

Metropolitan Council

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

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

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Robert McFarlin, Vice Chair	Roger Scherer Natalie Haas Steffen Kirstin Sersland Beach	Richard Aguilar Peggy Leppik
Members Absent	Georgie Hilker	Craig Peterson	
Others Present	David Gepner, TAB Liaison		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, 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. October 26, 2009, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers in Minneapolis.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Steffen seconded by Aguilar to adopt the agenda for the October 26, 2009, Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Aguilar seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2009, regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Jan Homan, Director of Bus Maintenance, introduced Steane Nyoki, Mechanic Technician at Heywood garage. Mr. Nyoki is currently a student in the Leadership Academy program, working as a service garage supervisor at East Metro garage. He is being recognized for his contributions to the Maintenance department over the last 16 years and his continued development as a leader at Metro Transit. Chair Meeks and GM Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations and presented Mr. Nyoki 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:

A five-week safety initiative began on October 23 for the purpose of getting everyone at Metro Transit – especially the 1,450 bus operators – to re-commit themselves to safe service. The initiative includes every bus operator being greeted at dispatch windows today by a manager and safety specialist for a conversation about safe operating principles. Operators will also receive a safety bulletin and safety-related text messages when they log on to their buses prior to starting their service day.

Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operating Officer, and Transit Police Lieutenant Jim Franklin have completed their training requirements and are recognized as Certified Emergency Managers for the State of Minnesota. They are Metro Transit’s first to be certified as emergency managers. The Minnesota legislature passed a law in 2008 that requires all state agencies to have a designated emergency manager and backup support. The law requires the managers to have completed about 120 hours of classroom and on-line training, as offered by Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Revenue service for Northstar commuter rail begins in three weeks. Pre-revenue testing is going well. The full

schedule is being run without customers to ensure an established routine and performance of all equipment, and Northstar equipment cleaners started work last week. Hiawatha light rail is also making trial runs into Target Field Station, and construction projects continue with replacement of tactile warning tiles at the Fort Snelling and Franklin stations and the wrap-up in November of the platform extension work for this year.

Arlene McCarthy, Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported the following:

Pursuant to the most recent Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) adopted by the Council, staff has been working on details of a right-size highway system and has recently contracted with a consultant to provide impartial input. The resulting plan will be presented as an amendment to the TPP to be offered for approval at the end of 2010. A workshop is being planned for January 2010 to roll out the proposal for feedback from policy makers in addition to the Council, including Mn/DOT, legislators, and the Transit Advisory Board. Details for the workshop will be finalized, and a meeting notice will be sent out.

## **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

2009-383 Authorization to Award Contract for Fuel Supply for Northstar Commuter Rail Service

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, and Ed Byers, Metro Transit Director of Commuter Rail, presented this item. They responded to committee members questions regarding the total contract cost and estimated price per gallon.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Yocum Oil Company, Inc. to supply diesel fuel in accordance with Council specifications and Yocum Oil Company's bid price for a two-year term, with options to extend the contract term up to an additional twenty-four months.

Motion passed.

2009-381 Authorization to Exercise Contract Options with Motor Coach Industries

Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager, presented this item and answered questions from members about costs and alternatives. Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise purchase options on contract #08P114 with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to purchase three coach buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,641,000.

Motion passed.

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

2009-354 Northstar Anoka Station Ground Lease

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented this item. In response to a question about insurance coverage Fuhrmann stated that while the contractor's insurance covered damages from recent vandalism, the Council's general property insurance will be in place after substantial completion.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Northstar Anoka Station Ground Lease with the City of Anoka to set forth responsibilities for the ownership, operation and maintenance of the Anoka Station park and ride facilities in support of the Northstar Corridor Commuter Rail Project.

Motion passed.

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

SW 2009-386 Master Funding Agreement and Cooperation Letter Agreement for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project with Minnesota Department of Administration

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item to the committee. Councilmember Steffen asked for clarification on the agreement regarding the manner in which the betterments as described in the business item would be managed. Fuhrmann and GM Lamb explained the process and sources of funding for betterments.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement and Cooperation Letter Agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project with the Minnesota Department of Administration.  
Motion passed.

2009-387 Authorization for the Regional Administrator to Accept Federal Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) Funds

The item was presented by Paul Colton, Manager of Metro Mobility. There were no questions and no further discussion.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to accept \$1,100,000 in ARRA TIGGER Grant Funds for the purchase of up to 10 electric/hybrid buses for use in Metro Mobility service.

Motion passed.

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

2009-326 2009 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, and Sean Pfeiffer, MTS Financial Analyst, presented this item and answered general questions from committee members about various funding sources.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council Amend the 2009 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table attached to the original business item.

Motion passed. Item will proceed to the Management Committee.

2009-327 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Program and Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie and Sean Pfeiffer presented this item to the committee and provided more detail as requested about projections and calculations.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

That the Council:

- Amend the 2009 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metro Transit	\$ 6,856,578
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 8,615,710
- Amend the 2009 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing spending authority as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metro Transit	\$ 200,000
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 393,750
- Amend the Central Corridor light rail project cost estimate from \$914,785,972 to \$941,316,000 and amend the 2009-2014 Capital Improvement Plan for the Central Corridor light rail project from \$882,480,618 to \$909,010,646.

Motion passed. Item will proceed to the Management Committee.

2009-385 Authorization to Upgrade Farebox Data Software for Metro Transit and Regional Provider Fareboxes

Ed Petrie presented this item to the committee and answered a member's question about the number of bidders and the current vendor.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase upgraded data collection software and hardware from GFI Genfare, Inc. at a total cost of \$665,100.

Motion passed.

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

SW 2009-384 2009-2012 TIP Amendment: Add Mn/DOT ARRA Projects, TAB Action 2009-51

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. In response to a questions about projected savings Ohrn stated that he would obtain the information and forward it to the committee.

Motion by Steffen, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include 13 new Mn/DOT projects and change four existing projects to be funded with savings from the State ARRA Program.

Motion passed.

2009-382 Authorization to Execute Grant Agreements with Dakota County, Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority, SouthWest Transit and the City of Shakopee

Cole Hiniker of MTS Financial Planning presented this item to the committee. There were no questions and no further discussion.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grants with Dakota County, Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority (RCRRA), SouthWest Transit, and the City of Shakopee for the projects and amounts listed in the table shown in 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.

## **INFORMATION**

### **1. Minneapolis Bike Share**

John Siqveland, Metro Transit Marketing Development Specialist, provided an update on the Nice Ride Minnesota bike share program in development for Minneapolis, including system details, funding information and potential impacts on the transit system.

### **2. Marquette Avenue/Second Avenue Bus Lanes Implementation Update**

Steve Mahowald, Transit Planner, and John Levin, Director of Service Development, presented a detailed overview of the downtown Minneapolis Marquette Avenue/Second Avenue transit improvement project ("MARQ2"). A brief animated demonstration was shown, and customer informational brochures were distributed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Beach to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:15 p.m. on October 26, 2009. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary