

Metropolitan Council

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

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
Monday, May 23, 2011**

Members Present	Lona Schreiber Vice Chair Roxanne Smith Jennifer Munt	James Briimeyer Jon Commers	John Doan Adam Duininck
Members Absent	Steve Elkins, Chair	Edward Reynoso	
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
Others Present	None		

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum was present when Committee Vice Chair Schreiber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 p.m. on May 23, 2011 at Metro Council Chambers, St. Paul.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Munt to adopt the agenda for the May 23, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Munt, seconded by Doan to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

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

Metro Transit Aid During the Tornado

Metro Transit added emergency support to transport victims of Sunday's tornado in Northeast Minneapolis to the Northeast Armory. Metro Transit is also looking for ways to service the affected area, which includes Routes 5, 7, 19 & 22, routes with intense service. Today Metro Transit is helping move people from Northeast Armory to the Drake Hotel, and tomorrow will be working on shuttle service for volunteers and also shuttles from the affected neighborhoods to the Mpls. Convention Center, where representatives from insurance companies and others will be stationed.

Transit Police Awards Ceremony

In conjunction with National Police Week, Metro Transit Police honored a number of officers, transit employees and others at their 14<sup>th</sup> annual Awards Ceremony. The event was held last Thursday, at the Transit Police facility. Metro Transit Police Chief David Indrehus and Deputy Chief A.J. Olson presented awards to 33 officers and citizens for exceptional efforts in fighting crime and providing humanitarian service in the transit system. Officer Leo Castro was named "Officer of the Year" – Officer Castro has been with the force 6 years and primarily patrols in downtown St. Paul.

Agency Plays Host to Transit Techies

Last Wednesday, Metro Transit hosted members of the Intelligent Transportation Society of Minnesota at a half-day session, titled Transit Operations & Technology Management. Association members – professionals who work at the

juncture of transportation and technology – received a bus tour of the Blaine Park & Ride and double bus lanes on Marquette and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues in downtown Minneapolis that use technology to provide customers with real-time travel predictions and Park & Ride space availability. Members also were given a tour of the Transit Control Center and presentations by several Metro Transit staff.

#### Go-To Card Usage Tops 3 Million; Usage Hits 45%

In March, Go-To Card types were used for more than 3 million monthly transactions for the first time. Go-To Cards were used for 45 percent of all transactions – up from the 2010 average of 38 percent. Go-To Card use speeds boarding by three times or more compared with other fare types.

#### Year to Date Rail Fare Compliance Exceeds 99%

Metro Transit Police report that fare compliance on rail exceeded 99 percent from January through April. Data taken from fare inspections show that customers have paid fares more than 99.2 percent of the time on the Hiawatha Line and 99.9 percent of the time on the Northstar Line so far this year. The annual goal is 98 percent. Failing to pay a transit fare is a misdemeanor offense punishable by a \$180 fine.

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

1. As a follow-up of Metro Transit's response to the tornado, Metro Mobility has also been impacted. The department is in a high rescheduling mode to meet customer needs.
2. Metro Mobility implemented new technology over the weekend to separate non-federally mandated ADA rides from federally mandated service area rides. Communication has been sent out to riders. Rides outside the ADA federally-mandated area will be on standby up to about 1 day before the scheduled ride in order to meet the zero denial regulations for ADA mandated services.
3. Annual federal compliance training has been scheduled for all federal grant recipients and sub-recipients, with sessions in June, July and August. The training addresses all federal requirements and is conducted by Metro Council staff. The training was initiated in 2010 in response to a 2009 FTA Triennial Review which found that the Council had inadequate oversight over federal grant recipients.

#### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Steve Jaeger, Manager East Metro Garage introduced Mike Dalbec, East Metro Garage Operator. Mike has been a bus operator since 1998. He has 11 years of safe driving under his belt. Mike has taken upon himself to promote a Bike Team to participate in the Twin cities Tour De Cure on June 4<sup>th</sup>. To date he has recruited 81 riders from Metro Transit. It very likely the Metro Transit Team will be the biggest corporate Team. They will wearing jersey's with a big T and Metro Transit on them, great positive exposure. In addition to the Tour De Cure project he spearheaded at transit, he also participated in our police focus group this winter.

A link to the Tour de Cure (diabetes) website is below:

<http://www.active.com/cycling/minneapolis-mn/twin-cities-tour-de-cure-2011>

#### **MILEAGE BASED USER FEES – Adrian Moore – Reason Foundation**

Councilmember Doan introduced Adrian Moore from the Reason Foundation who gave a presentation about the economic benefits of mobility in terms of increases in the labor market and worker output and productivity. Mr. Moore stated the pillars to meet the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urban Transportation needs:

1. Manage existing capacity more efficiently using ITS technologies,
2. Integration of modes, and
3. Build more capacity, including 3-D networks (tunnels, and above ground)

#### **BUSINESS**

##### **Consent Items**

Motion by Smith, seconded by Commers to approve items 2011-147, 2011-148 and 2011-151 as consent items. Motion passed.

2011-147: 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: MnDOT SP#1928-64, TH52 Mill and Overlay

**Motion:**

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include MnDOT SP#1928-64, US 52 Mill and Overlay, Drainage, ADA Improvements and Traffic Management System Improvements from TH 55 to I-494 in Inver Grove Heights.

**2011-148: Authorization to Accept Federal 5311 Operating Funds from MnDOT**

**Motion:**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to accept an award of \$609,000 in 5311 Non-Urbanized Area formula funds for 2011 and enter into a grant agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to receive those funds.

**2011-151: Procurement of Metro Mobility Vehicles**

**Motion:**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with Hoglund Bus Company Inc. (State of MN Contract 444438) for up to six (6) buses in an amount not to exceed \$405,000.

**Non-Consent items**

**2010-149: Transitways Identity and Branding Framework Line Color Recommendations**

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing Director, and Cole Hiniker, MTS Planner, presented this item.

Committee members commented that color naming is a smart move, customer friendly and a benefit to customers.

Duininck questioned if 35W BRT will have the same frequency as others, and Munt questioned how the TAB feels on the line coloring. Questions were answered by Howard/Hiniker.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Adopt the following line names for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station-to-station services in these transitway corridors:  
Blue Line – Hiawatha LRT  
Green Line – Central LRT/Southwest LRT  
Red Line – Cedar Avenue BRT  
Orange Line – I-35W BRT
2. Adopt a policy whereby future LRT and Highway BRT station-to-station lines will be assigned a color name upon Council selection of locally preferred alternative (LPA) and adoption into the Transportation Policy Plan.

Motion passed.

**2010-150: Authorization to Award Contract for Advertising Agency Services**

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing Director, presented this item.

Đoàn asked about the ratings of other companies that bid on the project, and Howard gave some examples.

Motion by Đoàn, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with Clarity Coverdale Fury to provide advertising agency services for Metro Transit and other metropolitan Council work units on an as-needed basis over a five-year term in an amount not to exceed \$9 million.

Motion passed.

**2010-143: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project: Cooperative Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Office of Enterprise Technology**

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item. There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Office of Enterprise Technology (OET) to reimburse the Council in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Motion passed.

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

2010-144: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project: Subordinate Funding Agreement with the University of Minnesota

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item. Councilmember Brimeyer asked if this item was an eligible expense under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) and Mark confirmed that it was.

Councilmember Munt asked if there were other mitigation actions required for the University of Minnesota, and Mark noted several others.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) for an amount not to exceed \$601,000 for the Council's payment to the University of Minnesota as part of the Agreement between the University of Minnesota and the Council related to the Central Corridor Light Transit (CCLRT) for the relocation of a laboratory in Kolthoff Hall adversely affected by vibration caused by CCLRT Civil West construction.

Motion passed.

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

2010-145: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project: Master and Subordinate Funding Agreement with Hennepin County

Councilmember Commers asked about the width of the widened sidewalk next to the station tower, and Fuhrmann indicated around 8 to 10 feet.

Motion by Duininck, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute

- A Master Funding Agreement (MFA) for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project with Hennepin County; and
- A subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) for \$325,000 for Council reimbursement to Hennepin County for Cedar Avenue Bridge work related to Civil West construction.

Motion passed.

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

2010-146: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: Initiate Eminent Domain Proceedings for the Acquisition of Parcel 1Q (BNSF Railway Company)

Mark Fuhrmann, MT Deputy General Manager, presented this item and answered positively to Brimeyer's question whether the Council would be initiating a "quick-take" action on the property once this item is passed.

Motion by Duininck, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the initiation of eminent domain proceedings for the acquisition of the property rights for Parcel 1Q (BNSF Railway Company) in Minneapolis for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Project.

Motion passed.

Hearing no objection, Vice Chair Schreiber stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item, provided MC Legal Counsel concurs.

## **INFORMATION**

### **1. I-35W Bus Rapid Transit (Lake Street)**

Charles Carlson, Metro Transit Manager of Transitway Projects, presented this item. He stated this project is a partnership between MnDOT, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis and Metro Council. Carlson answered questions about future capacity and forecasts, project timeline and level of service.

### **2. Regional Fleet Policy/Procedures Overview**

John Levin, Metro Transit Director of Service Development, and Gerri Sutton, MTS Asst. Dir. Contracted Transit Services, presented this item. This item is in response to councilmember requests for more information on the type of buses used in relation to how decisions are made about the make-up of the fleet. Council members were pleased to know that MTS has a certificate of origin for the all of the buses provided to suburban providers. Doan asked whether leasing buses has been a consideration, and Lamb answered that it is not cost effective at this time.

3. Regional Transitway Guidelines Overview

Due to lack of time, this item will be deferred to another meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Schreiber adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. May 23, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,  
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary