

# T Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 13, 2008

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

**Date Prepared:** May 12, 2009

**Subject:** Authorization to Eliminate Transit Route 255

### **Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the termination of Route 255, providing reverse commute service between downtown St. Paul and the Wells Fargo Operations Center in Shoreview, effective May 30, 2009.

### **Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

Rebecca McBride, Metropolitan Transportation Services Project Administrator, presented this item to the committee requesting authorization to proceed with the steps necessary to eliminate route 255. Chair Meeks reminded the committee that the last day of service for this route would be May 30<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Peggy Leppik asked what other transportation options were available to the affected ridership. Ms. McBride responded that the available options were: to bus from St. Paul to Mpls and take the Mpls reverse commute, to form a car pool, or to form a van pool. Dial a ride is not an option at this time.

Motion was made by Steffen, seconded by Beach and passed unanimously.

# Transportation Committee

**Business Item**  
Item: **SW 2009-156**

**Meeting date: May 11, 2009**

**For Metropolitan Council Meeting: May 13, 2009**

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

<b>Date:</b>	April 30, 2009
<b>Subject:</b>	Authorization to Terminate Route 255
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 10 - Kris Sanda District 13 – Richard Aguilar
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Council Policy 1-3 Transportation Planning and Transit Services, Procedure 1-3a Transportation Service Changes and Restructuring, Policy 1-3d and Policy 2-1 Public Accountability to the Public,
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Arlene McCarty, Director MTS (651)602-1754 Gerri Sutton, Asst Dir – Contract Transit Services (651)602-1672 John Harper, Supervisor – Contract Transit Services (651)602-1744 Rebecca McBride, Project Administrator (651)602-1722
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the termination of Route 255, providing reverse commute service between downtown St. Paul and the Wells Fargo Operations Center in Shoreview, effective May 30, 2009.

### Background

The Metropolitan Council implemented Route 255 on January 2, 2003 in response to the opening of the new Wells Fargo Operations Center in Shoreview. At that time, Wells Fargo relocated a significant number of entry-level positions from downtown Minneapolis locations, and also added positions. MTS and Metro Transit responded by implementing reverse commute service to Shoreview from downtown Minneapolis on Route 250 and from downtown St. Paul on Route 255. Ridership from St. Paul was modest at implementation, has continued to decline through the years, and now stands at less than 10 rides per day

Following approval by the Council on February 25, 2009, a public hearing was held at the Wells Fargo Operations Center on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to solicit comments related to the route elimination. Staff from MTS and Metro Transit were available to offer alternative transportation options. Public comments regarding the elimination of this route were accepted through 5:00 pm, Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

A report of public comments from the Public Hearing is available in the Metropolitan Council Data Center.

Summary information on the Public Hearing includes:

- Eleven people attended the hearing, including seven riders of the route. Council member Sanda addressed the hearing attendees.
- Three riders testified at the public hearing and one written comment was submitted to the Data center.
- Public comment was a general understanding that the route cannot operate at current levels but would appreciate keeping one trip in the morning and one in the evening.

### Rationale

Due to very low ridership and much higher than acceptable subsidy per passenger, staff recommends eliminating Route 255. The ridership is too low to justify retaining one morning and evening trip

## **Funding**

The Council spends approximately \$125,000 per year to subsidize this route. The funding previously assigned to this route will be redistributed to support the operation of other routes.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

Opposition to route 255 termination comes from the current ridership. They have requested to keep one trip each morning and evening.