

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, October 10, 2011

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

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on October 10, 2011 at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Reynoso, seconded by Commers to adopt the agenda for the October 10, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Commers to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

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

The Minnesota Public Transit Association's 2011 Conference will be held at St. Paul's RiverCentre from October 12 through October 14. Metro Transit is pleased to announce that Bob Gibbons, now-retired Director of Public Relations and Customer Services, is being honored with the Distinguished Career award, and the agency is being recognized for Management Innovation. The theme of this year's event is "Together Toward Tomorrow" and features a full program of exhibits and speakers including Met Council Chair Sue Haigh and Federal Transit Administrator Marisol Simón of Region V. Mark Fuhrmann will be presenting during a session on October 13, and later that day the Project Office will conduct a walking tour of Central Corridor's construction in downtown St. Paul. Regional Administrator Pat Born and Brian Lamb will be presenting at Friday morning's General Session.

Metro Transit's public meetings begin this Tuesday on a study of the 11 high-demand urban transitway corridors that are candidates for arterial bus rapid transit service. As shown in an earlier information item, a Rapid Bus system would use low-floor vehicles, allow boarding from all doors, collect fares before boarding, involve fewer stops per mile and enhance stations with information displays, better lighting, and climate control. Committee members are invited to attend a meeting at any of the four scheduled locations: Metro State University in St. Paul, Central Library in downtown Minneapolis, Midtown Global Market in Minneapolis, and Fridley Community Center.

The Marketing department reports that 13,258 Go-To Cardholders have now joined the Ride to Rewards loyalty program. Members earn points with every ride; points can be redeemed for additional fare value or VISA gift cards. Members can also associate credit or debit cards with their accounts, which allows them to earn points when they shop at participating local or online retailers. Since the program launched in late 2010, 5,700 members have added bank cards to their Ride to Rewards accounts and have spent nearly \$75,000 with retail partners.

The second annual Twin Cities Fall Bike Walk Week was held October 3 through October 9. Organizers scheduled several events to promote bicycling and walking to work, school and beyond, including International Walk and Bike to School Day and Bike Walk to Work Day. Organizers also promoted how to combine bike and walk trips by using Metro Transit's bike racks on buses and in light-rail and commuter-rail vehicles.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

The Transitway Guidelines Advisory Committee held a workshop on September 30 with technical staff from communities throughout the metro area and participants from the technical committees. Outreach efforts are also underway, with public meetings to be held during October and November with local transit development partners to provide additional information and receive feedback about the draft Regional Transitway Guidelines. Meetings are scheduled for the counties of Sherburne, Washington, Scott, Ramsey, Anoka and Dakota. A report will be provided to the Transportation Committee in November.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Smith to approve items 2011-270, 2011-260, 2011-274 and 2011-278 as consent items. Motion passed.

2011-270: Authorization to Exercise Contract Options with Motor Coach Industries

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise an existing contract option on contract #08P114 with Motor Coach Industries (MCI) to purchase one coach bus in an amount not to exceed \$550,000.

2011-262: Authorization to Purchase Light Rail Vehicle Level Sensor Replacements

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to purchase Knorr Brake replacement parts for the Hiawatha Rail Line on a sole source basis in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 over a one-year period.

2011-274: Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) Subgrant Agreement Amendments for 2012

Motion:

To authorize the Regional Administrator to execute amendments to four subgrant agreements with the regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) for the pass through of federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the period of January 1, 2012 – October 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$849,710.

2011-278: Design & Construction Support Services Contract Amendment, Maplewood Mall Transit Center Expansion

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Exceed the 10% amendment authority for professional and technical services contracts, and
- Amend Contract 09P202 with Bentz, Thompson, Rietow, Inc. for design and construction support services relative to the Maplewood Mall Transit Center expansion, to a total of \$1,106,593.96

Non-Consent Items

2011-259: 2011 Unified Capital Program Amendment

Metro Transit Director of Finance Ed Petrie and MTS Financial Analyst Sean Pfeiffer presented the item and responded to questions from committee members.

Motion by Brimeyer, seconded by Smith:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2011 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding spending authority as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 18,024,382
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 20,890,903

- Amend the 2011 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by increasing appropriation as follows:

Metro Transit	\$ 3,571,882
Metropolitan Transportation Services	\$ 3,569,307

Motion passed. The business item will proceed to the Management Committee.

2011-275: Authorization to Award Contract for the Council Subsidized Vanpool Program

MTS Senior Project Administrator Randy Rosvold presented the item. Staff responded to questions regarding the impacts of the economic downturn on program involvement, status of active vanpools and share of funding provided by partner agencies. Staff also provided history about how and why the Joint Powers agreements between Minnesota and Wisconsin came about and jurisdiction for the regional vanpool program to serve commuters coming into the region from outlying areas.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Enterprise Leasing Company of Minnesota, LLC, to provide the Council's subsidized vanpool program from March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2017 in an amount not to exceed \$2,798,000.

Motion passed.

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

2011-277: Procurement of Metro Mobility Buses

Paul Colton, Senior Manager of Metro Mobility, presented the item. CM Reynoso asked why Metro Mobility purchases vehicles from multiple vendors. Staff responded that it was common practice to order from multiple vendors for large bus orders which allows the Council to receive equipment in a timelier manner. Staff also explained that all of the chassis are built by Ford and that there are several body manufacturers that build buses on the Ford chassis. Most of the time to manufacture the bus is in the constructing of the body portion of the bus. CM Schreiber asked what happens to the buses that are retired and taken out of service. Staff responded that they are auctioned off to the public through the State of Minnesota's Surplus Services division. In some cases vehicles are scrapped if a major component fails on the vehicle at the time of replacement.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a purchase agreement with:

- North Central Bus Sales (MNDOT Contract 444441) for up to 53 buses in an amount not to exceed \$3,286,000.
- Hoglund Bus (MNDOT Contract 444438) for up to seven buses in an amount not to exceed \$434,000.

Execution of these agreements is contingent upon Council approval of Business Item 2011-259 "Unified Capital Program Amendment" on October 26, 2011.

Motion passed.

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

2011-280: CTIB 2012 Project Grant Applications Consistency with the 2030 TPP

MTS Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz presented the proposed action and described the applications submitted for CY2012 CTIB funding. CM Commers asked about the number of applications submitted for funding. Staff responded that only the 11 applications were submitted and all are recommended to be found consistent with the TPP. CM Brimeyer asked about the amount of revenue raised by the transit sales tax. Staff responded that the tax generates approximately \$90 million annually. During CY2012 CTIB will also rely on bond proceeds to fund the project applications.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Duinick:

That the Metropolitan Council finds the 11 project grant applications (summarized in the Attachment) submitted to the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for CY 2012 funding to be consistent with the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan adopted November 2010.

Motion passed.

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

2011-266: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line) and Blue Line (Hiawatha): Amendment to the Operation and Maintenance Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation for Bridges and Structures
Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item, noting that this amendment involves the bridge over Highway 394 in downtown Minneapolis as well as the CCLRT bridges over I-35W, TH 280 and I-94 in St. Paul. CM Munt asked whether the operation and maintenance cost for bridges that had vehicular as well as LRV traffic would be shared. Mr. Fuhrmann responded that they would be.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Duininck:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to delineate maintenance responsibility of the bridges and structures located on State Right of Way along the alignments of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) and the Hiawatha LRT (HLRT) Extension near the Northstar Commuter Line.

Motion passed.

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

2011-272: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Subordinate Funding Agreement with the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of St. Paul

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Doãn:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) #4 in an amount not to exceed \$525,000 under the existing Master Funding Agreement to allow the Council to reimburse the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of St. Paul.

Motion passed.

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

2011-273: Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (Green Line): Change Order with Walsh Construction for Segment Two Temporary Water

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. He explained that the work was originally intended to be performed by SPRWS, but will now be performed by the contractor. CM Brimeyer asked whether all change orders would need to be approved by the committee. Staff responded that that would not be the case as the project still has change order capacity. CM Munt asked if the work would be performed by a union contractor. Staff responded that the work would be performed by a DBE subcontractor to Walsh that pays prevailing wage rates (state and federal) in compliance with their contract.

Motion by Doãn, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a change order with Walsh Construction for \$2.5 million to provide for St. Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) temporary water service requirements along the Civil East Corridor in St. Paul for the Civil East Construction Contract, and
- Authorize an additional \$2.5 million above the standard 5% allowable and previously requested contract change order contingency reserve.

Motion passed.

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

INFORMATION

1. Fall Advertising Campaign

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Director of Marketing and Customer Services, presented an overview of the campaign, which is built around the slogan “The Cure for the Common Commute” and includes radio spots, ads on buses and in skyways and billboards specifically promoting Northstar commuter rail service.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilmember Reynoso provided a report on a recent trip to Seoul, South Korea, which he visited as part of a trade mission with Governor Dayton. While in Seoul CM Reynoso had the opportunity to learn a great deal about its transit system and funding structure. He relayed highlights of his visit and answered questions from committee members.

Councilmember Schreiber reported briefly on a recent meeting of CTIB's GEARS (Grant Evaluation and Ranking System) committee and a meeting of a metro county group focusing on energy issues.

Chair Elkins provided a report on the 2011 Inner City Leadership tour in Portland, OR, which he attended along with Council Chair Haigh and Community Development Chair Cunningham. The tour's focus this year was on transit and transit-oriented development.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:23 p.m. October 10, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary