

Meeting of the Transportation Committee
Monday, August 13, 2007

Members Present	Mary Hill Smith, Chair Georgie Hilker Daniel Wolter	Roger Scherer Brian McDaniel Kirstin Sersland Beach	Peggy Leppik Richard Aguilar Annette Meeks
Members Absent	Natalie Haas Steffen	Russ Susag	
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	David Gepner		

CALL TO ORDER

M.Hill Smith called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:05 pm on August 13, 2007 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul. A quorum was not present, so the meeting began with Information Item 2 from the agenda pertaining to the 2007 State Fair Update.

2007 State Fair Update.

Maria Cone and Eric Isakson from Metro Transit Marketing gave a presentation and answered questions from members on the ridership goal, service changes, service statistics, highlights for Hop on Transit Day, and marketing (radio spots, etc.) for the 2007 State Fair.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A quorum was now present; it was moved by Leppik seconded by McDaniel to adopt the agenda for August 13, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Leppik, seconded by McDaniel to approve the minutes from the July 23, 2007 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

M.Hill Smith announced that a special meeting will be held in Metropolitan Council Chambers on Wednesday, August 15, 2007 at 11:30 am with the Transportation Advisory Board/Metropolitan Council/Central Corridor Management Committee where MnDOT will give an informational talk about the plans to reconstruct the I-35W bridge. Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services passed out letters that have been sent from Carol Molnau, Lt.Governor and Peter Bell to Governor Pawlenty and from Tom Sorel, FHWA to Carol Molnau.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION - Metropolitan Transportation Services

Arlene McCarthy, presented employee recognition awards to David Vessel, Charles Carlson and Rachel Wiken for their work on the Functional Classification Study.

Amy Vennewitz, Metropolitan Transportation Services Deputy Director Finance & Planning presented an award to James Andrew for his work on the updated Public Participation Plan and the Regional Solicitation. McCarthy also reported that Institute of Transportation Engineers awarded Metropolitan Council for the work on the TOD Guidebook at an awards ceremony on August 4, 2007. McCarthy also acknowledged that the TOD Guidebook was the product of the work of several people in various departments. Connie Kozlak of MTS staff attended the awards banquet in Pittsburgh and accepted the award on behalf of Metropolitan Council.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services did not have anything to add outside of the above reports.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that Mary Peters, Secretary of Transportation, visited Heywood when she was in town and met employees of many cross-sections of jobs who work for Metro Transit. Regarding the I35W bridge collapse, he stated that \$5 M has been appropriated by the federal government for emergency services, available immediately.

Metro Transit is providing extra service in the am and pm. The afternoon rush hour appears to be extending longer in the day. The U of M opening in the first week of September may present a challenge for Metro Transit.

BUSINESS – Consent Items

2007-264 2007-2010 TIP Amendment: Transit for Livable Communities and MnDOT Metro District, TAB Action 2007-41

Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include 12 projects totaling \$6,572,200 selected in 2007 for funding through the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program.

BUSINESS –Action Items

2007-255 Contract Amendment with NEST to Operate Route 219

Bruce Dreier, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Hilker, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract amendment with Northeast Suburban Transit for Route 219 transit service from October 1, 2007 to December 1, 2007 in an amount not to exceed \$59,300 for the term.

Hearing no objection, M. Hill stated that this item could go to the full Council as a consent item.

2007-256 Contract Amendment with DARTS to Operate Route 417

Bruce Dreier, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract amendment with Dakota Area Resources and Transportation for Seniors (DARTS) to provide regular route transit service in the West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, and downtown St. Paul areas from October 1, 2007 to December 1, 2007 in an amount not to exceed \$14,250 for the term.

Hearing no objection, M. Hill stated that this item could go to the full Council as a consent item.

2007-257 Contract Amendment with H.S.I. to Operate the South Washington County Transit Service Contract

Bruce Dreier, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by McDaniel, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract amendment with Human Services, Inc. (H.S.I) for South Washington County transit service from October 1, 2007 to December 1, 2007 in an amount not to exceed \$149,160 for the term.

Hearing no objection, M. Hill stated that this item could go to the full Council as a consent item.

2007-253 Unified Operating Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie, Director Finance Metro Transit, presented this item. There were no further questions or comments from committee members.

Motion by Wolter, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2007 Operating Budget as shown on summary sheet attached to the business item.

2007-254 2007-2012 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Program and Budget Amendment

Ed Petrie, Director Finance Metro Transit and Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Finance & Planning Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented their respective division changes to the 2007 Capital Program and Budget; they and Brian Lamb answered questions from the committee members.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Amend the 2007 Authorized Capital Program (multi-year authorization) by adding and removing spending authority as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metro Transit	(\$ 1,871,862)
Metropolitan Transportation Services	<u>6,423,118</u>
Transportation Division Total	\$ 4,551,256
- Amend the 2007 Capital Budget (annual appropriation) by adding or reducing appropriations as follows in the Transportation Division:

Metro Transit	(\$ 3,536,307)
Metropolitan Transportation Services	<u>98,000</u>
Transportation Division Total	(\$ 3,438,307)
- Approve transfers between capital projects as detailed in Attachment 1 of the business item.

2007-267 Authorization to Purchase Furniture and Equipment for the Central Corridor Project Office

Gary Berger, Administrative Manager-TSD -Metro Transit presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members regarding competitive bids, using state contract, and number of employees and length of the occupation of the site.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Hilker, motion passed with Meeks voting against.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase furniture and equipment for the CCPO in a total amount not to exceed \$1,690,000.

2007-272 Authority to Implement I-35 Bridge Transit Response Plan

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit and Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services presented this item to the committee. Lamb verbally changed the item as follows: The first

bullet in Table A of the business item should read, "Exercise a contract with Gillig Corporation for the purchase of up to 40 forty-foot transit buses in an amount not to exceed \$16.6 million." *(take out the words in the middle of the sentence: "up to 19 hybrid diesel electric buses and up to 21 diesel buses")*

Lamb answered questions regarding: training and 2 yr. fleet defect warranty.

Motion by Meeks, seconded by Wolter, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2007 Operating Budget by \$5.0 million revenue and expense and authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into contracts necessary to implement the I-35 Bridge Transit Response Plan as detailed in revised Table A of the business item.

INFORMATION

1. 2007 Solicitation for Federal Transportation Project Funding Status Update

James Andrew and Kevin Roggenbuck, Metropolitan Transportation Services, gave an update on the types of projects, number of projects, amounts of revenues requested in categories and the schedule dates for the Solicitation

2. 2007 State Fair Update

Addressed as the first item of the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

M.Hill Smith apologized about the short notice of change in venue for the meeting. The meetings are proposed to be held at F.T.Heywood facility in Minneapolis from now through November 2007. Please take note of the location as listed on each agenda as mailed to committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

M.Hill Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m August 13, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary