

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, May 9, 2011

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Roxanne Smith Jennifer Munt	James Briimeyer Jon Commers John Đoàn	Edward Reynoso Adam Duininck
Members Absent	Lona Schreiber Vice Chair		
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
Others Present	David Gepner, TAB Liaison		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on May 9, 2011 at Metro Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Reynoso and seconded by Commers to adopt the agenda for the May 9, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Commers to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Chair Elkins informed the committee that he will not be at the May 23, 2011 Transportation Committee; Schreiber will chair the committee that day.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT and METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

1. A reminder that MnDOT's 50-year visioning effort (Minnesota GO) is underway. MnDOT will be holding eight public workshops. The workshop for the metro area is scheduled for Monday 5/23 from 6:30-8:30. MnDOT staff is going to schedule a second workshop for the metro area, anticipated for early June.
2. The USDOT announced awards to a competitive solicitation for \$2B in High Speed and Passenger Rail Grants. Minnesota submitted three applications; one project was awarded funding – the Northern Lights Express proposed high-speed rail line between Minneapolis and Duluth. The project was awarded \$5M toward engineering and environmental work. Other grants were awarded to Illinois (\$186M), Michigan (\$200M), and Missouri (\$13.5M).

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

ATU Members Ratify Two-Year Contract

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU Local 1005) have accepted a two-year labor contract (August 2010 to July 2012) after voting last Sunday and Monday. 78% of union members voted in favor of the agreement, which had the support of the union's executive board. The agreement includes a wage freeze and shares the increase in insurance costs between ATU members and the Met Council. The approval of this agreement will be a Business Item to the Metropolitan Council at this Wednesday's meeting.

Online Campaign Kicks Gas, Takes Names

Metro Transit began online advertisements on May 1st to promote choosing Metro Transit services instead of driving alone to save on gas. When you click on popular local sites such as TwinCitiesGasPrices.com or major news web sites, our online advertisement will be there. An estimated 5.5 million viewers will click the ad to be connected to a [special page at metrotransit.org](http://special.page.at.metrotransit.org) where they can learn about transit choices and register themselves for the Commuter Challenge.

Transitmaster All Aboard Northstar

The TransitMaster system, which permits real-time monitoring of the location of the bus fleet, is now active on Northstar locomotives. The system is being tested and refined over the next few weeks. When testing is complete, Transit Control Center supervisors will be able to monitor Northstar trains in real time using GPS technology. Customers also will be able to retrieve predicted departure times for Northstar trains by phone, web or mobile devices via NexTrip. On-time performance for the Northstar Line exceeded 99% in March.

Credit Card Reader Streamlines Ped Traffic at Target Field

For those of you attending Twins Target Field games – our Revenue Operations department reports the use of a mobile unit to process credit card sales. This has enabled more predictable and safer pedestrian activity after Twins games. Fans purchasing return tickets on the Hiawatha Line with a credit card no longer have to walk to the ticket machine at the end of the station and then return to the line to board the train. This has resulted in the ability to establish a paid fare zone, which is easier to monitor and manage. The device has been in use since the first Twins game. The device is also used before games at the I-394 & County Road 73 Park & Ride to sell tickets on “Twins Express” Route 679.

New 30+ Year Retiree Program Now Features Seven

Metro Transit now has a new retiree program in place that acknowledges those who retire with 30 or more years of service. Go to our website, click on “About us” and down the menu list to “Great People” to read about the seven employees who have retired in 2011. In the weeks ahead, plaques will be placed both in the FTH Chambers and on in-service buses to further honor these long-time employees. Keep checking the website for updates.

CCLRT-Based Art Debuted at Neighborhood Event

Last Thursday (May 5th) more than 20 local artists unveiled their work made of Styrofoam heads and hats that represent the Central Corridor light-rail project. The “Hats Off to the Central Corridor” event was held at Carleton Place on University Avenue along with a neighborhood group that unveiled its new plan for keeping the area a center of creativity. The event featured food and music from the neighborhood and was free and open to the public.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

There were no consent items on the May 9, 2011 agenda.

Non-Consent items

2010-121: 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Metro Transit TIGGER II funded pilot project for two hybrid-drive buses (TAB Action 2011-39)

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item. Duininck questioned whether natural gas buses had been studied and Brian Lamb answered that staff has studied and performed a cost-benefit analysis of natural gas buses. The study determined that at this time the buses would not be in the best interest for Metro Transit.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include a Metro Transit pilot project that will use TIGGER II Section 5309 funds to purchase two hybrid-drive buses.

Motion passed.

2010-126: Metro Mobility Service Agreements SFY2011-2013

Paul Colton, Senior Manager Metro Mobility, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service with two transit providers, not to exceed the following amounts for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013:

DARTS (Dakota County)	\$6,701,366
Humans Service, Inc. (HSI - Washington Co.)	\$1,189,967

Motion passed.

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

2010-127: Amendments to ADA and Transit Link Dial-a-Ride Transit Service Agreements with Scott and Anoka Counties

Sheila Williams, MTS Project Manager, presented this item. Member Munt questioned how “equity” is defined. McCarthy called attention to the background section of the business item which identifies the factors used for the initial funding distribution. Staff collect data and bring 2012 funding distribution recommendations to the Council. At Brimeyer’s request, Gerri Sutton, MTS Asst. Dir. Contracted Services, explained how denial rate is determined, including mandated vs not-mandated, and denial goals based on funding and other factors.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Brimeyer:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute amendments to agreement #10P119 with Anoka County and agreement #1091188 with Scott County for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit service and Transit Link dial-a-ride service in the following amounts and extend the current term from June 30, 2011 to December 31, 2011:

<u>Service Provider</u>	<u>Amendment Request</u>	<u>New Contract Total</u>
Anoka County Traveler	\$915,000	\$3,660,100
Smart Link (Carver/Scott Counties)	\$853,970	\$3,415,870

Motion passed.

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

2010-128: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) DARTS Contract Amendment #2

Paul Colton, Senior Manager Metro Mobility, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Doãn:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to amend contract number 10P062 with DARTS, for the provision of ADA service, by \$95,000 for a new contract total of \$4,000,500.

Motion passed.

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

2010-124: Request for Approval of Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Cash Flow Financing Plan

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, and Mary Bogie, Deputy CFO, presented this item and answered questions from Brimeyer about the frequency that the approval of issuance of bonds will be presented to the Council.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Reynoso:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Cash Flow Financing Plan (the “Plan”) for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project (the “CCLRT”) during the years of 2011-2016, such Plan being comprised of the following:

1. Issue General Obligation (Revenue) Grant Anticipation Notes (the “G.O. GANs”) at various dates, and in various amounts, to provide cash to cover expenses for the CCLRT project, pending receipt of federal grant payments, and, separately present each GANs issuance resolution to the Council for approval;
2. Without limit to frequency, borrow from the Council internal investment pool in a total contemporaneous amount up to \$60 million;

3. Utilize Metro Transit available bond arbitrage reserve dollars to fund interest expense on internal borrowings (loans) when such expense is net of cumulative project interest revenue not associated with the G.O. GANs; and,
4. A report on the Plan's results will be provided quarterly to the Management and Transportation Committees.

Motion passed.

2010-129: Highway 36 and Rice Street Park & Ride – Interagency Agreement with Ramsey County
Pat Jones, MT Asst. Dir. Engineering and Facilities, introduced Robert Rimstad, MT Project Manager, who presented this item to the committee. Reynoso commented that it is a great thing each time we can partner with another entity to do work simultaneously, resulting in less disruption to the public.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with Ramsey County relative to the construction of roadway improvements for access to a proposed Highway 36 and Rice Street Park-and-Ride.

Motion passed.

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

INFORMATION

1. Transitways Identity and Branding Framework Line Color Recommendations

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing Director, and Cole Hiniker, MTS Planner, presented this item. The presentation included background, peer region examples, stakeholder feedback, recommendations and next steps.

2. MTS First Quarter 2011 Ridership Report

John Harper, MTS Manager Contracted Transit Services, presented the regional ridership statistics for year-end 2010 and the first quarter of 2011.

OTHER BUSINESS

Doàn suggested a topic for a future meeting: Suburban Transit Providers overview, and integration and coordination of services. McCarthy stated that Regional Administrator Pat Born and Chair Susan Haigh have met with the Suburban Transit Association policy makers. McCarthy will speak to Born about how he would like to proceed with Doàn's request.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Brimeyer, seconded by Smith and passed to adjourn the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:40 p.m. May 9, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary