necessary traffic improvements are only modifications to the existing systems.

**Motion** by Meeks, seconded by Hilker,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Lakeville relative to the construction of traffic mitigations associated with the Kenrick Avenue Park and Ride.

Motion passed.

SW 2008-354 Acquire Property at 18040 Cedar Avenue in Lakeville

A brief presentation by staff outlined the need for this property purchase. Councilmember Scherer suggested that staff obtain an update to the appraisal due to current economic conditions. Mr. Jones responded that the appraisal was done in August, but that staff would get it updated.

**Motion** by Scherer, seconded by Meeks,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and acquire fee title to that portion of the property, together with temporary easements, at 18040 Cedar Avenue in Lakeville, and should negotiations fail, by eminent domain, in accordance with the corresponding resolution.

Motion passed.

2008-352 Property Exchange at the Northtown Mall, Blaine (Tom Thorstenson 612-349-7689)

Tom Thorstenson presented this item. Councilmember Meeks asked for clarification that a net \$800,000 would be coming to the Council. Mr. Jones confirmed. Councilmember Haas Steffen asked what the costs of the new improvements would be. Mr. Jones indicated that costs were projected to be less than \$800,000.

**Motion** by Steffen, seconded by Meeks,

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a property exchange agreement with Glimcher Realty Trust, involving Council owned property located adjacent to the Northtown Mall, Blaine.

Motion passed. Hearing no objection, Chair Smith stated that the item could move forward to the full Council as a consent item.

SW 2008-351 Authorization to Amend Contract for Diesel Fuel Supply

Metro Transit Director of Purchasing Chris Gran presented this item. Committee members asked questions related to recent diesel fuel and gasoline prices, and the Council's forward pricing program relative to the diesel fuel supply contract.

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

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the diesel fuel supply contract with Western Petroleum Company to increase the maximum total compensation to \$71 million.

Motion passed.

SW 2008-365 Interdivisional Transfer of Vehicle

Jan Homan, Metro Transit Director of Bus Maintenance, presented this item. Committee members asked questions related to the transfer of a 12 year old bus to MTS for use in Plymouth Metro Link service. It was explained that the transfer would enhance their current fleet and ultimately improve service, it is only intended to support service until new buses arrive.

**Motion** by Scherer, seconded by Meeks,

That the Metropolitan Council approve the interdivisional transfer of one (1) bus that is greater than 12 years old, is fully depreciated, and is set for disposal from Metro Transit assets to Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) regional fleet assets.

Motion passed.

## **INFORMATION**

1. 2008 Annual Park-and Ride System Survey

Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Facilities Planner, and Mike Abegg of Minnesota Valley Transit Authority presented the results of the 2008 survey of transit park-and-ride facility usage. Highlights included system growth figures, home origin of users and facility use in relation to fuel prices.

2. Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Public Comment Results and Proposed Responses

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS, provided a brief recap of public input to the draft 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) and the proposed responses to questions or concerns. Vennewitz requested that any further input from Councilmembers be forwarded by December 12 to ensure that the final draft is ready to be sent out for review by December 19.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m., December 8, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary