

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, September 28, 2009**

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

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. September 28, 2009, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Leppik seconded by McFarlin to adopt the agenda for the September 28, 2009, Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Aguilar seconded by Leppik to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2009, regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Mark Johnson, Transportation Manager of Heywood Garage, introduced operator John McConnell, and Jay Kluge, Heywood Assistant Transportation Manager introduced operator David Micklin. Both employees have achieved the distinction of 20 years of Metro Transit service with no responsible accidents. Chair Meeks and GM Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations and presented each operator with a certificate of recognition.

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

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

Today, September 28, was the opening of the Kenrick Avenue Park-and-Ride in Lakeville and the extension of MVTA service on Cedar Avenue to the Park-and-Ride temporarily sited at the Crossroads Church on Dodd. Beginning at 5:45 am, about 150 passengers boarded 6 coach buses at the Kenrick Park-and-Ride. The official opening ceremony took place this afternoon with the U.S. Department of Transportation, represented by FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez, and hosted by Governor Pawlenty. Speakers were Administrator Mendez, Governor Pawlenty, Commissioner Sorel and Chair Bell.

The 2009 Metro Transit Bus Rodeo was again a success, with 102 bus operators participating. Of that number, 44 operators were competing for the first time. First, second and third place were taken by Jack Berner (Heywood), Darrel Hanson (Nicollet) and Marshall Freeman (East Metro), respectively.

Transit police officers rode buses for 1,849 hours last month, the second highest monthly total in 2009. For the first eight months of the year, officers have been on board for 11,821 hours, or an average of 1,478 hours per month.

The City of Minneapolis is hosting two meetings to discuss the conversion later this year of both Hennepin Avenue and First Avenue North from one-way streets to two-way traffic. The first meeting was on September 24; the second is scheduled for October 5 at City Hall.

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS, reported that a tour of the Southwest Transitway is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, from 12:00 p.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. Invitees are asked to either respond directly to the email invitation or call LuAnne Major as to their attendance. Plans for a tour of the new Twins ballpark and the transit station are still tentative, although it will likely be held in the noon to 3:30 p.m. timeframe as well. Details will be communicated as they develop.

Vennewitz also reminded committee members and staff that the October 12 meeting will be held at the Met Council Robert Street Chambers rather than at Heywood.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2009-324 Authorization to Amend Contracts to Comply with 2010 EPA Emissions Regulations

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, and Chuck Wurzinger, Assistant Director Bus Maintenance, presented this item. Committee members discussed several issues related to compliance with the federal mandate, including costs and the timing of when the new standards take effect.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend bus purchase contracts to increase the per unit vehicle contract price to comply with 2010 EPA emissions standards, as follows:

Contract No. 06P070 with New Flyer for Articulated Buses by \$25,545.38

Contract No. 07P162 with Gillig Corporation for Diesel and Hybrid Diesel-Electric Forty-Foot Buses by \$27,179 for diesel buses and \$12,436 for hybrid buses

Contract No. 08P017 with Gillig Corporation for Thirty-Foot Buses by \$27,179

Motion passed.

2009-348 Amendment to the Minneapolis Urban Partnership Agreement Subrecipient Grant Agreement

Craig Lamothe, Senior UPA Project Manager for Metro Transit, presented this item. Council member Meeks asked if the real-time signs would be integrated with the shelters. Staff responded that the real-time signs would not be integrated with the shelters but rather would be adjacent to the shelters.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Subrecipient Grant Agreement with the City of Minneapolis for the Marquette and Second Avenues shelters and Central Avenue transit signal priority as identified in the Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) between the Council and US Department of Transportation (USDOT) in the total amount of \$1,937,128.

Motion passed.

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

2009-311 Authorization to Execute Contract for 2010 Travel Behavior Inventory

Jonathan Ehrlich, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. Councilmember McFarlin asked if the recommended consultant had also performed the 2000 Travel Behavior Inventory. They did not; it was conducted by Parson Brinckerhoff, which submitted one of the other proposals this time. He also asked about non-modeler stakeholder input on the survey process. Staff indicated that stakeholder meetings were planned early in the process and that efforts would be made to involve all interested parties.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Hilker:

That the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into negotiations and execute a contract with Cambridge Systematics to conduct the 2010 Travel Behavior Inventory.

Motion passed.

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

2009-329 Adopt 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) TAB Action 2009-49

James Andrew, MTS Transportation Planner, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions and no further discussion.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Adopt the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
2. Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process is being carried on in conformance with applicable federal requirements including:
 - Section 134 of Title 23, U.S.C., Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607);
 - Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d).
 - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of the 1964 and Title VI assurance executed by each state under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794;
 - Section 1101 (g) of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (Pub. L. 105-178) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in FHWA and FTA funded planning projects (Pub. L. 97-424, Section 105 (f); 49 CFR part 23); and
 - The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, as amended) and U.S. DOT regulations (Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities (40 CFR parts 27, 37 and 38).
3. Certify the TIP conforms with the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements.
6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for public, agency and transit provider involvement through its regular process and special public meetings and hearing.
7. Transmit the 2010-2013 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Motion passed.

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

2009-330 Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement for Transportation Conformity State Implementation Plan (SIP) TAB Action 2009-48

The item was presented by Jonathan Ehrlich of MTS. There were no questions and no further discussion.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board's (TAB) action to approve the Transportation Conformity State Implementation Plan Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (attached) and recommend it to the Regional Administrator for signature.

Motion passed.

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

2009-331 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Authorization to File Grant Application – RESOLUTION

Elaine Koutsoukos, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. CM Leppik asked whether the Sector Studies are funded with the UPWP. Koutsoukos responded that the Sector Studies are funding through the Metro Transit budget.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$7,438,184.
- Adopt attached Resolution 2009-33 authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to the US DOT for federal transportation planning funds.
- Authorize Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to receive FHWA and FTA planning funds.

Motion passed.

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

2009-332 CTIB 2010 Project Grant Applications Consistency with the 2030 TPP

Mary Karlsson, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions and no further discussion.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council finds the nine project grant applications (summaries attached to original business item) submitted to the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for CY 2010 funding to be consistent with the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan adopted January 2009.

Motion passed.

2009-325 Transit Provider Assistance Agreement Amendments

John Harper, MTS Supervisor Contracted Services, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions and no further discussion.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute amendments to 2009 transit provider assistance agreements as listed in Attachment 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.

2009-333 Authorization to Award Contract for Forest Lake/Columbus – Minneapolis Transit Service

John Harper and Bruce Dreier, Project Administrator, presented this item. In response to questions from the committee, they explained the calculations used in the request for proposals and the review and award process.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with First Transit Inc. to provide peak express coach bus service from Forest Lake and Columbus to downtown Minneapolis from November 9, 2009 to October 31, 2014, in an amount not to exceed \$2,782,756.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

1. Hiawatha Light Rail Vehicle Overhaul Update (Gene Sheldon 612-341-5634)

Gene Sheldon, Manager of Rail Vehicle Maintenance for Metro Transit, gave a presentation showing the different stages of the overhaul process for the Hiawatha light rail cars and explained the requirements, the procedures and the schedule.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Aguilar to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. on September 28, 2009. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary