

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, January 26, 2009**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Georgie Hilker Craig Peterson	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair Natalie Haas Steffen Kirstin Sersland Beach	Peggy Leppik Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Roger Scherer		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, GM, Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	None present		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Annette Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on January 26, 2009 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

Metro Council Public Affairs Director Steve Dornfeld appeared before the committee to inform them that videostreaming of the committee meetings is scheduled to begin in February. He reminded committee members to speak into the microphones and to group their seating close together around the Council Chamber desk. He also reminded presenters to approach the microphones to present their items and answer committee member questions.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by Aguilar seconded by Leppik to adopt the agenda for January 26, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Steffen seconded by Aguilar to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2009 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

1) Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb introduced Rob Milleson, Maintenance Manager, who recognized Mechanic Technicians Don Mead and Ed Wilber for their work with frame welding and repair in the Overhaul Base body shop. Their work is hot, tedious and dirty, but can result in extended life of the buses. Mead and Wilber were not present at the meeting, Don Colberg –Manager Overhaul Base nominated these gentlemen and accepted the awards on their behalf.

2) Lamb also introduced Bruce Fenlason-Signal Communications Manager. Fenlason nominated Signal Communications Foreperson Mike Maghrak and Technician Percy Halverson for improving the installation of heaters that melt snow on 12 switches along the Hiawatha Line. Their efforts result in longer heater life, reduced unscheduled replacement, eased replacement of heaters and improved heater performance. Fenlason presented the awards to the employees.

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

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported:

1. On the Monday preceding the presidential inauguration, the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority carried a record 866,681 customer rides for the day. By 8:30 am on inauguration Tuesday, ridership stood at 318,442 with more than 111,000 people boarding in just 90 minutes between 7 and 8:30 am. By the end of Tuesday, 1.5 M passengers used MetroBus and MetroRail within the Washington D.C. area. We had eight of our Metro Transit Police Officers working for WMATA in D.C. during those record-setting days of the inauguration assisting at the request of WMATA.

2. Metro Transit Police received two certificates of appreciation last week from the federal Transportation Security Administration. TSA, a unit of the Dept. of Homeland Security, presented one certificate “in recognition of outstanding accomplishments that promote law enforcement in the protection of the US transportation infrastructure through investigative activities”. The second certificate dealt specifically with the outstanding activities during the Republican National Convention and participating with TSA during the convention to keep transportation systems safe.
3. The Finance Division reports a 27.3 % increase in rides on service under contract to the City of Maple Grove. Annual Maple Grove ridership was more than 758,000 in 2008, up more than 162,400 over 2007. Maple Grove service is provided from the Ruter garage.
4. Metro Transit received word that Transit was well represented at a Robbinsdale & North Minneapolis town hall meeting. Metro Transit employees did a good job in their outreach efforts and answering citizen questions.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported:

1. Gave a brief recap of what is known about the Economic Recovery Funds (was Economic “Stimulus” Funds). She shared possible dollar numbers, subject to change, in order to give members a sense of the magnitude of the funding bill. The TAB and TAC are working on expediting features to be sure they can move forward quickly. Proposals vary as to timeframe for “committing” projects. Chair Bell has been consistent and proactive in stating Metro Council’s desire to include transit operations as eligible for ESF. McFarlin stated that the bill(s) are moving fast and suggested weekly updates. McCarthy stated that e-mails will be sent with any new information.
2. The Accelerating Transitways Workshop was held last week; McCarthy thanked those who attended.
3. The Pioneer Press “Sainted and Tainted” column included a citizen letter expressing thanks to (“sainting”) Metro Mobility staff and drivers.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2009-36 Authorization to Approve Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Final Environmental Impact Statement Contract

Rich Rovang, AGM-Transit Systems Development, presented this item to the committee.

Rovang presented this item to the committee, and he and Fuhrmann answered questions from members concerning source of funds, affect on schedule/delays, and the ratio of noise and vibration study costs between the U of M and Cedar Avenue location in St. Paul.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To execute an amendment to the professional services contract with HDR Engineering for Environmental Services to complete the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) project in an amount not to exceed \$627,000, for a total amended contract value of \$3,718,345, and to extend the contract time period to June 30, 2009.

Motion passed, with Sersland Beach abstaining.

2009-34 2009 Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Review
Chauncey Case, Senior Planner-Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Aguilar,

That the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Finds the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has an adequate public participation process for development and review of its 2009 Capital Improvement Program(CIP);
- 2) Finds the 2009 CIP projects have adequate funding and are in conformance with the region’s Aviation System Plan and consistent with Council policy; and,
- 3) Approve the following projects: MSP Taxiway C/D Complex, the Runway 12L/30R reconstruction, and the Flying Cloud Airport Runway 10R/28L construction.

Motion passed.

Arlene McCarthy stated that MAC Representatives will give an update on Metropolitan Airports Commission activities at the February 11, 2009 Council meeting.

2009-42 Approval of the 2008 Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Solicitation Project Recommendation

Cole Hiniker, Metropolitan Transportation Services Planner presented this item to the committee and detailed the applications received in the solicitation. Hiniker answered questions from committee members concerning the contingency list and excess money, ownership of buses purchased with grant money and assessing the effectiveness of the programs.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the list of projects recommended for federal funding for up to \$1,777,343 under the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program and for up to \$582,267 under the New Freedom program as listed in Attachment A of the business Item; and a list of recommended contingency projects for up to \$717,563 under JARC program as listed in said Attachment A.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the JARC program and the New Freedom program to fund the recommended projects and the contingency list of JARC projects.

Motion passed.

2009-45 Authorization to Execute Grant Agreements with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority for the Construction of the Apple Valley Transit Station

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, presented this item to the committee and answered questions regarding funding (Federal/State/UPA/CTIB). McCarthy explained that this item includes two separate agreements, but moving concurrently through the approval process. McCarthy stated that MVTA is scheduled to award the construction contract shortly after 2/11:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. Execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority to provide \$6,950,000 in Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) and \$1,255,000 in Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) funds for the construction of the Apple Valley Transit Station.
2. Execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority to provide \$742,500 in federal discretionary funds and \$185,625 in Cedar Avenue BRT Corridor GO Bonds for the construction of the Apple Valley Transit Station.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Performance Measures Report for November/December 2008

Vince Pellegrin, Metro Transit, gave the performance and reliability measures report for bus and rail for November/December 2008, and also gave a report of same from the Police Department.

2. Monthly Ridership Report for November/December 2008.

Ed Petrie and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit, gave the ridership, marketing and Travel Demand reports for November/December 2008.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Meeks adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:45 p.m. January 26, 2009.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary