

**Meeting of the Transportation Committee**  
**Monday, August 27, 2007**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being present, A. Meeks called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 pm on August 27, 2007 at Metro Transit Chambers, Minneapolis.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Susag seconded by Wolter to adopt the agenda for the August 27, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2007 regular Transportation Committee meeting. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit**

Adam Harrington, Manager of Route and System Planning, introduced Cyndi Harper, a Transit Planner with Metro Transit since October 2000. Harper is being recognized for her responsiveness to the needs of a wide variety of stakeholders in the transit service planning process, including government staff, elected officials, business owners, and neighborhood communities as well as internal customers across Metro Transit and Met Council. A recognition plaque was presented by General Manager Brian Lamb and Chair Meeks, who added her personal appreciation for the efforts of Harper and the Transit Planning staff in response to recent challenges.

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

Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported that September 1 is the date for transition to Midwest Paratransit Services as the provider for Lake Minnetonka Area Dial-A-Ride service. Midwest Paratransit has been working with that community recently to establish a presence and address concerns. Additionally, three drivers from the previous provider have been hired by Midwest Paratransit, and the telephone number was purchased to help ease the transition for customers.

An update to the Transit Master Plan will be given to the committee in September. The modeling contract was signed last week by the Regional Administrator. The consultant on the project is SRF Consulting Group. Representatives from Mn/DOT are planning to attend one of the Metropolitan Council meetings in September to provide an update on the 35W bridge reconstruction project and to field questions from the Council.

Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit, reported that Transit is ready to move into the next step of its Go Greener initiative, which is to double the biodiesel content of bus fuel to 10%. Lamb noted that this achievement precedes by 8 years the governor's plan for 2% biodiesel by the year 2015. Progress toward

Transit's March 2008 benchmark of 20% biodiesel content is also on track.

Lamb provided a status report on Metro Transit State Fair service, stating that ridership is on target with projections. Express service to date is showing an increase over last year of approximately 30%. This is offset by a decline in shuttle service of 15%, which is largely attributed to the loss of parking space on the U of M campus. Lamb highlighted "Hop on Transit" Day events on August 29, which will include activities and displays in the Grandstand and Carousel Park as well as the annual parade.

## **BUSINESS – Consent Items**

2007-278 Authorization to Execute Contracts for SouthWest Transit garage expansion and the Northstar Corridor Development Authority coach lease.  
Motion by Wolter, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Regional Administrator be authorized to execute contracts for up to \$1,929,876 for a SouthWest Transit garage expansion and up to \$295,732 for the Northstar Commuter Coach bus lease.

## **BUSINESS –Action Items**

2007-263 Subordinate Funding Agreement #1 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project

Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit, presented this item to the committee and answered general questions from committee members.

Motion by Susag, seconded by Hilker, motion passed.

Motion:

Authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #1 in the amount of \$336,617 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project.

2007-276 Adoption of the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee and answered questions from committee members, with particular regard to the possible effect on the TIP of unforeseen events such as the I-35W bridge collapse.

Motion by Leppik, seconded by Susag, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Adopt the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.
2. Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
  - Section 134 of Title 23, U.S.C., Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607);
  - Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)).
  - Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of the 1964 and Title VI assurance executed by each state under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794;
  - Section 1101 (g) of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Pub. L. 105-178) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in FHWA and FTA funded planning projects (Pub. L. 97-424, Section 105 (f); 49 CFR part 23); and
  - The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, as amended) and U.S. DOT regulations (Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities (40 CFR parts 27, 37 and 38)).
3. Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Development Guide Chapter/Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.

5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements.
6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for public, agency and transit operators involvement through its regular process and special public meetings, and hearing.
7. Transmit the 2007-2010 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

2007-270 Disposition of 38<sup>th</sup> Street Surplus Property, Hiawatha Corridor

Guy Peterson, Office of Local Assistance, presented this item to the committee, and he and Brian Lamb answered questions from committee members regarding location, bidding and disposition options. Motion by Susag, seconded by Leppik, motion passed.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to proceed with the sale of the property previously deemed surplus by the Metropolitan Council on February 6, 2006, located at 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Hiawatha Avenue to KK Corporation.

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.

## **INFORMATION**

1. Performance Measures Report for July  
Bill Porter and Chief Dave Indrehus of Metro Transit presented performance results for on-time performance, reliability and safety and security goals. Indrehus also reported that four full-time transit police officers would be sworn in on August 28, there are several employment offers still outstanding and that interviewing is taking place for Community Service Officers. Porter and Indrehus answered questions regarding statistical and customer feedback resulting from increased onboard police presence.
2. Monthly Ridership Report for July  
Ed Petrie and Bruce Howard presented ridership measurements and status of marketing efforts and answered questions from committee members about how rides are counted.
3. Access Minneapolis Downtown Action  
Adam Harrington of Metro Transit and Connie Kozlak of MTS provided an update on the Access Minneapolis 10-year plan and answered general questions from Committee Members.
4. Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) Overview  
Arlene McCarthy of MTS provided a summary of the Urban Partnership Agreement and provided clarification for Committee Members on scope, logistics and timing of various aspects of the plan.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A. Meeks adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm August 27, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Maday, Recording Secretary