

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Monday, November 26, 2007

Committee Members Present Mary Hill Smith, Chair
 Richard Aguilar
 Kirstin Sersland Beach
 Georgie Hilker
 Peggy Leppik
 Brian McDaniel
 Roger Scherer
 Russ Susag
 Daniel Wolter

Others Present David Gepner, TAB Liaison

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Smith called the regular meeting of the Council's Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 26, 2007.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The agenda was amended to reflect the following:

- Business Item 2007-379 was deleted and will be presented at a future meeting of the Transportation Committee.
- The Northstar Commuter Rail Update and Item 2007-397 were moved up in the agenda to be presented immediately before Item 2007-398.

It was then moved by Wolter, seconded by Beach to approve the amended agenda. **The motion carried.**

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2007 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **The motion carried.**

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Jan Homan, Metro Transit Director of Bus Maintenance, introduced Dan Aasen, a certified mechanic at the Heywood Garage since 1994. Aasen is being recognized for his overall contributions to the Heywood team and specifically for his design of a device to move ramps used for cleaning buses. These ramps formerly needed to be moved manually, and the new device substantially reduces both the effort needed to accomplish maintenance tasks and the level of safety risk involved with manual placement of ramps. Chair Smith and Metro Transit General Manager Brian Lamb expressed their appreciation and presented Aasen with a recognition plaque.

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

Brian Lamb, Metro Transit General Manager, reported on the Hiawatha LRT incident on November 21 in which a pedestrian was struck and killed by a train near the 46th Street station. He provided available details regarding the circumstances of the incident and reported that the investigation indicates that all safety and warning systems were functional and deployed appropriately. The feasibility and potential effectiveness of additional safety systems is being studied for light-rail crossing areas.

Paving is underway at the new, Mn/DOT-owned Park and Ride lot at I-35W and Industrial Boulevard. Lamb expressed Metro Transit's appreciation for the contribution by Flint Hills Resources of liquid asphalt, which helped considerably to expedite the project after Metro Transit took over the completion of the project from Mn/DOT. The lot is scheduled to open in early December.

Annual caulking of the Metropolitan Airports Commission is continuing in order to help prevent water leakage into the tunnel. In addition, switch heaters have been installed to prevent ice buildup on the tracks.

Metro Transit night of the Holidazzle Parade is December 8. Council members and their families are invited to ride Transit's Twinkle Bus that night. Those interested are asked to contact Bruce Howard for arrangements.

A committee will be formed to explore options for devising a new color scheme for Metro Transit buses to better integrate their appearance with the design of the Northstar locomotives and coach cars. Two to three meetings will be held between now and the end of January, with final concepts to be presented at the January 28, 2008, meeting of the Transportation Committee. Committee members who wish to participate in the discussions are asked to contact GM Lamb or Chair Smith.

Arlene McCarthy, Director of Metropolitan Transportation Services, reported that Washington County had voted to approve bus service to Forest Lake. The service will be managed by Metro Transit but will be contracted out to a private provider. This is part of the overall response to the I-35W bridge collapse response. An update on the current status of the bridge response strategies will be presented to the Council in December.

MTS met with the Minnesota Department of Administration to discuss options available which could be used to replace a van pool program the Department is considering discontinuing. The Council's Van-GO! Program was discussed as well as other transit programs offered by Met Council/Metro Transit which could be used as an alternative to Administration operating its own van pool.

BUSINESS

A. Consent List

None

B. Non-Consent Items

2007-383 Authorization to Award Contract for Van-GO! Vanpool Program

Randy Rosvold, MTS senior project administrator, presented this item and answered questions from committee members about operator certification, budgeting aspects of the contract and the number and location of providers from proposals were solicited.

It was moved by Leppik, seconded by Hilker to approve the item. The motion carried.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Vanpool Services, Inc. (VPSI) to provide vans and administrative support for the Van-GO! Vanpool program from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$ 2.9 million.

Hearing no objections, Chair Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2007-389 2008-2011 TIP Amendment for SP #19-670-08, CSAH 70 in Lakeville (TAB Action 2007-58)

Connie Kozlak of MTS presented this item for approval. There were no questions from the committee.

It was moved by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter to approve the item. The motion carried.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to increase the total cost for SP #19-670-08, CSAH 70 in Lakeville, from \$15,200,000 to \$20,000,000.

Hearing no objections, Chair Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2007-391 Preparation of a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item to the committee. He provided clarification on the location of proposed stations and the rationale for the locations and route alignment.

It was moved by Susag, seconded by Leppik to approve the item. The motion carried.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to prepare and publish a Notice of Intent, for publication in the *Federal Register* and a Notice of Preparation, for publication in the State EQB *Monitor* notifying interested agencies and the general public of the Metropolitan Council's intent to prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) as part of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) project development process.

Hearing no objections, Chair Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2007-392 Authorization for Sole Source Purchase of Rail Tire Kits (Chris Gran 612-349-5060)

Chris Gran, Metro Transit Director of Purchasing, and Gene Sheldon, Supervisor of Rail Maintenance, presented this item to the committee for approval. There were no questions.

It was moved by Leppik, seconded by Wolter to approve the item. The motion carried.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to purchase, during 2008, rail truck tire kits on a sole-source basis from Penn Machine Company in an amount not to exceed \$325,000.

Hearing no objections, Chair Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2007-393 Authorization to Award Contract for Travel Instruction Services

Andrew Krueger presented this item to the committee for approval. There were no questions.

It was moved by Hilker, seconded by Susag to approve the item. The motion carried.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a contract with Safe Travel to provide travel instruction services from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$485,000.

Hearing no objections, Chair Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2007-396 Cedar Lake Trail Interagency Agreement

Mark Fuhrmann presented this item for approval and responded to questions regarding the route of the trail and the impact on it of the construction of the new Twins ballpark.

It was moved by Leppik, seconded by Hilker to approve the item. The motion carried.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Cooperation Agreement with the State of Minnesota, the Northstar Corridor Development Authority, and the City of Minneapolis to provide a limited use permit for the Cedar Lake Trail along the Northstar Commuter Rail corridor in downtown Minneapolis between North Fifth Street and North Washington Avenue.

Hearing no objections, Chair Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2007-397 Exercising Option with Motive Power Inc. for Option for One MP36 Locomotive (Rich Rovang)

Rich Rovang, Central Corridor Deputy Director, presented this item for approval. He answered a question from a committee member regarding the expected lifespan of a locomotive of this type.

It was moved by Scherer, seconded by Beach to approve the item. The motion carried.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

- Negotiate and execute a funding agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) for reimbursement of the costs incurred by the Council in procuring a fifth locomotive for the Northstar project.

- Negotiate and execute an Intergovernmental, Joint Powers, and Assignment Agreement with the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), or an amendment to the existing agreement, assigning to the Council UTA's rights to exercise an option to purchase a fifth remanufactured locomotive from MotivePower, Inc.

Negotiate and execute a supplemental agreement, or an amendment to the existing supplemental agreement, with MotivePower Inc. for a fifth remanufactured MP36 locomotive in an amount not to exceed \$2,875,000 subject to the execution of the reimbursement agreement with Mn/DOT.

Hearing no objections, Chair Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

2007-398 Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Northstar Corridor Development Authority for the Northstar Corridor Locomotive and Passenger Car Procurements (Rich Rovang 651-602-1941)

Rich Rovang presented this item for committee approval. He answered questions regarding the benefits of a joint powers agreement for this process. C. Gran and A. McCarthy responded to a question from the committee as to Metro Transit's usual process for obtaining equipment and services.

It was moved by Susag, seconded by Scherer to approve the item. The motion carried.

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) for Met Council procurement of Northstar passenger cars utilizing Best Value selection criteria.

Hearing no objections, Chair Smith stated that this item could move to the full Council as a Consent Item.

INFORMATION

1. Cedar/Robert Street Corridor Updates (Connie Kozlak 651-601-1720, Dan Krom – Dakota County)
Connie Kozlak introduced Dan Krom, Transit Manager for Dakota County, who provided an update on the studies being conducted on transit corridors along Cedar Avenue and Robert Street. He distributed copies of a public mailing listing some of the project details and the schedule of open meetings on the corridor development. There were no questions from the committee.
2. 2007 Annual Regional Park-and-Ride System Survey (Craig Lamothe 612-349-7690)
Craig Lamothe, Metro Transit Manager of Facilities Planning, presented the results of the annual survey of park-and-ride lot usage. He highlighted the overall system-wide increase in usage, including the expanded capacity in response to the I-35W bridge collapse. In response to a question from a committee Lamothe stated that there are currently 104 park-and-ride lots in use, including those used for Suburban Transit Authority Provider service.
3. Monthly Ridership for October (Ed Petrie 612-349-7624, Bruce Howard 612-349-7694)
Ed Petrie, Metro Transit Director of Finance, and Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Director of Marketing, presented ridership data through October as well as current marketing strategies to increase transit awareness and usage.
4. Performance Measures Report for September/October (Bill Porter 612-349-7519, Dave Indrehus 612-349-7201)
Bill Porter, Metro Transit Deputy Chief Operating Officer for Bus, and Chief Dave Indrehus of the Metro Transit Police Department presented performance, safety and security data for September and October. In response to a committee member question Indrehus stated that he will provide the committee with information showing the correlation between police on-board hours and crime levels.
5. Update on New Bus Installations of Digital Video Recording (DVR) Systems (Jan Homan 612-349-5000, Richard Sorenson 612-349-5072)
Jan Homan presented an overview of the DVR systems currently being installed in Metro Transit buses. He

stated that all new buses will include the system and buses in the existing fleet will be retrofitted with the new equipment. Rich Sorenson, Electronics Shop Supervisor at Metro Transit's Overhaul Base, provided a video demonstration of the new system in use.

6. Northstar Commuter Rail Update

Mark Fuhrmann provided an update on the status of the Northstar project including funding status, construction of the vehicle maintenance facility and contract schedules. In response to a committee member's question Fuhrmann clarified the reasons for opting not to purchase the fifth locomotive at the beginning of the process. He also answered another question regarding the likelihood of federal approval of the FFGA.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Smith announced that due to the holiday schedule only one meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held in December, on December 10. That meeting will take place in the Metropolitan Council Chambers.

The January 14, 2008, meeting will be held in the Met Council Chambers, and the January 28 meeting will be at the Heywood Chambers. Beginning in February, while the state legislature is in session, all Transportation Committee meetings will be held in the Council Chambers in St. Paul.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Maday
Recording Secretary