

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee

Monday, March 8, 2010

Members Present	Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair Kirstin Sersland Beach Roger Scherer	Craig Peterson Georgie Hilker Natalie Haas Steffen	Richard Aguilar Peggy Leppik
Members Absent	Annette Meeks, Chair		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager MT	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	Robert Lilligren		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Vice Chair McFarlin called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on March 8, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

McFarlin noted a few changes in the agenda since publishing. There will be no employee recognition, business item number 2010-73 will move to the first item of business on the agenda, and information item number 3 (Downtown Minneapolis Layover Study) will be moved to a later meeting. A motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Beach to adopt the revised agenda for March 8, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Beach to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2010 regular Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported that the Dial-a-Ride in Hennepin County is underway. Staff has been taking a fair amount of calls from persons to clarify the process and eligibility; operational parameters are being refined.

The Travel Behavior Inventory agreement with MnDOT is anticipated to be signed by all parties soon. This study is important for long range planning and ridership modeling.

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

Bus operator safety – Metro Transit operators averaged 3.96 accidents per 100,000 miles driven last year, down from the year before.

The February 26th shooting on a Metro Transit bus is being investigated by police and several steps are being taken as a result of the shooting: expand the police patrol on buses and routes; DOR & Assoc. counselors and peer support for operators; bulletin to operators reminding of emergency procedures; bus maintenance and dispatchers assign only buses with digital camera systems to the North Minneapolis area; increase in street supervisor presence in North Minneapolis. The bus cameras did capture this incident.

Metro Transit reports 29.8M miles driven and 7.2M gallons of biodiesel were used last year. The average bus mileage per year is 32,500 miles.

Commuter Challenge fairs are taking place and attended by many so far.

The overhaul of the fifth LRT vehicle is complete. All platforms on HLRT are ready for 3-car trains.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) audit for Northstar went well. Central Corridor Civil East construction bid package was released last week. Bids are due April 30, 2010.

BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items

2010-73 I-35W and Lake Street Transit/Access Project

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit Director of Engineering & Facilities, presented this item.

Steffen questioned for how long the design would be good – questioning if the project doesn't move forward for lack of funding for a number of years, then would the design have to change and/or be redone. McFarlin commented that it was his understanding that Lake St. was to be a part of improvements to 35W and not a separate project, and is asked why this is a separate project at this time. He also asked whether this project has been through the TAC/TAB process and questioned the timing given the MHSIS study is going on right now, and where this project falls in the queue of TAC/TAB projects. Committee members questioned where the funding will come from. The committee agreed that they need more information regarding this item. Motion by Steffen, seconded by Hilker and passed to **TABLE** this item to a later date until further information is provided.

Motion passed.

2010-81 2010 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

Sean Pfeiffer, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council:

Amend the 2010 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the attached table (made a part of Business Item 2010-81).

Motion passed.

2010-82 2010 Unified Capital Program Amendment

Sean Pfeiffer, Metropolitan Transportation Services, and Ed Petrie, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions for Pfeiffer on the MTS portion of the Capital Program Amendment.

Petrie stated that the Capital Program Amendment includes items in Business Item 2010-73 discussed at the beginning of this meeting.

Since item 2010-73 did not pass and was tabled to a later meeting, Petrie recommended striking the first three lines from the attachment spreadsheet prior to approving the item.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Steffen and passed to **AMEND** the item by striking the first three lines of the Metro Transit spreadsheet that include I35W/Lake St. project.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Beach to approve the item as **amended**. The amendment does not affect the language or amounts in the original motion:

That the Council:

- Amend the 2010 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metro Transit	\$ 12,128,506
Metropolitan Transportation Services	(\$ 7,067,560)
- Amend the 2010 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metro Transit	\$ 10,128,506
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 1,662,835

Motion passed.

Petrie will revise his spreadsheet prior to the item going to the Management Committee/Council.

2010-83 Metro Mobility Demand Contract Recommendations

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the following two contracts for the operation of Metro Mobility demand transportation services for the term July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2015 with:

1. Transit Team, Inc., of Minneapolis, Minnesota for operation of Zone 1 in an amount not to exceed \$78,170,518; and
2. First Transit Inc., of Cincinnati, Ohio for operation of Zone 2 in an amount not to exceed \$55,061,552.

Motion passed.

2010-84 Metro Mobility Amendment to Contract 04P056A with Transit Team

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract number 04P056A with Transit Team, to increase the contract amount by \$700,000 for a new total contract amount not to exceed \$60,312,372.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2010-87 Procurement of Metro Mobility Vehicles

Paul Colton, Metro Mobility Senior Manager, presented this item. The question was asked regarding what Metro Mobility will do with the 18 automobiles. Staff replied that all of the automobiles will be placed in service. Staff also explained that approximately 70% of the riders are ambulatory compared to 30% who use a mobility device. Staff believes that there are efficiencies that can be gained by operating a portion of the car fleet in Metro Mobility demand service. There were no further questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with:

1. Hogle Bus Company Inc. (State of MN Contract 442667) for up to four buses in an amount not to exceed \$272,800; and
2. Elk River Ford (State of MN Contract 439865) for up to twenty cars in an amount not to exceed \$440,000.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

2010-85 Authorization to Execute Grant Agreements with Scott County

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Finance & Planning - Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute grant(s) with Scott County for up to \$392,530 for Eagle Creek Transit Station design and construction.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the Council as a Consent Item.

INFORMATION

1. Potential Rider Survey

Bruce Howard, Director Metro Transit Marketing, presented the results of a survey taken of potential transit riders. The Metro Transit Marketing department continues to target some of the issues that potential riders cite preventing them from taking transit.

2. Northstar Quarterly Update

Ed Byers and Vince Pellegrin, Metro Transit, presented an update on the Northstar Commuter Rail line. Byers reported on the Northstar operations and Federal Railroad Commission safety standards and compliance. Pellegrin reported on the BNSF railroad derailment and the bus bridge put in place to deliver riders during that time on the morning of 2/25. The Northstar Commuter Rail has been in operation a little over 3 months.

3. Downtown Minneapolis Layover Study

This item was deferred to a later date.

4. MTS Regional Ridership Report – 4th Quarter and year end 2009

Becky McBride, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented the regional ridership statistics for the 4th quarter and the year end of 2009.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Beach and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:50 p.m. March 8, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary