

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, February 12, 2007

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Daniel Wolter Roger Scherer	Russ Susag Annette Meeks Richard Aguilar	Brian McDaniel Georgie Hilker
Members Absent	Chris Georgacas	Natalie Haas Steffen	Peggy Leppik
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	None present		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, M.Hill Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on February 12, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was moved by G.Hilker seconded by D.Wolter to adopt the agenda for February 12, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by R.Susag seconded by D.Wolter to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2006 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services reported highlights from the legislative session. Staff is working on: 1) the issue of the proposal to make the Metropolitan Council an elected body; 2) proposals for corridors to be studied for transitway feasibility: 394, 494, I-94E and 35W; 3) educating committee and subcommittee members regarding the MVST language and the effect on budgets; and 4) discussions regarding Transit Taxing Districts.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported on the following: 1) last year (2006) accident rate for all of Metro Transit was down 5%; 2) the marketing group has revamped the P & R map for customers, brochure will be available soon; 3) four new full-time Metro Transit Police officers were sworn in last week and will be critical to the commitment to increase the Transit Police bus presence by 150%; 4) the Twinkle Bus was a success at the Winter Carnival parade; 5) FTA has sent another contingent for Financial Management Oversight Review to determine the Council and Metro Transit financial ability to handle major projects. This is a necessary review process before Northstar and Central Corridor. 6) mitigation efforts have helped with the problems of ice in the airport tunnel and LRT has operated as normal during the cold snap.

Lamb answered questions from M.Smith regarding the decrease in accidents, and from Scherer regarding the performance of buses during the bitter cold.

Smith requested a report from Metro Transit Police in a few months indicating pre-hire and post-hire safety figures, since hiring the four new police officers. Lamb indicated that a general presentation on safety on buses and rail will be part of the report on 2007 performance goals, a special report can be arranged.

A.Meeks commended the Laidlaw employee that was involved in an accident and apprehension of carjacker in North Minneapolis. Metro Mo. Staff (Paul Colton) will pass this on to Laidlaw.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

There were no consent items to consider.

BUSINESS –Action Items

2007-62 Procurement of Metro Mobility Buses and Other Regional Fleet Small Buses
Andrew Krueger, Fleet Manager, and Paul Colton, Operations Manager, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item and answered questions from committee members regarding ownership status and the status of the contract with Laidlaw.

Motion made by G.Hilker, seconded by A.Meeks:

That the Regional Administrator be authorized to execute purchase agreements from the following vendors for small buses in dollar amounts not to exceed:

1. North Central Bus Sales (437102) for 25 Metro Mobility buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,173,000.
2. North Central Bus Sales (437102) for one Regional Fleet bus not to exceed \$84,000.
3. Hogle Bus Co. Inc. (437103) for 55 Metro Mobility buses in an amount not to exceed \$2,986,000.

Motion carried.

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

2007-65 Principles for Central Corridor LRT Project Scope Changes
Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services and Mark Fuhrmann, Assistant General Manager Metro Transit presented this item. This item sets parameters about major scope changes that will be considered by the project throughout the PE process. McCarthy went over the 8 principles in the business item. Susag and Smith suggested that the parameter wording should be changed to clarify whether the impact is an increase or decrease factor and that the issues portion clarify that the alternative is the DEIS alternative. McCarthy will clarify the language in the business item before it goes before the full Council. Discussion followed regarding the Central Corridor downtown St. Paul loop. McCarthy stated that Ramsey County has done a study that is available. R.Aguilar would be interested in discussing the merits of the downtown loop.

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

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the following guiding principles to be applied when considering any proposed Central Corridor LRT major project scope changes:

To be considered, the proposed major scope change shall generally:

1. comply with current federal and state laws and guidelines;
2. not adversely impact the project schedule or project delivery;
3. positively impact (increase) ridership;
4. positively impact (increase)travel time saved;
5. positively impact (decrease) capital cost;
6. positively impact (decrease) operating cost;
7. positively impact (decrease)the FTA cost effectiveness index (CEI) value; and
8. include documented public input garnered through a public hearing process conducted by the project partner sponsoring the proposed change.

Motion carried.

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

2007-58 28th Avenue Parking Structure Interagency Agreement and Project Reaffirmation
Tom Thorstenson, Metro Transit presented this item to the committee. He gave background, overview, elements of the development agreement proposed, budget summary and key milestones. There was discussion regarding the cost to Metro Transit for construction of a road, whether the Park-and-Ride structure will be used by Metro Transit users, or non-users wishing to obtain free parking for other purposes, and benefits to the tax revenues to the City of Bloomington. Also discussed a new law this year that allows the City to assess Metro Transit for intersection and roadway improvements that are required as a result, or partially as a result, of the parking structure.

Motion by R.Susag, seconded by D.Wolter:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington, Minnesota, for intersection improvements at 28th Avenue and Old Shakopee Road and that the Metropolitan Council reaffirm its authorization to execute agreements with the Bloomington Port Authority.

Motion carried - show of hands - Yes votes: Smith, Susag, Hilker and Wolter. No votes: Aguilar, Scherer, Meeks. Abstain: McDaniel.

2007-55 Authorization to Award Contract for Armored Car Service

Chris Gran, MetroTransit presented this item to the committee, there were no questions from committee members.

Motion by R.Scherer, seconded by R.Susag:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a contract with GARDA, Inc. to provide armored car service as specified and at the bid prices for a three-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. Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan

Cole Hiniker, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. This plan will be used as the basis for distribution of federal funding under: Jobs Access Reverse Commute, New Freedoms program and Elderly and Disabled Program (5310). The Plan is required to be in place by FFY 2008. Projects to be funded under the above three programs must be a part of the Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan. The public review period is opening today and will last approximately 1 month. There will be a public and stakeholder meeting on February 27, 2007; Hiniker will be sending out information. The proposed plan will be available on the website. The solicitation will begin after anticipated Council approval of the plan in March.

2. Metro Transit Warranty Program

Russ Heimerl, Fleet Services Supervisor, and Heinz Gutmair, Warranty Supervisor, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee. This program covers the areas of warranties for buses, LRT vehicles (including communication and signal equipment, stations and power generation) and parts for both bus and rail. In 2003, Metro Transit began tracking parts on both bus & rail to see how long they last, if there is failure MT goes after the manufacturer. In some cases, Metro Transit mechanics perform the warranty work, saving money and learning about the equipment and technologies. The program has recovered the following amounts: between 1999 & 2006 bus warranty = \$ 4.6M; between 2004& 2006 LRT = \$ 1.5M; between 2003 & 2006 new parts warranty = \$ 343,000 for a total of \$6,443,000 savings between the warranty and fleet defects.

3. NuRide Demonstration Program with St. Paul Transportation Management Organization (TMO)

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Marketing, introduced Rick Steel of NuRide and Ms. Alex Stockman and Deepti Basnet from the St. Paul TMO. The St. Paul TMO is leading this new program as another tool to move people. NuRide is an internet, reward and membership -based, flexible program to serve the need for people who need on-demand rides. Membership to the program is based on employment affiliation

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(making it trustworthy, and able to contact), and is corporate sponsored. Steel showed a video and performed a simulation of how the trip booking works.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

M.Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m. February 12, 2007.

Respectfully submitted, - LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary