

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit F.T. Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, July 13, 2009**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Robert McFarlin, Vice Chair Peggy Leppik	Kirstin Sersland Beach Natalie Haas Steffen Craig Peterson	Roger Scherer Richard Aguilar Georgie Hilker
Members Absent	None		
Staff Presiding	Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS	Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit	
Others Present	Met Council Chair Peter Bell Met Councilmember Wendy Wulff	Met Councilmember Polly Bowles Minneapolis City Councilmember Robert Lilligren	

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on July 13, 2009, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Meeks noted an amendment to the agenda, striking Business Item number 9 – Cedar Avenue and 181st Street Park and Ride Lot Interagency Agreement with the City of Lakeville. Motion by McFarlin seconded by Beach to adopt the amended agenda for the July 13, 2009, Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Scherer seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2009, regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, reported, as an ancillary point to Business Item number 5, that the city of Hastings had expressed a desire to retain the current structure of its TRAC dial-a-ride system rather than adopt the proposed program parameters. Council staff has met with staff from Hastings to discuss options. Additional meetings will be held and outcome reported in the next few weeks.

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

Summer Scholars Begin Riding Buses and Trains

Many young people attending summer school in Minneapolis this month are using Go-To cards to get to class in a partnership between Minneapolis Public Schools and Metro Transit. The school system bought 2,000 all-you-can-ride Go-To cards to help youth with their summer travels. The “Summer Scholars” Go-To cards were activated by Metro Transit for travel between July 6 and July 30. The test program could lead to additional cooperative programs in the future.

Metro Transit Promoted during Local Aquatennial Race

An official event of this year’s Minneapolis Aquatennial is a race wherein Metro Transit will be the only method of travel for participants in “THE MOST Amazing Race.” Patterned after television’s “The Amazing Race,” this event will be held on Saturday, July 25. The Aquatennial teams compete to make their way to checkpoints using a Metro Transit bus or train. At each checkpoint, the team completes a mental or physical challenge to receive their next clue. The first team to reach the finish line will win the

\$5,000 grand prize courtesy of Wells Fargo. This is a fundraiser for the Salvation Army’s Bed and Bread Club, which helps fight hunger and homelessness in the Twin Cities. Metro Transit is a sponsor of this event.

Northstar Reaches Construction Milestone

The Northstar commuter rail line reached another milestone last week (July 6) when the contractor achieved “substantial completion” of the initial four suburban stations – Big Lake, Elk River, Anoka and Coon Rapids. Northstar and Metro Transit staff will now work with the builder on punch-list items required before the stations are fully completed. Fridley Station, which was a late addition, is being built under a separate schedule outside the scope of the federally funded Northstar project.

TIC Has Second-best Month Ever

During June Transit Information Center representatives handled the second highest number of calls in TIC history. Staff members talked with customers nearly 104,000 times in June, a 31 percent increase over June of 2008. For the first half of the year, TIC reps have handled 604,000 calls, 16 percent higher than the first six months of last year.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2009-178 Northstar Commuter Rail Fare Approval

Adam Harrington, Metro Transit Assistant Director Route and System Planning, presented this item, amended to reflect discussion and recommendations from the June 24 meeting of the full Council. He provided an overview of the changes and answered specific questions regarding fare structure. Extensive discussion followed including implications of fare levels and two-tiered approach, impacts on projected ridership, potential for weekend or “social” fares and federal requirements for implementing different programs. The committee heard public testimony from Sherburne County Commissioner Ewald Peterson and Big Lake City Councilmember Chuck Heitz, who expressed concern that the proposed fare structure would be unduly burdensome to riders in their communities. After the conclusion of public testimony, discussion was tabled and staff was directed to continue working on a recommendation for the committee on a non-peak/weekend fare package. GM Lamb stated he will provide a status update to Council members by July 17.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council approves the recommended temporary and permanent Northstar Commuter Rail Fares as set forth in the table below.

One-way cash fare to/from downtown Minneapolis – seven days/week		
	Temporary (Option A)	Permanent (Option D)
Big Lake	\$7.00	\$8.00
Elk River	\$5.50	\$6.00
Anoka	\$4.00	\$4.00
Coon Rapids	\$4.00	\$4.00
Fridley	\$3.25	\$3.25
Non-downtown station-station	\$3.25	\$3.25

Motion passed, with McFarlin and Steffen opposed.

2009-233 Scope Change and 2009-2012 TIP Amendment to add parking spaces to the Silver Leaf Transit Station (TAB Action 2009-41)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to change the project scope to add parking spaces to the Silver Leaf Transit Station, and increase the funds by \$400,000, and to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Motion passed.

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

2009-234 Scope Change and 2009-2012 TIP Amendment for SP#91-080-06, Market Street Transit Station to Relocate 120 Parking Spaces (TAB Action 2009-42)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to change the project scope of SP#90-080-06, Market Street Transit Station, to relocate 120 parking spaces and reduce the funds by \$250,000, and to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Motion passed.

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

2009-235 Authority to Execute an Interagency Agreement with Mn/DOT for Travel Behavior Inventory Federal ARRA funds **RESOLUTION**

Mark Filipi, MTS Transportation Forecast Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik:

That the Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the execution of an Interagency Agreement with Mn/DOT to accept Federal ARRA Funds for the Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) and authorize the Regional Administrator to execute said agreement with Mn/DOT.

Motion passed.

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

2009-232 Approval of Regional Dial-a-Ride Program Parameters

Gerri Sutton, MTS Assistant Director of Contracted Transit, presented this item. Council Member Steffen asked about the impact of 5311 formula funds on the regional dial-a-ride program. Staff explained that the Council will submit an application to Mn/DOT for 5311 funds and anticipates an award of approximately \$1 million but that there is no guarantee that this funding will be available to supplement the regional dial-a-ride program until the award is made in October. However, 5311 funds would be new funding that supplements Council funding of approximately \$4.6 million.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Regional Dial-a-Ride Program Parameters recommended by the Coordination Advisory Committee (CAC), as specified in Exhibit A of the original business item.

Motion passed.

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

2009-249 Authorization for Public Hearings and Approval of Public Hearing Content for Regional Dial-a-Ride Fares

Gerri Sutton, MTS Assistant Director of Contracted Transit, presented this item. There were no questions from the committee.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Authorize a series of public hearings on potential fare adjustments for regional dial-a-ride services funded by the Council as shown in Attachment A of the original business item, and;
2. Approve information to be presented at public hearings, as shown in Attachment B of the original business item, for the purpose of public comment and input prior to adoption of any regional fare adjustments.

Motion passed.

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

2009-224 New Metro Mobility and Regional Dial-a-Ride Vehicle Graphics

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Director of Marketing, presented the new graphics for Metro Mobility and Transit Link (the new retail name for the regional dial-a-ride services) vehicles. He responded to questions from Councilmembers Leppik and Bowles concerning the rationale for and development of the design.

Councilmember Peterson commented that he felt the proposed Transit Link vehicle designs should be more bold and the vehicles more noticeable to help sell the service. Arlene McCarthy responded that staff had explored other, more elaborate options but decided against them because of the additional cost per vehicle required.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the new logos and exterior graphic designs for Metro Mobility and regional dial-a-ride vehicles.

Motion passed, with Peterson opposed.

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

2009-208 Construction of 181st Street Park and Ride in Lakeville, Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA), Project 63740

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Director of Facilities and Engineering, indicated that the proposed action should be modified to read "... at a cost of 'up to' \$1,375,000." He then presented the amended item to the committee. There was no further discussion.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Friedges Contracting, for the construction of the 181st Street Park and Ride in Lakeville, Minnesota, at a cost of up to \$1,375,000. Award of this contract is contingent upon City of Lakeville City Council approval on July 20.

Motion passed.

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

2009-230 Counties Transit Improvement Board 2009 Grant Agreement Amendment No. 1 for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy GM, presented this item. In response to a question from Chair Meeks he provided clarification of the rationale for reducing the grant amount.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 1 to the CY2009 grant agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project reducing the original grant amount from \$26,011,818 to \$13,362,366.

Motion passed, with Meeks opposed.

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

INFORMATION

1. 2010 Transportation Operating Budget

Brian Lamb and Arlene McCarthy provided a presentation outlining the 2010 Operating Budget for Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services, respectively. Staff answered general questions from committee members and provided more detail as requested.

2. Urban Partnership Agreement Quarterly Update (Craig Lamothe 612-349-7690)

Chair Meeks stated that in the interest of time this information item would be deferred to the next regular meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:46 p.m. July 13, 2009. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary