

Metropolitan Council

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

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**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, April 12, 2010**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was not present when Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 5:05 pm on April 12, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

Chair Meeks began with the Metropolitan Transportation Services Employee Recognition while waiting for a quorum.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services**

Arlene McCarthy introduced Karen Lyons, Senior Planner MTS who is being recognized for her work on Land Use and Economic Development relating to the Central Corridor LRT.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A quorum now present, there was no objection to Meeks’ suggestion to amend the agenda so that the presentation on the Rush Line Corridor precedes the business items. A motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Beach to adopt the amended agenda for April 12, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Leppik to approve the minutes from March 22, 2010 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 2009 Transit System Performance Evaluation report has been completed and is in committee member mail slots. This report is a legislative requirement.

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

A special Northstar train has been added (over 500 riders) for the Twins Home Opener game today. Route 679 also needed more service today for the ballgame. Metro Transit reports high usage on regular bus service and HLRT.

Transit-Stops In The Region -- Nicollet Mall Reductions

Buses and trains serve 14,735 stops in the region, according to a new report from Service Development.

The March figure includes 14 bus stops on Nicollet Mall, down from 26, due to restructured service with buses stopping only every other block between 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Suburban transit authorities (formerly, opt outs) serve 2,150 of the stops. The remaining 12,585 stops are served by Metro Transit or are shared among Metro Transit, Met Council contracted routes and STA buses. There has been some frustration expressed by customers and suburban providers, and staff is working on responding.

## INFORMATION

### Rush Line Corridor Update

Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Ramsey County Board Chair and Rush Line Task Force Chair, and Mike Rogers, Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority, appeared before the committee to give a presentation on the status and answer questions from committee members regarding the Rush Line Corridor.

## BUSINESS

### 2010-115 2010 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

Sean Pfeiffer, MTS Financial Analyst, and Julie Matthews, Metro Transit Budget Manager, presented their respective division Operating Budget Amendments. There was discussion about MVST past performance, the practice of basing our budget on forecasts, and the possibility of being short of operating funds. Lamb explained that we are watching MVST returns month-to-month and can make adjustments quarterly throughout the year.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Hilker:

That the Council amend the 2010 Unified Operating Budget in accordance with the table attached to the business item.

Motion passed.

### 2010-116 2010 Unified Capital Program Amendment

Sean Pfeiffer, MTS Financial Analyst, and Julie Matthews, Metro Transit Budget Manager, presented their respective division Capital Program Amendments. Meeks questioned if the \$50,000 for the Southwest Corridor is coming from HCRRA. Staff answered yes.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council:

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

Metro Transit	\$ 23,300,000
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 0
- Amend the 2010 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metro Transit	\$ 2,550,000
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 0
- Approve the changes to capital projects as detailed in Attachment 1 on the business item.

Motion passed.

Later in the meeting, it was brought to the attention of the committee that the \$50,000 does not come from HCRRA, but is from Metro Council. Meeks gave committee members an opportunity to reconsider their original vote, no one motioned to do so, so the original motion stands.

### 2010-127 Authorization to Purchase Replacement Small Buses

Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager, presented this item and answered a question from Meeks explaining the bid was divided between two different manufacturers because different providers preferred different buses.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute purchase agreements with the following vendors for seven small buses in a total amount not to exceed \$508,100:

- 1) Hoglund Bus Co. Inc. (442667) for four buses to not exceed \$266,000.
- 2) North Central Bus Sales (442670) for three buses to not exceed \$242,100.

Motion passed.

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

#### SW 2010-128 Rejection of Bid on 90P045B, Metropolitan Transportation Services Camera System Installation

Mickey Gutzmann, Manager Contracts and Procurement, presented this item and explained that no bids were received in the February solicitation. One bid was received in the second solicitation in March that was far outside the budgeted amount. Chair Meeks asked if staff understood why the bid price exceeded the estimated amount by such a large amount. Gutzmann responded that staff contacted the bidder to assure that they understood the scope of work and that there was no error in the bid price. The vendor confirmed that they understood the scope of work and that the price proposed was correct. Staff was not able to explain the large gap between the estimated and proposed pricing, but will research further and consider options.

Motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to reject the bid on 09P045B – MTS Camera System Installation solicitation from ColliSys in the amount of \$3,783,407.00.

Motion passed.

#### 2010-129 Council Subsidized Vanpool Program Changes

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, Contracted Transit Services, presented this item.

There were no questions from committee members. Jeff Arnold, Manager for VPSI, Inc., the Council's contractor providing vans for the subsidized vanpool program, asked if the program will allow for exceptions to the "no compete" rules. McCarthy answered that the recommendations are designed to keep the administration costs reasonable, that not all service requests are met in regular route and dial-a-ride services and that contracting directly with VPSI for a vanpool remains a cost-saving option for vans desiring to travel to downtowns during the peak periods.

Motion was made by Aguilar, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council approve changes to the Council's subsidized vanpool program per attached Exhibit A of the business item.

Motion passed.

#### SW 2010-96 Delegation of Authority Policy for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Right-of-Way Acquisition

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, described this business item as one that adjusts current Met Council expenditure policies for acquisition of real property to delegate authority to the Central Corridor Project Director, the General Manager and Regional Administrator, and retaining its current authority for initiating eminent domain for parcels greater than \$250,000. The policy also shows that Met Council will seek FTA concurrence at required thresholds. This is a same week item because Mn/DOT is finishing a few appraisals that will exceed \$250,000 making an approval policy necessary.

Chair Meeks asked how soon the authority would take effect. Mr. Fuhrmann responded that as soon as the Met Council approves this policy, Mn/DOT will begin making acquisitions on parcels with

completed appraisals. Meeks asked where the higher-valued properties are located. Fuhrmann identified that two of the higher value parcels are located where the Operations Maintenance Facility is intended and four to five parcels are located where the diagonal station is intended. Meeks also asked when the acquisition process will be complete. Fuhrmann said that most properties will be fully acquired by summer of 2011 unless they are in eminent domain, which can take longer. For those parcels, Mn/DOT can do quick takes to ensure right of access for construction. Leppik asked if eminent domain can be applied to easements needed at the University of Minnesota. Fuhrmann responded that Office of General Counsel and the Minnesota Legislature are looking into that question. Hilker asked how many of the parcels depicted in the Business Item attachment are at the University of Minnesota. Fuhrmann responded that none of the University of Minnesota properties are in that summary because the CCLRT Project has assumed that public properties would be donated at no cost to the project. Meeks and Beach expressed concerns that this item was binding the future Council to decisions that have potentially significant consequences. Council Member Aguilar said that this decision is similar to many other policy decisions for which the current members will not be present.

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize modifications to Metropolitan Council Policy 3-3 I. D., Expenditures for the Acquisition of Real Property, by inserting a category outlining the Metropolitan Council's oversight authority in relation to Minnesota Department of Transportation acquisition of right-of-way for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project as set forth in the tables attached to the business item.

Show of hands vote. Motion passed with 3 yeases (Leppik, Aguilar, Hilker) and 2 nos (Meeks, Beach).

At this time, Chair Meeks called the Public Hearing for the proposed amendments to the Transportation Policy Plan to order (time: 5:05 pm).

Hennepin Council Commissioner and Southwest Transitway Policy Advisory Committee Chair Gail Dorfman testified in support of the proposed TPP amendment. Dan Duffy, representing the Twin West Chamber, also testified in support of the amendment.

5:20 pm: Chair Meeks continued with the business on the Transportation Committee agenda.

2010-121 Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation related to Central Corridor Light Rail Operation and Maintenance Facility

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented and answered a question from Meeks whether Diamond Products and the underlying landowner is aware of, and amenable to, Metro Council plans.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Agreement, including exchange of necessary easement rights, with Mn/DOT for the proposed Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) for the Central Corridor LRT.

Motion passed.

2010-124 Authorization to Amend Work Uniform Contract

Chris Gran presented and answered questions from Committee members about how this oversight was noticed three years later, and whether MT is over its contract limit right now (answer – no, not quite yet).

Motion by Aguilar, seconded by Meeks:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the work uniform contract with ARAMARK Uniform Services to a maximum compensation not-to-exceed \$900,000. Motion passed.

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

2010-123 Amendments to Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Transit Technology Contracts and the City of Minneapolis Subrecipient Grant Agreement

Craig Lamothe presented. Meeks stated she has heard concerns that the shelters are too close to curbs and receive spray from buses, Craig stated the City designated where the shelters are located on the sidewalk.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

Subject to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approval, authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute amendments:

- To four (4) UPA Transit Technology Project Contracts in the total amount of \$910,000, and
- To the Subrecipient Grant Agreement (SGA) with the City of Minneapolis for enhancements to the Marquette and Second Avenues (MARQ2) project in an amount not to exceed \$1,374,100.

Motion passed.

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

## **INFORMATION**

### **New Metro Transit Website**

Bob Gibbons introduced John Siqveland, Marketing Development Specialist and Matt McGuire, GIS Specialist, who presented a demonstration of the new Metro Transit Website. The website is undergoing its first redesign in six years.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Beach and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. April 12, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary