

Metropolitan Council

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

---

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, January 10, 2011**

Members Present    Bob McFarlin, Vice Chair                    Natalie Haas Steffen                    Richard Aguilar  
                                 Kirstin Sersland Beach                    Georgie Hilker                    Peggy Leppik  
                                 Roger Scherer                    Craig Peterson, Vice Chair

Members Absent    Annette Meeks

Staff Presiding    Brian Lamb, General Manager MT                    Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Dir. Fin.& Planning

TAB Liaison            David Gepner

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Chair McFarlin called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on January 10, 2011 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Hilker to adopt the agenda for January 10, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2010 regular Transportation Committee meeting. **Motion carried.**

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

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Dir MTS Planning & Finance, reported the following:

Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director, is out of the office this week, please contact Amy in her absence. There are many time sensitive items on the agenda this week that are same week to the Council because there were no Transportation Committee meetings and only one Council meeting in December.

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

Central Corridor Full Funding Grant Agreement Update

Last Tuesday was the date of the receipt of the LONP Letter of No Prejudice for First Quarter 2011. The FFGA took another step forward as it was sent from the FTA offices to the office of the Secretary of Transportation.

Award for the Platform Extensions Project

The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) selected our contractor Kimley-Horn to receive one of its seven “Seven Wonders of Engineering” awards for the platform extensions and for the construction of American Boulevard Station. We will receive this award in February at the annual MSPE banquet to be held at Target Field.

Two of Transit’s Very Useful Publications

We have recently reprinted two publications for distribution in 2011 at major schedule distribution outlets, at our transit stores, through our TMO partners and at community and promotional events. The first is the “Go Greener” publication highlighting our efforts towards a core value of providing sustainable transportation choices. The primary audience for the brochure is potential and existing customers who make market choices based on products and services that are more environmentally sound. Secondary audiences are

the communities we serve and other stakeholders. This update provides more information about our facilities – such as I-35W and 46<sup>th</sup> Street Station, bus-only shoulder lanes and Marq2 - in addition to information about our vehicles. Staff member Leah Janz designed the brochure which is constructed of folds only – eliminating the need for staples or extra paper waste from trimming. The content will also be updated to our web site. The second is our award-winning “Bicycling as Transportation” booklet. The updated reprint includes instructions for using the bike racks on Northstar trains and station maps that show bicycle connections to Northstar stations including Target Field Station. It shows enhanced content on safety around buses and trains. There’s also a “QR code” in the brochure on page 24 where a user with a camera-enabled smartphone can instantly link a video that will show them how to load a bike on a bus or train.  
*Note: Leppik suggested the pamphlets/publications be given to Legislators to hand out as well.*

#### Year 2010 Performance Numbers

For the year, buses have left the garage and entered service on time at a rate 99.6 percent (1,400 departures per day). For Hiawatha Rail, the year-to-date rate is 99.4 percent. The Bus Maintenance division continues to set records for on-street reliability with the average miles between road calls for the first 11 months this year at nearly 6,000. Transit police officers rode buses for nearly 19,300 hours, which is 12-percent, or 2110 hours, more than 2009.

#### METROTRANSIT.ORG Mobile Website Use Skyrockets

Nearly 198,000 unique visitors accessed metrotransit.org in December, viewing pages on the site 11 million times. That’s an 11-percent increase in unique visitors and a 36-percent jump in the number of pages viewed over November.

#### Orange Skyway is a Peach

Hiawatha light-rail passengers traveling to Terminal 2/Humphrey at Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport now have a better connection between the station and terminal thanks to the opening last week of the Orange Skyway. Customers will no longer walk the parking lanes between the second-level ramp and terminal. Instead, the skyway, with an 1,100-foot-long moving sidewalk, escalators, elevators and climate control, makes the walk more convenient and pleasant.

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metropolitan Transportation Services**

Amy Vennewitz presented employee recognition awards to the following employees for their work on the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP):

Connie Kozlak, Mark Filipi, Carl Ohrn, Chauncey Case (retired), Jonathan Ehrlich, Steve Elmer, David Vessel (not present), Elaine Koutsoukos (not present), James Andrew (not present), Rachel Wiken, Michelle Fure (Communications Dept.).

### **BUSINESS – Non-Consent Items**

2011-3                    2011-2014 “Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment: Section 5307 Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine (TAB Action 2010-69)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include FTA Section 5307 funding for the Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2011-4 SW 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment: Mill and overlay and additional funds for HOT Lane project on I-35 from I-35W/E intersection to Burnsville Parkway (TAB Action 2010-70)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee. In response to McFarlin's question, Ohrn stated there are no special timing requirements for use of the funding.

Motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include additional funds on existing project SP#1981-120 for the mill and overlay of the lanes adjacent to the northbound I-35W HOT Lane.

Motion passed unanimously.

2011-5 SW 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment: Unbonded concrete overlay, drainage corrections, cable median barrier on I-35E from South of CSAH 96 to I-35W junction (TAB Action 2010-71)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#0282-341, I-35E unbonded concrete overlay, drainage corrections, and cable median barrier south of CSAH 96 to the north junction with I-35W.

Motion passed unanimously.

2011-6 SW 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment: Mill and overlay on TH 8 from I-35 to CSAH 80 in Forest Lake and Chisago City (TAB Action 2010-72)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee.

Steffen questioned why funds were being appropriated for a project outside of the 7-county area. Ohrn explained that Chisago is within MnDOT Metro District which covers 8 counties in the metro area.

McFarlin questioned whether the \$1.44 M ARRA savings which is being put into the State Funds will be used in only the 7 county area in the future. Ohrn said that that answer would not be known until all of the ARRA funds have been spent.

Motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Beach:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#1308-21, mill and overlay on TH 8 from I-35 to Karmel Ave. (CSAH 80) in Forest Lake and Chisago City.

Motion passed unanimously.

2011-2 SW Authorization to Execute Agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for Transit and Rail Operations

Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute agreements with the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) to receive operating funds for CY11 for the following projects:

- Hiawatha LRT - \$7,314,248
- Northstar Commuter Rail - \$5,714,903
- I-35W BRT - \$152,612
- Cedar Ave. BRT - \$312,351

Motion passed unanimously.

2011-1 SW 2011 Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Review

Connie Kozlak, MTS Manager Systems Planning, presented this item to the committee. Denny Probst from MAC was present to answer questions, if any.

Kozlak responded to Steffen, clarifying the dates and project years and answered a question from McFarlin clarifying the threshold for Council approval.

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Peterson:

That the Metropolitan Council finds that:

- 1) The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has an adequate public participation process for development and review of its 2011 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- 2) An Assessment of Environmental Effects (AOEE) has been prepared and commented on for 2011 projects with potential environmental effects.
- 3) None of the 2011 projects meet the dollar threshold levels and criteria requiring project approval.
- 4) Federal, state and local funding for the 2011 CIP, including approximately \$21 million in 2010 bonds, has been identified by the MAC to cover all 2011 projects.
- 5) All other projects in the 2011 CIP appear consistent with the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan.

Motion passed unanimously.

2011-12            Approval of the 2010 Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Solicitation Project Recommendation (2011-2012)

Connie Kozlak, MTS Manager Systems Planning, presented this item to the committee and responded to questions from committee members as to why there were so few applications for New Freedoms funding. Kozlak also stated that the unused funds carry over to the next solicitation (scheduled every 2 years), and that a special solicitation in one year could be held if there were applications for New Freedoms funds.

Motion was made by Leppik, seconded by Scherer:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the projects recommended for federal funding for up to \$1,894,801 under the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program and for up to \$643,453 under the New Freedom program as listed in Attachment A.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the JARC program and the New Freedom program to fund the recommended projects and the contingency list of JARC projects.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

2011-7            Council Subsidized Vanpool Program Changes

Gerri Sutton, MTS Asst. Dir. Contracted services, presented this item to the committee and answered a question from Peterson that she felt that the Wisconsin residents were helpful when contacting the Wisconsin parties to enter into the agreement(s).

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Beach:

That the Transportation Committee rescind Business Item 2010-413 authorizing the Regional Administrator to:

1. discontinue subsidizing vanpools, effective January 1, 2011, that originate or terminate in Wisconsin absent a Joint Powers Agreement between the Metropolitan Council and the State of Wisconsin as of December 1, 2010; and,
2. continue to pursue a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Wisconsin. When an agreement is reached with the State of Wisconsin the Council will provide a subsidized vanpool program for pools that originate or terminate in Wisconsin.

**Motion passed.**

*Note: This item needs only to go to the Transportation Committee and the previous Item 2010-413 does not need to go to the Council, either (is hereby rescinded).*

#### 2011-11 SW Construction Contract for FTHeywood Computer Room Upgrade

Pat Jones, MT Asst. Dir. Introduced Robert Rimstad, Project Manager to present this item to the committee. Peterson questioned why the project has taken so long, since a study was performed in 2008. Rimstad explained the complexity and the need to conduct the project thoroughly. Dave Hinrichs, [CIO – Chief Information Officer](#), was available to answer questions from committee members regarding back-up sites for information, and business continuity.

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Rochon Corporation, for construction work on the FTHeywood (FTH) Computer Room Upgrade at the FTH Office building in Minneapolis at a cost of \$1,138,000.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### 2011-10 Energy Conservation Improvements at Three Garages

Robert Rimstad, Project Manager, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by Scherer, seconded by Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute a contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Northland Mechanical Contractors, for construction of energy conservation upgrades at the Nicollet, Overhaul, and South garages in Minneapolis and St. Paul at a cost of \$2,248,435.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

## **INFORMATION**

### 1. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Initiate Eminent Domain Proceedings for the Acquisition of Parcel 5B (Hellervik Parking Lot) for Civil East Construction

Rich Rovang, Metro Transit Deputy Director, gave an update on approved Business Item 2010-298, the eminent domain proceedings for Parcel 5B (Hellervik), based on a September 2010 Minnesota Supreme Court Decision regarding value determination of contaminated properties.

### 2. Central Corridor Cash Flow

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy General Manager, gave an update on the Central Corridor cash flow. Of particular mention is the new FTA policy that deems internal interest finance charges ineligible for federal reimbursement. CCPO/Council Finance staff are working on bonding alternatives to address short term financing needs.

### 3. Transportation Retrospective 2003-2010

Brian Lamb, Metro Transit General Manager, and Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning, gave a presentation highlighting the challenges and accomplishments from the years 2003-2010, under Chair Bell's tenure.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair McFarlin adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:08 p.m. January 10, 2011.

Respectfully submitted, LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary