

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, January 8, 2007

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Daniel Wolter Natalie Haas Steffen Peggy Leppik	Russ Susag Annette Meeks Roger Sherer	Brian McDaniel Georgie Hilker Richard Aguilar
Members Absent	Chris Georgacas		
Staff Presiding	Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit	Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Finance & Planning, Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, M.Hiill Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on January 8, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

M. Hill Smith stated that Information Item #5 (I-94 East Park and Ride Facility) on the agenda will not be heard at this meeting and suggested amending the agenda to exclude Information Item #5. Hearing no objection, it was moved by B.McDaniel seconded by P.Leppik to adopt the *amended* agenda for January 8, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by R.Susag seconded by P.Leppik to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2006 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION - Metropolitan Transportation Services

Gerri Sutton, Assistant Director Contracted Transit Services, Metropolitan Transportation Services, present recognition awards to the following Metropolitan Transportation Employees:
Jody Jacoby, Project Administrator, for her work on the operator's manual, and
Alison Coleman, Administrative Assistant, for taking on the work of another employee in addition to her own duties, while the employee was out on medical leave.

DIRECTOR METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES REPORT AND METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Finance & Planning stated that the Legislative Session is about to begin. Mary Hill Smith asked committee members if they should continue past practice of holding all Transportation Committees at Metropolitan Council Robert Street location during the Legislative Session, rather than alternating with Transit's Heywood location. The committee agreed. Transportation Committees will be held at the Robert Street location until the end of the Legislative Session.

Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager Metro Transit, reported that Metro Transit experienced great success in ridership numbers for 2006 – well beyond the goal set a year ago. Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb has set an aggressive 75 M rideership goal for 2007. Lamb met with the Republican National Committee to begin plans for the 2008 Republican National Convention. Bill Porter, Deputy Chief of Operations will take the lead on the plans and will report to the committee periodically as plans take shape.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

Motion made by B.McDaniel, seconded by D.Wolter to adopt the following four consent items. Motion carried.

2007-2 2007-2010 TIP Amendment, Metropolitan Council: SP #TRF-TCMT-07EE, Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC), TAB Action 2006-36.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) Action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to name the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) projects that will be funded using the 2007 appropriation of \$991,982 for JARC.

2007-3 2007-2010 TIP Amendment, North St. Paul and Ramsey County: SP# 151-010-02, #151-090-01, #62-596-01, TH 36 in North St. Paul, TAB Action 2006-37.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the Highways for Life (HFL) federal funding.

2007-4 TIP Amendment, Fernbrook Lane, City of Plymouth, TAB Action 2006-38.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to move SP # 155-164-11 from 2008 to 2007, increase the total project cost and postpone SP #91-090-40.

2007-15 2007-2010 TIP Amendment, MnDOT and Ramsey County: Include additional funds from the 2007 House Transportation Appropriation Bill in the total cost of the TH 36/McKnight Road reconstruction project, TAB Action 2006-40.

Motion: That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include federal money from the 2007 House Transportation Appropriation Bill in the total cost of the TH 36/McKnight Road reconstruction project.

BUSINESS –Action Items

2007-12 Controlled Access Approval of TH 36 in Ramsey County

Ann Braden, Metropolitan Transportation Services presented this item to the committee, and answered questions as to the communities' awareness of the project.

Motion was made by G.Hilker, seconded by R.Susag:

That the Metropolitan Council approve, as required by Mn Statute 473.166, the reconstruction of Trunk Highway (TH) 36 from an expressway to a freeway in the cities of Maplewood and North St. Paul as show on the layout and design attached to the business item.

That any significant changes in the design of the proposed project are subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objections, M.Hill Smith stated that this item could move forward as a consent item to the full Council.

2007-24 Authorization to Execute Contracts to Implement Capital Program

Cole Hiniker, Metropolitan Transportation Services presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members.

Motion was made by P.Leppik, seconded by N.Haas Steffen:

That the Regional Administrator be authorized to execute contracts for up to \$100,000 for MVTA bus technology and up to \$229,751 for the Northstar Commuter Coach lease.

Motion carried, with A. Meeks voting against.

2007-6 2007-2009 Contracts with Regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs)
Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing, presented this item to the committee; there were no questions from committee members.

Motion was made by N.Haas Steffen, seconded by P.Leppik:

To authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts with the five regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) for the pass through of federal CMAQ funds for Transportation Demand Management activities for the period of April 1, 2007 – March 21, 2009 in an amount not to exceed \$2,044,479.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objections, M.Hill Smith stated that this item could move forward as a consent item to the full Council.

2007-23 Authorization to Award Contract for Work Uniform Rental Program

Chris Gran, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee and answered questions regarding the proposals that were received.

Motion was made by B.McDaniel, seconded by G.Hilker:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with ARAMARK Uniform Services for Metro Transit Work uniform rental as specified and at the bid prices for a five-year period.

Motion carried.

Hearing no objections, M.Hill Smith stated that this item could move forward as a consent item to the full Council.

INFORMATION

1. Rush Line Transitway Update

Connie Kozlak, Manager Systems Planning Metropolitan Transportation Services, introduced Kathryn Fischer from Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority. Fischer gave a presentation on the status of the Rush Line Transitway and answered questions from committee members.

2. Red Rock Transitway Update

Connie Kozlak, Manager Systems Planning Metropolitan Transportation Services, introduced Mike Rogers, Washington County Transportation Planner. Rogers gave a presentation on the status of the Red Rock Corridor Transitway and answered questions from committee members.

3. Implementation of Metro Mobility Web Scheduling System

David Jacobson, General Manager Metro Mobility, introduced Matt Yager, Sr. IT Integration Analyst with Metro Mobility, who gave a presentation about the new Metro Mobility trip scheduling on the Web. At this time the system is being tested by volunteer users; at the request of M.Hill Smith staff will report back to the Transportation Committee with the results of the tests in approximately 3 months.

4. Go-To College Pass Survey

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing, introduced John Siqveland and Pam Steffen, also from Metro Transit Marketing, who gave a report on the Go-To College Pass Program and survey results. This program started as a demonstration program and has been quite successful. Staff will most likely come before the committee in the fall seeking approval for the program to become permanent.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

M.Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m. January 8 2007.

Respectfully submitted, - LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary