

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**  
**Monday, May 10, 2010**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Vice Chair McFarlin called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 pm on May 10, 2010 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Peterson to adopt the agenda for May 10, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Scherer to approve the minutes from April 26, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director, reported that on Friday, May 7, in the early afternoon, Metro Mobility Contractor First Transit lost their network connection to the Council which meant the loss of Scheduling and Dispatch Software (Trapeze) and the phone system. As a result customers were not able to contact First Transit, and dispatchers had no data to help drivers. The decision was made to bring several First Transit Dispatch and Reservation Staff to the Metro Mobility Service Center here at Robert Street. The staff arrived at the Council at 2:40. Due to the redundancy in the system and extra handheld radios, First Transit staff was able to quickly log into the phones and computer system to take calls from customers and provide important updates to drivers. Council IT staff was able to locate another router and had it replaced by 4:30 PM at First Transit. Although the incident was unfortunate for the customers of Metro Mobility, it provided a great opportunity to test the emergency back-up plan and system which worked exactly as it was designed to do.

Metro Mobility will be holding its second public forum this coming Saturday, May 15, from 9:30 AM until 11 AM in the Metro Transit Chambers. The first forum went very well. This is an opportunity to receive feedback from customers.

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

1. FOUR AWARDS FOR METRO TRANSIT'S MARKETING DEPARTMENT

We have been notified that Metro Transit will be given four awards at next week's Minnesota Association of Government Communicators awards event. We will receive awards for -

- Connect redesign – our on-the-bus informational newsletter.
  - Northstar marketing campaign – promotional launch of the Northstar service in November 2009.
  - Northstar creative – for our theme and visual designs of the Northstar launch approach in the promotional materials with usage of colors, fonts, photos.
  - Marq2 website feature – an interactive tool we developed to help customers easily find their bus stops along Marquette and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues.
2. RIDERSHIP TO TWINS GAMES  
Ridership to the Twins games continues to be very strong between bus, LRT and the Northstar Commuter Rail. Approximately 22% of Twins games attendees are taking transit.
3. PARTNERING WITH SAINT PAUL SAINTS  
“Metro Transit Tuesday’s” at the St. Paul Saints games will kick off next week on May 18. We will promote the partnership this Wednesday, May 13 in downtown St Paul at the Saint’s “World’s Largest Game of Catch.” Customers show a valid transit pass, transfer or rail ticket with the day’s date and get a game ticket, Saint’s cap, a hot dog and beverage for just \$10. Offer is good on May 18, June 15 and 29, July 6 and 20 and August 10 and 24.

## **BUSINESS**

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

Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, presented this item and answered questions pertaining to who establishes the DBE goals in different instances and on what types of contracts apply to these DBE goals. Kirkpatrick presented four options, each of which lead to approximately the same conclusion of a 15% goal. As a clarification to a question from Steffen, Kirkpatrick stated that the federal government provides the methodology by which to reach a goal, but not an expectation of what the goal must be.

Aguilar commended the DBE staff for their work and made the motion to approve Option 1 presented by Kirkpatrick, Steffen seconded the motion. With Aguilar’s approval and withdrawal of his original motion, Councilmember Leppik suggested amended wording to the motion and made the motion as follows, seconded by Beach:

That the Council approve a goal of 15% for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) USDOT Program for 2010 – 2013.

Motion passed.

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

2010-167 Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement with MVTA

Cole Hiniker, MTS Planner, presented this item. There were no additional questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement with MVTA for up to \$550,000 for land acquisition for expansion of the Eagan Bus Garage.

Motion passed.

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

2010-168 Authorization to Amend Transit Link Service Contract for Washington/SE Ramsey County  
Sheila Williams, MTS Project Administrator, presented this item and Gerri Sutton, MTS Assistant Dir. Contracted Transit Services was also present. Staff answered questions from committee member Steffen clarifying the duration (time length) of the contract, funding, whether there are other areas with capacity issues, and whether it is anticipated that the demand will pick up in the other two contracts.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to amend contract 09P177 with Midwest Paratransit for an additional \$600,000 for an amended total of \$6,543,430.

Motion passed.

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

2010-169 Adoption of the 2030 Park-and-Ride Plan

Julie Quinn, Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities Associate Planner, and Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, presented this item. Quinn presented the final draft of the 2030 Park and Ride Plan, gave an overview of the stakeholder review process and a timeline of the plan development. She reminded the committee that the “on-line” version of the plan will be the most up-to-date as there are a few stakeholder comments yet to be addressed. Steffen asked what effect an area joining the Transit Taxing District would have on this plan. Carlson stated that it could result in a plan revision or an additional facility identified for that area, either as reflected in the plan or an update to it in the future, depending on the specifics of the community and the market area it would serve. Steffen suggested language be added to the plan stating what would happen if a community joined the Transit Taxing District. Quinn stated that the 2030 Park and Ride Plan is reviewed and updated every five years. Lamb stated that when the study is published on line, language could be added that describes the regular process and if/when condition(s) are met, the process for reviewing or changing the plan. McFarlin questioned if the 50% increase in P&R capacity over the next 20 years is too modest, given the transit goals and expected growth in the region in the same time period. Lamb stated that the past eight years has been a very assertive park and ride plan, building a little capacity to absorb some of the future projected demand in some corridors. There are still corridors with projected demand that outstrip the supply. Craig Lamothe, Metro Transit Facilities and Engineering Manager, addressed the committee and stated that the plan is meant to be updated periodically. Parking and gas prices affect demand, as well as other factors. Metro Transit has greatly expanded its capacity, and will hopefully be able to stay caught up with this plan and subsequent revisions.

An amended motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt as the final *2030 Park-and-Ride Plan*, the proposed final draft dated April 2010, with the addition of a language that there will be a review of the plan if communities join the Transit Taxing District.

Motion passed.

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

Vice Chair McFarlin left the meeting, Councilmember Leppik took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Prior to the next seven items on the agenda, Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, gave a brief introduction of the type of business being addressed by these business items.

2010-170 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Funding Agreement for Construction with Ramsey and Hennepin County Regional Rail Authorities

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Funding Agreement for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Construction with Ramsey and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authorities (RCRRA and HCRRA).

Motion passed.

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

2010-171 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Funding Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item and responded to a question from Steffen requesting clarification as to the ownership and jurisdiction of the two bridges.

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Funding Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) relative to the Civil East Construction bridge work in Saint Paul of \$500,000.

Motion passed.

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

2010-172 Central Corridor Light Rail transit: Subordinate Funding Agreements with the City of St. Paul

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item.

Scherer commented that he feels that the infill stations deter from the project and will not be voting for the motion. Committee members commented on the amount of money for betterments, and what the betterments entail. Beach commented on citizen and business owner responses to special assessments; Fuhrmann explained that, although the Metro Council will receive the monies for betterment activity from the city when construction begins in late 2010, the City of St. Paul will assess the property owners when construction is complete.

Motion was made by Hiker, seconded by Aguilar:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following Subordinate Funding Agreements (SFA) to the Master Funding Agreement with the City of St. Paul:

- Betterments in an amount of \$17,000,000
- Contribution to construction of three infill stations in an amount of \$5,200,000

Motion failed to pass.

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Peterson:

That the Transportation Committee move the following motion to the full Council without recommendation.

Motion to move forward to Council: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following Subordinate Funding Agreements (SFA) to the Master Funding Agreement with the City of St. Paul:

- Betterments in an amount of \$17,000,000
- Contribution to construction of three infill stations in an amount of \$5,200,000

Motion failed to pass; a show of hands was taken.

There was discussion from members about bringing the first above (original) motion back to the group for a re-vote. Leppik said that this could only be brought up by someone with the original prevailing vote. A show of hands on the original motion vote was taken. No one on the prevailing side came forward to revisit the original vote. There was also discussion about splitting the original vote into two separate motions.

Motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Scherer, to pass the following motion on to the full Council without recommendation from the Transportation Committee.

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) to the Master Funding Agreement with the City of St. Paul:

- Betterments in an amount of \$17,000,000

Motion failed to pass; a show of hands was taken.

Steffen stated that a precedence has been set by how the Council has voted on betterments for the University of Minnesota.

Motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) to the Master Funding Agreement with the City of St. Paul:

- Contribution to construction of three infill stations in an amount of \$5,200,000

Motion passed; a show of hands was taken.

Motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the following Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) to the Master Funding Agreement with the City of St. Paul:

- Betterments in an amount of \$17,000,000

Motion passed; a show of hands was taken.

The committee clarified that the business item moving forward to the full Council will consist of two proposed actions on one business item.

2010-173 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Funding Agreement with the St. Paul Foundation

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Funding Grant Agreement with the St. Paul Foundation for infill stations construction in an amount of \$520,000.

Motion passed with one no vote.

2010-174 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Funding Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation and Hennepin County for Washington Avenue Bridge

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item and responded to Steffen's request to clarify the legislative requirement passed on to MnDOT regarding retrofitting the bridge and the timing of same, and funding.

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Funding Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) and Hennepin County relative to the Washington Avenue Bridge in amount not to exceed \$26,000,000. Motion passed.

2010-175 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Construction and Utility Relocation Agreement with District Energy and District Cooling

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Construction and Utility Relocation Agreement with District Energy St. Paul and District Cooling St. Paul relative to Civil East Construction in Saint Paul in an amount of \$4,500,000.

Motion passed.

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

2010-176 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Relocation Agreement with Xcel Energy

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, presented this item. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Construction and Utility Relocation Agreement with Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, d/b/a Xcel Energy relative to the Civil East Construction in Saint Paul in a principal amount of \$1,000,000.

Motion passed.

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

## **INFORMATION**

1. Metro Highway System Investment Study (MHSIS) Summary of Outreach

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented a summary of the outreach efforts and meetings held, and the timeline and next steps. Arlene McCarthy stated that items that will go through the TAC/TAB process will be reported as information items to the Transportation Committee. The MHSIS results will be incorporated into the TPP language.

2. March Ridership, Year to Date, and Marketing Update

Bruce Howard, Director Metro Transit Marketing, reported on the first quarter of 2010 ridership goals, results and budget for bus, commuter rail and HLRT. He also reported on the Marketing Division efforts and goals.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Scherer and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:05 p.m. May 10, 2010.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary