

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, April 26, 2010**

Members Present	Annette Meeks, Chair Kirstin Sersland Beach Natalie Haas Steffen	Peggy Leppik Georgie Hilker Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair	Richard Aguilar Craig Peterson Roger Scherer
Members Absent	none		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager MT	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Chair Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 pm on April 26, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

With no objections from committee members, Chair Meeks made amendments to the published agenda. – Item 2010-126 will be deferred to the May 10, 2010 Transportation Committee and Item 2010-155 SW will move to the first business item to accommodate the Scott County representative who is attending this meeting. Motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Steffen to adopt the amended agenda for April 26, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Leppik to approve the minutes from April 12, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Brian Lamb introduced Assistant Director of Transportation Nicollet Garage, Brian Funk. Funk presented the employee recognition to Jack Dunphy, Nicollet Garage Operator, for his professionalism and assistance when helping a mother and choking child on the Route 21 bus.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, explained that the agenda has many same week items due to a possible cancellation of the May 12 Council meeting.

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

Metro Transit experienced an eventful opening Twins game week. The Northstar Commuter Rail exceeded all expectations for ridership; the new Route 679 showed large ridership numbers and HLRT continues to record large ridership numbers to events as well

On May 1 & 2, the Living Green Expo will be held at the State Fairgrounds. Metro Transit will have various displays at the Expo.

The TIC call center fielded a record number of calls in March (114,600). This is a 9.8% increase over the same month last year.

BUSINESS

2010-155 SW 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include Reconstruction of the TH 169/I-494 Interchange (TAB Action 2010-31)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. Scott County Commissioner John Ulrich spoke to the importance, need and regional benefit of the TH 169/I-494 Interchange project.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the attached Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP #2776-03, TH 169/I-494 Interchange.

Motion passed.

2010-120 SW 35W and 46th Street Station Service Restructuring Concept Plan Public Review

Adam Harrington, Metro Transit Assistant Director, Route & System Planning, presented an overview of the I-35W and 46th Station Service Restructuring Concept Plan, its context within I-35W related to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), the new station facility and proposed public process including meeting dates and next steps toward implementation of new service and station facility in December 2010.

Committee members commented on the need for a definition of BRT. Arlene McCarthy responded that the Transitway Guidelines Committee is discussing the definition of BRT, among other things, and should be able to give an update in a few months and will be asking for input from the committee. Steffen questioned if these changes are budget neutral and how long until services reach maturity to know ridership numbers, etc. Harrington answered that they are within operating resources, and there may be a little savings over existing bus service and Lamb answered that it takes typically 1 year to reach maturity.

Motion by Beach, seconded by Leppik:

Approve I-35W and 46th Street Station Service Restructuring Concept Plan for public review.

Motion passed.

2010-159 SW Construction of Storage Tank Additions at Overhaul Base and South Garages, Change Order Allowance

Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit, presented this item and there were no questions from committee members.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Peterson:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to increase the Contract Price for contract number 09P081, for the Construction of the Storage Tank Additions at Over Haul Base and South Garage, a cumulative amount of 10% of the original Contract Price.

Motion passed.

2010-163 SW Master Cooperative and Funding Agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project with the University of Minnesota

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item and stated that the temporary easement has been acquired from U of M for the Advanced Traffic Improvement work enabling the Council to issue the Notice of Award and work to commence.

Fuhrmann explained the Master Funding Agreement is a two-way agreement enabling the Council to pay the University for their staff time coordination with the project and for the University to pay the Council for the incremental cost of their requested betterments.

There was discussion on the cost for the betterments at East Bank Station. Councilmember Meeks asked to be on record that she believes allowing communities to make betterments with their funding is

setting a bad precedent and allows for wide discrepancy between stations, without any type of branding by Metro Transit.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project with the University of Minnesota prior to University of Minnesota betterment work commencing on the Advanced Traffic Improvements and Civil West construction contracts.

Motion passed with Steffen voting against.

2010-164 SW Contract Authority and Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Engineering Services Consultant

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item and there were no questions from committee members.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Office of General Council (OGC) to proceed with the acquisition of Parcels 1 (M. Rasior LTD) and 1A (Diamond Products) for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF).

Motion passed.

2010-165 SW Contract Authority and Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Engineering Services Consultant

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item. Chair Meeks asked if once the NTP is received, will we need to authorize an additional amount or will this additional \$9 million take us through the year. Fuhrmann stated the additional \$9 million of spending authority will complete AECOM activities throughout 2010. Councilmember Scherer asked if AECOM knows there are additional dollars budgeted and can they come back to request them. Fuhrmann stated that AECOM is aware of the \$92.4 million. Once we complete final design in 2010, we will then require design support for construction services and construction support once in full construction during 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- To extend authority with AECOM USA, Inc. to complete Advance Preliminary Engineering during May and;
- To authorize AECOM USA, Inc. to increase the contract spending authority in an amount not-to-exceed \$9 million for a total spending authority not to exceed \$80.2 million (within the currently authorized \$92.4 million) to initiate and complete Final Design, provide design support during construction and by amendment add construction support services.
- To issue Notices-to-Proceed (NTP) to AECOM USA, Inc. upon receipt of approval from FTA to enter Final Design for
 - Initiating and Completing Final Design,
 - Design Support during Construction, and
 - Construction Support Services during calendar year 2010.

Motion passed.

2010-166 SW Contract Amendment for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Public Artists

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item and asked general questions from committee members.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

To issue notices-to-proceed to the five public artists for Final Design and construction documentation in a not to exceed amount of \$168,000 per artist for a total per artist spending authority not to exceed \$268,000 (within the currently authorized \$560,000). The notices will be issued upon receipt of approval from FTA to enter Final Design.

Motion passed.

2010-126 Metropolitan Council Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) USDOT Program 2010-2013 Goal

This item was deferred to the May 10, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting.

2010-119 Amendment to 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Elaine Koutsoukos, Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner, presented this item and there were no questions from committee members.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

- That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2010 Unified Planning Work Program, as shown on the attached summary sheet, to add \$505,473 CPG Planning funds and \$126,368 matching funds for an amended budget of \$8,070,025.
- That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached resolution and authorize the Regional Administrator to amend the UPWP agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, to obtain the additional planning funds.

Motion passed.

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

2010-162 Adoption of 2030 Transportation Policy Plan Amendments for Southwest Transitway LPA and I-94 Corridor

Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Director Finance & Planning, presented this item. She reviewed the number and type of comments received and responses given during the public comment process that ended on April 22, 2010, and the timeline for the adoption of the TPP amendments.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council accept the attached Summary of Public Comment and adopt the attached amendments to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan that:

- Select light rail transit (LRT) on the Kenilworth-Opus-Golden Triangle alignment (Alternative 3A) as the locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the Southwest Transitway, and
- Recognize modifications to I-94 from St. Paul/5th Street to the Lowry Tunnel which includes managed auxiliary/bus lanes that add capacity for more than a mile due to the conversion of the shoulder lane to general traffic use following temporary changes made in response to the I-35W bridge collapse.

Motion passed.

2010-151 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include Scenic Byways funds received in the 2009 Solicitation of Scenic Byway Funds (TAB Action 2009-27)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. There were no questions from the committee.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the attached Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to identify Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board SP#91-060-97 Grand Rounds: Mississippi Gorge Parking/Overlook.

Motion passed.

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

2010-152 SW 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include 20 vehicle purchases funded through the Section 5210, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program (TAB Action 2010-28)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. In response to Chair Meeks' question, he explained that organizations receiving these buses are generally non-profits and social service agencies.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the attached Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include 20 funding awards through the Section 5310, Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program.

Motion passed.

2010-153 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include Six Projects Funded Through the 2010 Federal Appropriations Bill (TAB Action 2010-29)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item and there were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by McFarlin:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the attached Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the following six projects (identified in the table) that were included in the 2010 Federal Appropriations Bill.

1. Northstar Corridor Construction & Start up
FTA = \$711,661, Other = \$711,661 Total = \$1,423,322
2. Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway Missing Link Phase 1 design, acquisition, environmental remediation, construction
Earmark/Total = \$500,000
3. Hastings Bridge/Highway 61 R/W and construction
Earmark/Total = \$486,917
4. TH169/I-494 Interchange Construction
Earmark/Total = \$399,932
5. Minneapolis Intermodal station
FTA/Total = \$500,000
6. Twin Lakes Infrastructure Project
Earmark/Total = \$999,829

Motion passed.

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

2010-154 2010-2013 TIP Amendment: Include Noise Wall on West Side of I-35W in Burnsville (TAB Action 2010-30)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. In response to a question by Chair Meeks, the committee discussed the need and justification for noise walls as well as the role that municipal consent plays in the decision to construct noise walls.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the attached Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP #1981-123, I-35W Noise Wall.

Motion passed.

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

2010-158 SW Authorization to Amend Contracts for East Metro, West Metro, and Hopkins Transit Service
Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director, presented this item. There were no questions from the committee.
Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the following contract amendments with First Transit Inc.:

<u>Contract Title</u>	<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Term Extension</u>	<u>Value Increase</u>	<u>Amended Total</u>
East Metro	04P002	October 2, 2010	\$345,000	\$5,605,690
West Metro	04P003	October 2, 2010	\$515,500	\$6,845,464
Hopkins	04P004	October 2, 2010	\$130,000	\$3,237,849

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

There were no information items for the April 26, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker and passed, to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. April 26, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary