

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: September 25, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members Present:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Deb Barber, D4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Anjuli Cameron, District 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susan Vento, District 11 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2 | <input type="checkbox"/> John Pacheco Jr., District 6 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Carter, District 14 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tyronne Carter, District 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diego Morales, District 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenzin Dolkar, District 15 |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> = present |

Call to Order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:04 p.m.

Agenda Approved

Council Members did not have any comments or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Vento to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2023 regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.**

Employee Recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced Rail Quality Training and Analysis Senior Manager Ed Meyer who presented an award to Light Rail Training Manager Ona Pradhan and Rail Training Supervisor Thomas Ritenour (not present, Signals Technician Eric Hokanson); and Rail Transportation Assistant Manager Jim Perron who presented to Light Rail Operator Bill Blair.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Director

Contracted Services

In late April it was reported that due to supply chain issues there was delayed replacement of buses for Metro Mobility and other small bus services, part of a national issue for these services. Hundreds of buses due for replacement were well above the Council's 175,000 mile replacement policy, with 2014-2016 models over 325,000 miles on average. An update to that is there are 28 new buses in service, 22 additional buses in the Twin Cities in preparation to enter service, and 66 buses in production. Nationally, more production has been allocated toward transit as the RV industry has scaled back with decreased demand. While there is progress being made, caution is needed as impacts have not been seen as it relates to the United Auto Works Strike.

MVST

Motor vehicle sales tax continues to perform well, with year-to-date receipts through August at 113% of forecast, or around \$266 million, which is \$30 million above forecast. July and August were 115% and 124% of forecast, which is partly from the change in state law increasing the rate of MVST from 6.5% to 6.875%. However, the distribution between metro and greater MN also changed, with the metro share reducing from 36% to 34.3% of the total statewide MVST receipts. The combined effect of these changes is a small increase to transit funding for all providers. A new forecast reflecting the updated rate will be prepared by the state in November.

2. Metro Transit General Manager
No report.
3. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)
No report.
4. Joint Labor Management Safety Committee (JLMSC)
Andrew Brody and Tom Waste gave an update on JLMSC activities.

Consent Business

1. There were no consent items on the agenda.

Non-Consent Business

1. **2023-195:** METRO B Line – Amendment 1 to Hennepin County Joint Powers and Cooperative Construction Agreement 22I046

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyronne, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Amendment 1 to contract 22I046, Joint Powers and Cooperative Construction Agreement with Hennepin County, to receive approximately \$27,000,000 in additional funds for construction of County-requested improvements along the METRO B Line corridor.

Metro Transit Arterial BRT Director Katie Roth presented an update on ABRT projects. Metro Transit BRT Projects Manager Frank Alarcon presented this item. Chamblis expressed excitement for the B Line and how many businesses and residents along Rice Street will benefit from the more frequent and faster service.

Motion carried.

2. **2023-196:** METRO B Line – Amendment 2 to Engineering and Construction Administration Contract 20P322

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Amendment 2 to contract 20P322 with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. for engineering and construction administration services for the METRO B Line BRT project, to increase the contract value by \$2,399,269, for a revised contract not to exceed amount of \$13,834,168.

Metro Transit BRT Projects Manager Frank Alarcon introduced Senior Project Coordinator Alcia Valenti who presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

3. **2023-209:** Micro Pilot Project Fare Change

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize an increase of Metro Transit micro pilot fare from local to express fares.



Metro Transit Service Development Senior Planner Victoria Dan and Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Services Program Manager Shelia Holbrook-White presented this item. Carter, Tyronne asked what the vehicle type and capacity is. Holbrook-White said the vehicle is an accessible small bus and Dan stated there are 10 seats plus two wheelchair slots. Carter, Toni asked if longer wait times could be an alternative to increasing fares. Holbrook-White said that was considered but as the wait time increases, inefficiencies are injected into the service; inefficiencies include items such as customer refusals of the proposed pick-up time, customer cancellations prior to pick-up, and no shows at time of pick-up. Holbrook-White continued that these customer reactions to wait times of more than 30 minutes results in wasted resources and negatively impacts service availability for other customers. The impact of various fare tools was discussed in response to a question by Carter, Toni. Metro Transit Service Development Director Adam Harrington stated the fare would increase for customers except those with a reduced fare such as TAP (who pay \$1 at all times), those with student passes, those eligible for mobility fare, etc. Harrington stated that Metro Transit has an agreement with Minneapolis Public Schools to provide passes to all high school students and parents of other students can purchase a pass individually. Chamblis asked what is included in the supportive residences category. Holbrook-White stated that these residences are income restricted housing, with some also requiring that residents have physical, behavioral, and substance use diagnoses. Morales asked if the algorithm prioritizes low-income customers. Dan stated that our program software allows prioritization of specific user types, but we haven't pursued that within the program. Chair Barber asked if the Mirco mobile booking app and Metro Transit's app could be integrated. Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras stated that is a good question and will be taken back to staff who lead the Metro Transit app. Chair Barber asked if staff are looking out two or three years and figuring out the next target areas. Kandaras stated that the Legislative omnibus bill includes funding for microtransit, so extending this pilot will be valuable and help guide the next steps for the Council's micro transit service.

Motion carried.

4. **2023-222 SW:** Close Out of Master Operations Funding Agreement for Transitway Service

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Carter, Tyronne, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

Enter into Memoranda of Understanding with Hennepin, Ramsey and Anoka counties for the Termination and Close Out of the Master Operations and Funding Agreement for Transitway Service for the METRO Blue Line, METRO Green Line and Northstar Commuter Rail.

Metro Transit Finance Senior Manager Steve True presented this item. Morales asked if all counties have paid what is owed. Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras stated that there are some outstanding questions about Northstar service and what Anoka county owes. Chair Barber asked what the next step would be if the agreement is not being followed. Kandaras stated the action in tonight's item is really implanting what is already in the legislation and any steps beyond that will need to be discussed further.

Motion carried.

5. **2023-224:** Orange Line Operating Grant Agreements with the Funding Transitway Counties

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute final operating grants agreements for the METRO Orange Line for the period of December 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023 with the Funding Transitway Counties of Hennepin County and Dakota County.

Metro Transit Finance Senior Manager Steve True presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.



6. **2023-225 JT:** Transit Rider Investment Program, Resolution 2023-19

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Morales, to comply with the Legislature's directives in the Transit Rider Investment Program (TRIP), that the Metropolitan Council:

- 1) Adopt Resolution 2023-19; and
- 2) Adopt the Transit Rider Investment Program Policy

Metro Transit Interim TRIP Manager Leah Palmer presented this item. Chamblis stated her support for this item and believes the resolution makes sense in how we are administering noncompliance on fares and allows us to put people first. Chair Barber thanked staff for their previous presentation to the Committee of the Whole to allow discussion with all Council members.

Motion carried.

Information

1. METRO G Line Draft Corridor Plan

Metro Transit Arterial BRT Planner Laura Greteman presented this item. Several Council members expressed excitement seeing this project move forward. Vento asked that staff connect with the City of Little Canada as they were very interested and had some particular goals in relation to this project.

2. Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan 2022 Annual Report

Metro Transit Electric Bus Infrastructure Manager Carrie Desmond and Bus Maintenance Assistant Director Jeremiah Riter presented this item. Vento asked what type of on-route charger incidents have occurred. Desmond responded that the incidents have been a variety of things such as redoing circuits, climate specific things, communication challenges, etc. Desmond stated our charges are models 1 and 2, so they are the first on the market and these incidents have helped develop preventative actions and design changes for future units. Vento asked if the size of the ZEB plays a factor in the issues. Riter stated the size does play a factor for overall capacity range, but the base components are transitional between the sizes. Chair Barber added that we only have articulated buses, no 40ft yet. Carter, Tyronne asked if we receive any carbon credits. Desmond responded that is not something that's currently applicable in our jurisdiction. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson added that part of the 2023 legislation requires that in 2025 any expansion project must evaluate and mitigate the emissions, so carbon credits might be result that that work; more to come.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:00p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of September 25, 2023.

Approved this 09 day of October 2023.

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