

Metropolitan Council

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

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, October 8, 2012

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| Members Present | Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair John Đoàn | Adam Duinick Roxanne Smith James Brimeyer | Jennifer Munt Jon Commers |
| Members Absent | Edward Reynoso | | |
| 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 4:02 p.m. on October 8, 2012 at Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, Minneapolis.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Munt, seconded by Smith to adopt the agenda for the October 8, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Đoàn to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

Today the Met Council is submitting to the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) a capital grant application for the Bottineau Transitway. The request is for \$3.44 million in 2013 and reflects a total budget of \$4.3 million. CTIB's share of the funding would be 80 percent, with the remaining 20 percent coming from Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA). The way the application is structured represents some policy exceptions to CTIB. Per CTIB criteria, there would normally be a state contribution to the grant, and CTIB's share would be 60 percent rather than 80 percent. In this case the Council is asking CTIB to front-end the state share due to the lack of state bond funding. The funding is then divided into two tiers, with \$300,000 planned for supporting staff work after the Council adopts the LPA as part of TPP amendment process. Once Bottineau is formally adopted into the TPP there then is a period requiring staff time to prepare materials, prepare requests to FTA and respond to inquiries and to put together RFPs. Contracts would not be executed, but CTIB would be asked to issue a notice to proceed once FTA awards project development status to Bottineau. Staff will be presenting the Council's application to CTIB at its October 24 meeting.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, Metro Transit, reported the following:

General Manager Brian Lamb is in La Crosse, WI, attending a joint Minnesota/Wisconsin public transit association conference. During today's session he will be providing some remarks at an awards ceremony for Metro Transit's Director of Bus Maintenance, Jan Homan, who has been named Transit Professional of the Year by the association. Mr. Homan began his career with then-MTC as a bus cleaner in 1976 and worked his way up to Director of Bus Maintenance, the position he has held since 2000. Under Jan's leadership, from 2007 through 2012, the miles between

road calls – the primary measure of bus reliability – has improved from 4,536 to 7,177, or a remarkable 58%. Additionally, four months in the past 12 have exceeded 8,000 miles, a benchmark hit for the first time ever in November 2011. These impressive numbers represent Jan’s ongoing focus on preventive maintenance and great relationships with suppliers. Jan has also been a driving force behind Metro Transit’s Go-Greener campaign, including working with the University of Minnesota on clean-air technologies.

The Bus Roadeo has concluded and the 2012 winners have been announced. Heywood Operator Duane Lundgren won top honors, outscoring a field of 106 operators. Heywood Operator Jack Berner took second place and Chris Jubera of South Garage took third. There is also a Garage Champion awarded from each of the five bus garages as well as a Rookie of the Year award for scoring the highest among first-time participants. Angela Stevens of Nicollet Garage took home Rookie of the Year honors. More information about all of this year’s winners is available at metrotransit.org/roadeo.

The Metro Transit Police department has received an overall score of 100 percent in a review conducted by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The department was assessed in a voluntary program called the Baseline Assessment and Security Enhancement (BASE) Review. BASE is administered by the TSA and is conducted every three years at participating agencies. The process entails a review of 200 separate elements in 17 functional areas. Transit Police received a 100 percent or “Excellent” rating in each of the 17 functional areas and a composite score of 100 as well as 100 percent performance in each of six areas considered transit security fundamentals. In 2009, the department scored 98.4 percent (also a rating of Excellent).

On Central Corridor, the last of the structural steel was erected at Western Avenue Station on September 27, which means that all 18 Green Line Stations are now structurally complete. In addition, the final steel beam was erected at the Operation and Maintenance Facility last Thursday.

Two Central Corridor-related events are scheduled for this Wednesday, October 10:

1. The open house for the recommended bus service changes along the Central Corridor will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Rondo Community Outreach Library in St. Paul. Transit staff will be on hand to answer questions about the changes to the concept plan, including route 94 midday service and route 83 extension to Como Park. These changes were implemented after a very comprehensive outreach effort which resulted in more than 800 comments from customers and stakeholders.
2. The new second-generation light rail vehicles will be introduced to the Twin Cities at a public event to be held at Target Field station at 1:30 p.m. Speakers will include Senator Klobuchar, Chair Haigh, Mayors Rybak and Coleman, Commissioners McLaughlin and McDonough and General Manager Brian Lamb. Guests will be able to board the car and take a look around. Councilmembers are, as always, invited to attend the event. The latest version of the METRO system map will also be shown at the Wednesday event and is also available to committee members to preview at today’s meeting. This new map features a clean geometric treatment in the cartography and the addition of stations.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Items

2012-310: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Phase I / Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment

Nani Jacobson, Assistant Director of Environment & Agreements for Southwest LRT, presented the item. She and Deputy General Manager Mark Fuhrmann responded to statements and questions from committee members about the schedule for preliminary engineering and final environmental impact statement (FEIS) activities and about the impacts on the project of MAP-21 legislation and the “fast-tracking” of Southwest LRT by the Obama Administration under the Federal Infrastructure Review and Permitting initiative. Following a brief discussion on the DBE requirements the agreement, CM Smith stated that she believes more discussion is in order with regard to the importance of holding

vendors to the original DBE goals rather than accepting a commitment to a lower number with a good-faith effort to raise levels to the established goal.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Doan:

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) for a Phase I and Limited Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project during the period November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$415,565.

Motion passed.

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

INFORMATION

1. "A" Minor Arterial Study Findings and Recommendations

MTS Senior Planner Mary Karlsson reviewed the findings of the study which she outlined at the September 24 meeting of this committee and provided an overview of the conclusions drawn and the recommendations developed based on the conclusions. Members of the Transportation Committee will be asked to provide comments on the draft report for discussion at the October 22 meeting.

2. 2012-2018 Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Plan

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy and Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, presented the proposed transit capital improvement plan and responded to questions from committee members.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Transportation Committee meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. October 8, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary