

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, July 27, 2009**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Robert McFarlin, Vice Chair Peggy Leppik	Kirstin Sersland Beach Natalie Haas Steffen	Roger Scherer Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Craig Peterson	Georgie Hilker	
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit	Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

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 27, 2009, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Scherer seconded by Steffen to adopt the agenda for the July 27, 2009, Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Steffen seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2009, regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Jeff Wostrel, Transportation Manager, Heywood Garage, introduced Scott Jester, Bus Operator #9097. Jester is being recognized for his exceptional actions on July 20, when he came to the aid of an elderly passenger on his route who lost consciousness during the trip. Jester pulled his bus over and along with another passenger performed CPR on the individual for 6 minutes until emergency personnel arrived and took over. Wostrel noted that Jester’s skill and judgment in the situation were instrumental in saving his customer’s life.

Julie Johanson, Deputy Chief of Bus Operations, introduced Sam Jacobs, who retired on July 24 from his position as Director of Bus Operations. Johanson provided an overview of Jacobs’ 39 years with the agency and its predecessors and noted a few of his many contributions during his career.

Chair Meeks and GM Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations and presented Jester and Jacobs each with a certificate of recognition of their accomplishments.

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

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

MnPASS PROMOTION INCLUDES GO-TO-CARD OFFER

Metro Transit has partnered with Minnesota Department of Transportation in a promotion that provides incentives to commuters who sign up for the MnPASS toll system. Between July 30 and October 31, those new account holders for MnPASS will receive \$25 in free toll credits. In addition, those same new account holders will be given the opportunity to purchase a \$40 Go-To Card for only \$20. The Go-To Card incentive will encourage customers to consider all of their transportation options.

DRILL TESTS NORTHSTAR PROCEDURES

This week the Transit Control Center hosted police and fire officials from the Northstar Fire/Life Safety Committee and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad to test emergency response procedures and familiarize emergency responders with Northstar rail equipment and procedures. The drill is part of the ongoing process for the startup of commuter rail service in late 2009 .

VITA.MN IS SPONSORING RIDES TO THREE ART FAIRS

Metro Transit will provide free rides to three art fairs in August as sponsored by Vita.MN, a weekly arts and entertainment newspaper published by the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*. Vita.MN Art Hop articulated buses will travel the circuit of Loring Park, Uptown, and Powderhorn art fairs and include a stop near Lake Street and Midtown Station.

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS, reported that Metro Mobility has experienced a 6.7% increase in weekday ridership for the period March through June 2009 as compared to the same period in 2008. Ridership for the first two months of 2009 is up 2% over the same period in 2008. Much of the increase is believed to be a result of the elimination of the Ramsey County Red Cross transportation program at the end of March 2009. Many of the Red Cross clients are also Metro Mobility customers. Metro Mobility staff is also anticipating an increase in ridership due to the State's elimination of the Medical Non-Emergency Transportation (MNET) Program that went into effect on July 1, 2009.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2009-226 Construction of the I-35W and 46th Street Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Station, Project 63111

Pat Jones, Metro Transit Principal Engineer, presented this item to the committee. He responded to questions from members regarding funding, snow removal and viability of the design as a model for future online stations.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Lund-Martin Construction, for the construction of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Station at I-35W and 46th Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Motion passed.

2009-227 Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Assistant Project Director Consultant

Rich Rovang, Deputy Director, Central Corridor Project Office, presented this item and responded to questions from committee members regarding the factors which necessitated the amendment and other available options. After lengthy discussion, the committee voted, with Aguilar opposed, to send the item to the full Council on August 12 without a recommendation.

2009-248 Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Engineering Services Consultant

This item was presented by Rich Rovang. He responded to questions from committee members regarding the nature of the project contract and design and funding approvals.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Steffen:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

To execute an amendment to the professional services contract with AECOM USA, Inc. for preliminary and final design of two pedestrian tunnels in the State Capitol area in the amount of \$313,000 for a total contract amount of \$92.5 million and

To issue a Notice-To-Proceed (NTP) to AECOM USA, Inc. for preliminary and final design of the two pedestrian tunnels in the amount of \$313,000. The total contract spending authority shall not exceed \$52.6 million.

Motion passed, with Meeks and Beach opposed.

2009-257 Southwest Corridor Sub-recipient Grant Agreement with Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority

Craig Lamothe, Facilities Planning Manager UPA Project Manager for Metro Transit, presented this item. Council Member Meeks asked if there was any consideration on where operating funds for the line would come from. General Manager Lamb responded that discussions are ongoing with the common understanding that adequate funds must be made available to operate any constructed line. Deputy Director Vennewitz added that CTIB and the state would each likely contribute up to 50% for operation of any constructed line. Motion by Steffen, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a sub-recipient grant agreement (SGA) with the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) passing through a \$534,375 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 Alternatives Analysis (AA) grant for the Southwest Corridor project.

Motion passed, with Meeks and Beach opposed.

2009-258 Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Nonurbanized Area Formula Program Funds
RESOLUTION

John Harper, MTS Supervisor Contracted Services, presented this item to the committee. Councilmember Steffen commented that securing this funding is critical to the success of the upcoming dial-a-ride transition. Motion by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council approve Resolution 2009-13 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for 2010 Section 5311 Nonurbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT).

Motion passed.

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

INFORMATION

1. Urban Partnership Agreement Quarterly Update

Craig Lamothe presented an overview of the current status of Metro Transit's UPA projects and their projected completion dates, including the downtown Minneapolis Marquette/Second Avenue transit upgrades, park-and-ride construction, transit technology improvements and bus purchases.

2. Performance Measures Report for June 2009

Julie Johanson, Metro Transit Deputy Chief of Bus Operations, and Metro Transit Police Chief Dave Indrehus reported on bus and rail performance, reliability, safety and security.

3. Monthly Ridership Report for June 2009

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie and Director of Marketing Bruce Howard presented ridership figures and a marketing update for June. They also noted that, in response to declining ridership numbers, a cross-functional team is meeting biweekly to develop ideas and programs for increasing ridership.

4. Construction Progress on the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Platform Extensions

MarySue Abel, Metro Transit Lead Project Manager, presented a status report on the construction of platform extensions at nine HLRT stations and the new American Boulevard station in Bloomington. Other work includes upgrades to grade crossing controls and modifications to the Government Center and Metrodome stations.

5. Aviation Plan Technical Update

Chair Meeks stated that in the interest of time this information item would be deferred. Connie Kozlak distributed handouts of the presentation to be made at a future meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:05 p.m. July 27, 2009. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary