

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, March 23, 2009**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair	Richard Aguilar
	Georgie Hilker	Peggy Leppik	Kirstin Sersland Beach
Members Absent	Roger Scherer	Craig Peterson	Natalie Haas Steffen
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb GM, Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was not present when Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 pm on March 23, 2009 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul. There was no objection to commencing the meeting with non-action items while waiting for a quorum.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Sheri Gingerich-Rail Operations Supervisor, presented employee recognition awards to Richard Carey and Michael De Wolf who are the lead inspector/quality assurance supervisor on all MC vehicles, including LRT vehicles.

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

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported a serious violation by a bus operator over the weekend. Callers alerted law enforcement agencies of erratic driving by a bus operator Saturday night. Brooklyn Center police officers were dispatched and administered a field sobriety test at the Brooklyn Center Transit Center. The driver’s BAC registered 0.24. Metro Transit is investigating and cooperating with Brooklyn Center Police. The driver is on leave and will not drive a bus. There has not been an incident of this type in Metro Transit history. Metro Transit apologizes to the customers and the communities. Metro Transit thanks those who called authorities to investigate this incident. Lamb stated that Metro Transit is undertaking a comprehensive review of its standards, policies and procedures.

This week Metro Transit will honor 47 operators for safety in service records.

Lamb reported that the St. Paul City Council gave its approval last week to the Municipal Consent for CCLRT, including the maintenance facility at the Diamond Products building site in Lowertown. Committee member Aguilar said the he attended the meeting and praised CCLRT staff for their presentation.

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services reported that today the Forest Lake City Council is to take action regarding paying the regional transit capital for 2010, related to Route 288. Columbus City passed this item with the condition that Forest Lake City also pass the action.

The Dial-a-Ride structuring update: Staff attended a meeting requested by the City of Hastings to answer questions. Staff will attend a Dakota County Physical Development Committee meeting on Tuesday March 24, and also staff will continue to meet with all providers as the Dial-a-Ride restructuring moves ahead. Each of the seven counties has been asked to name two representatives to the Coordinating

Advisory Committee by the end of March. A Coordinating Advisory Committee meeting is proposed for April.

A quorum was now present, the meeting continued.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker to adopt the agenda for the March 23, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Hilker seconded by Leppik to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2009 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

### **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

2009-100 Authorization to Amend Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) Project Scope

John Harper, MTS Supervisor Contracted Transit Services, presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the project scope approved in Business Item 2008-248 for the Regional Fleet AVL contract to include Metro Transit.

Motion carried.

2009-102 **SW** Construction Support Services for Hiawatha Light Rail Projects 63740, 53701 & 65651

MarySue Abel, Metro Transit Lead Project Manager, presented this item and answered question from Meeks regarding why there have been so many occurrences of single bidders. Abel responded that some of the consultants were on the design team, and ineligible due to conflict of interest. Some of the contracts include off-peak work, perhaps not appealing to bidders, and also the work is of a very technical nature, eliminating some from qualifying to submit a proposal.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a professional services contract with CSSI (Construction Support Services, Inc.) for Construction Support Services during construction of the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (HLRT) projects at a cost not to exceed \$322,000.

Motion passed.

2009-103 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit – Programmatic Agreement between the Metropolitan Council, the Federal Transit Administration, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Rich Rovang, Metro Transit Assistant General Manager – TSD, presented this item and answered questions clarifying that the U of M is a cooperating party to this agreement, and staff continues discussions with the U of M on this subject.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to sign the Programmatic Agreement, developed jointly between the Central Corridor Project Office, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office, the Federal Transit Administration and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation pursuant to federal regulations.

Motion passed.

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

2009-108 Northstar Locomotive Spare Parts

Mark Fuhrmann gave an update on the status of Northstar contingency funds as an introduction for this item.

Lamb stated that a detailed Northstar budget update will be presented to the committee in April. Mark Fuhrmann answered question from Meeks clarifying where expenses for Hiawatha LRT were taken from, and the allowable capital expenses that the FTA may permit as part of the FFGA

Ed Byers, Director Commuter Rail, presented this item to the committee.

Motion by Beach, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To negotiate and execute a subordinate funding agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for reimbursement of costs incurred by the Metropolitan Council in procuring locomotive spare parts.
- To negotiate and execute a contract amendment with Motive Power Incorporated (MPI) for acquisition of spare parts for the five Northstar locomotives contingent upon execution of a funding agreement for reimbursement of costs from MnDOT, in the amount of \$1,000,000.

Motion passed.

2009-106 Approval of the 2009 Regional Solicitation, TAB Action 2009-18

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, and Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Liaison, presented this item to the committee and covered the changes from the 2007 solicitation, procedure, schedule of actions/meetings. Meeks asked and received a further description of the new category of “streetscape and pedestrian enhancements”.

McFarlin requested information on how the regional solicitation projects will interconnect with ARRA funds, decisions made and upcoming. Ohrn explained.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2009 Regional Solicitation Package, including the schedule of events, for release to the public for solicitation of project applications.

Motion passed.

2009-107 2009-2012 TIP Amendment (ARRA Funding) TAB Action 2009-19

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, gave a presentation update of the ARRA funding, schedules and TIP amendments to date prior to discussion of Business Item 2009-107. John Chiglo from MnDOT was present to answer questions regarding MnDOT items, and Kevin Roggenbuck was available to answer questions on TAB process and action(s).

Discussion on the motion: Ohrn stated that MnDOT will delay action on the smaller projects until the TAB makes its decision on April 15, at which time the FHWA should have indicated a design decision on the TH 169/I-494 project. Chiglo responded to McFarlin request for information about the Greater Minnesota project schedules (letting dates) and in response to McFarlin question why the rush for this TIP amendment to include smaller projects, stated that it is MnDOT’s opinion that this is the prudent and proactive thing to do to in order to ensure that people are put to work as soon as possible in case the TH169/I-494 project is not a possible option. McFarlin has a concern that by approving this motion, a signal would be send to the FHWA that we are willing to accept something other than the two big projects. Legal Counsel has stated that the motion cannot be divided. He, therefore, moved the motion below.

Leppik requested the Council be provided with information on the TAB’s approach to local match for projects.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik to **move the action forward to the full Council** for action at the 4/08/09 Council meeting **with no recommendation from the Transportation Committee**, at which time representatives from MnDOT and FHWA give an update on the discussions and negotiations around the TH169/I-494 project.

Action: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include 22 MnDOT projects on metro area trunk highways that may be funded using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Motion passed.

## INFORMATION

1. Nigel Wilson, MIT Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering gave a presentation on “Advancing Transit Research in the Twin Cities”. Lamb stated that an opportunity came to the Metro Council (Metro Transit) and the University of Minnesota last year when Mr. Wilson spent a sabbatical here.

John Levin gave an overview of the Transit training and research and Bob Johns of the U of M also shared information with the committee.

2. Performance Measures Report for January /February

Vince Pellegrin, Metro Transit Chief Operating Officer Bus and Rail, and Dave Indrehus, Metro Transit Police Chief, presented the January/February 2009 performance measures for Operations and Safety/Security.

3. Monthly Ridership Report for February

Ed Petrie, MT Director of Finance and Bruce Howard, MT Director of Marketing, gave the ridership, marketing and Travel Demand reports for February 2009.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Leppik, seconded by McFarlin, and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:10 p.m. March 23, 2009.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary