

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, September 24, 2012

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

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. on September 24, 2012, at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber to adopt the agenda for the September 24, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Munt, seconded by Schreiber to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Members of the Instruction Center team were recognized with employee-of-the-month awards for September. The following employees were presented Awarding Accomplishment honors:

- Soultar Allerai-Beaumont, instructor
- Maria Crescini, manager
- Jean Hammonds, instructor
- Gloria Hunt, instructor
- Denny Johnson, instructor
- Cheryl Kienietz-Hall, instructor
- Scott Lindquist, instructor
- John Marroquin, instructor
- Steve Nichols, instructor
- Sharon Reich, administrator
- Tim Smith, instructor
- Dan Stoffer, assistant manager

Instructors were commended for studying ways to improve training and using creative ways to help operators learn. Staff were credited for finding innovative ways to plan training schedules and for keeping training materials and supplies organized. Since January, 146 part-time weekday and 21 part-time weekend operators have been hired plus 100 part-time operators have transferred to full-time status. In addition, instructors were recognized for trying new approaches in teaching and coaching methods, stepping outside their roles to get the job done and developing and teaching new topics for agency initiatives.

Chair Elkins and GM Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations and presented each team member with certificate of achievement.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

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

The annual Bus Rodeo started on Saturday, September 22, with 100 operators signed up to compete. The competition will continue through Thursday, September 29, in the parking lot across the street from the state fairgrounds, on Como Avenue. The Rodeo provides a chance to put the bus operator's skills on display in a different setting with a spirit of camaraderie and friendly competition. Committee members are, as always, invited to come drive the low-speed obstacle course or just to watch.

The Commuter Rail department reports that the locomotive purchased in 2011 from the Utah Transit Authority has assumed the same look and function of the other five Northstar locomotives. The locomotive is wrapped with durable graphics and spot painted to match the rest of the fleet.

The Creative Services department reports that Metro Transit's Facebook page has gained more than 3,800 fans since launching on July 5. That translates to about 130 new fans per day. Fans generally can read two or three new stories each day about promotions, service changes and more. Metro Transit's Twitter account (which launched in late 2010) continues to gain about eight followers per day. Currently, the social media account has more than 4,800 followers – exceeding the 2012 goal by about 7 percent.

As Council Members are aware, a story on the draft consultant's report on the Metro Transit Police department operations ran in the September 23 *Star Tribune*. It is management's intention to have the consultant join staff in providing a full briefing to the committee at the next meeting, by which date the report is expected to be finalized. CM Reynoso expressed disappointment that Council Members were not provided the information in the draft report before it was released to the press and stated that he found it appalling that the police department has been operating as described in the article. CM Brimeyer noted his disappointment as well and stressed the importance of establishing procedures for keeping the Council informed on issues of policy making and clear about its level of involvement. He would like to see the legislation addressed that first established the Metro Transit police department. CM Munt stated that as Council Members they expect a policy of no surprises. While not wishing to micro-manage the police, Council Members do want to weigh in on matters for which they are accountable to their constituents. Committee members agreed that they have full confidence in MTP Chief Harrington and would like to hear both his reaction to the report and plans for improvement. They expect to be provided with regular progress reports and fully understand that change will not be easy or fast.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy reported that motor vehicle sales tax receipts for state fiscal year 2012 came in at 97.75 percent of the February forecast. Average receipts for SFY 2013, which began July 1, are currently at 83 percent of projections, with 68 percent in July and 96 percent in August. An explanation has been requested from the state for the disparity between the two months.

TAB LIAISON REPORT

TAB Liaison Robert Lilligren and MTC Transportation Coordinator Kevin Roggenbuck reported that the Transportation Advisory Board held its September 19 meeting at the conference center of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International airport. Members were then given a tour of the airport following the meeting. Items of note to this committee include the decision to table the discussion of item 2012-30, the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment for Bottineau Transitway Locally Preferred Alternative and Arterial Transitway Corridor Study Results, until the October 17 meeting of the TAB. Board members also requested that the City of Golden Valley be invited to attend that meeting.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

A motion was made by Đoàn, seconded by Munt to approve items 2012-301 and 2012-302 as consent items. Motion passed.

2012-301: Wheel Tire Center Idler Truck – Light Rail Vehicle

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to increase the sole source authorization from \$240,000 to \$350,000 with Penn Machine Company for the purchase of Wheel Tire Center Idler Truck Tires and Wheel Tire Motor Drive Truck Tires – for the Hiawatha Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs).

2012-302: Authorization to Execute a Capital Grant Agreement with the City of Maple Grove

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with the City of Maple Grove for \$421,500 to design and cover professional services related to Parkway Station - Phase 2.

Non-Consent Items

2012-288: Maple Grove Opt-Out Service Agreement

Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, presented the business item. In response to a question he affirmed that Maple Grove Transit is currently the only suburban provided contracted with Metro Transit.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a three-year service agreement with the City of Maple Grove for the service period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2015.

Motion passed.

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

2012-298 SW: Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) 14-Month Subrecipient Agreements

Bruce Howard, Director of Customer Services and Marketing at Metro Transit presented the business item. He responded to questions from committee members about CMAQ funding and the timing of disbursements and about the status of implementing recommendations from a TDM strategic plan completed by consultants in 2010.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Đoàn:

To authorize the Regional Administrator to execute sub recipient grant agreements with the four regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) for pass through of Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds to implement Travel Demand Management (TDM) strategies for the period of November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$1,348,383.

Motion passed.

2012-284: Authorization to Award and Execute a Contract for St. Paul Suburban Area Transit Service

Gerri Sutton, MTS Assistant Director, Contracted Transit Services, presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Commers, seconded by Đoàn:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a five-year contract with First Transit, Inc., to provide fixed route transit services in the South and East suburban areas of St. Paul beginning December 21, 2012 through November 30, 2017 in an amount not to exceed \$7,952,000.

Motion passed, with Reynoso abstaining.

2012-299: Authorization to Execute an Agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for Apple Valley Layover Project.

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Commers:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for \$1,550,000 for design and construction of a bus layover facility in Apple Valley adjacent to the Apple Valley Transit Station.

Motion passed.

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

2012-300: Adopt 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

MTS Senior Planner Elaine Koutsoukos presented this item. Staff responded to questions clarifying the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program and the amount of the budget set aside for consulting.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$5,275,495.
- Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under MAP-21.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

Motion passed.

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

2012-304: CTIB 201 Project Grant Applications Consistency with the 2030 TPP

MTS Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz presented the business item. There were no questions from committee members and no further discussion.

Motion by Reynoso, seconded by Schreiber:

That the Metropolitan Council finds the eight project grant applications (summarized in the attachment to the business item) for CY 2013 Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) 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.

INFORMATION

1. Central Corridor Transit Service Study Recommended Plan

Senior Transit Planner Scott Thompson presented the results of the study and the resulting recommendations for changes to the transit network in order to strengthen the bus network and provide connections to Green Line stations.

2. Central Corridor (Green Line) Light Rail Transit Quarterly Update

Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann provided an update on the status of construction including track, stations and systems equipment.

3. Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Environmental Assessment (MSP EA)

MTS Senior Planner Russell Owens and Chad Leqve, Manager of Aviation Noise and Satellite Programs for the Metropolitan Airports Commission, presented an overview of the assessment performed to evaluate the environmental effects of the projects included in the MSP 2030 Plan, including gate expansion, increased terminal capacity and improved landside access.

4. "A" Minor Arterial Study Background

MTS Senior Planner Mary Karlsson presented the item, outlining the goals of the study and providing information on the "A" Minor arterial system, including purpose, history, structure, governance and funding. An overview of the conclusions and recommendations from the study will be presented at the October 8 meeting of the Transportation Committee.

5. Regional Solicitation Evaluation

MTS Transportation Coordinator Kevin Roggenbuck provided an overview of the evaluation process for the regional solicitation that is done every two years to determine how federal funds are allocated. He explained the purpose of the evaluation and described the steps performed to complete the process.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 6:42 p.m. September 24, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary