

Metropolitan Council

Metro Transit Heywood Chambers, 560 Sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis MN 55411

Meeting of the Transportation Committee Monday, March 26, 2012

Members Present	Steve Elkins, Chair Lona Schreiber, Vice Chair James Brimeyer	Roxanne Smith Adam Duinick	Jon Commers Jennifer Munt
Members Absent	John Đoàn	Edward Reynoso	
Staff Presiding	Brian Lamb, General Manager Metro Transit	Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services	
TAB Liaison	not present		

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present when Committee Chair Elkins called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:01 p.m. on March 26, 2012 at Metropolitan Council Chambers, St. Paul.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commers, seconded by Munt to adopt the agenda for the March 26, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Schreiber, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2012 Transportation Committee meeting. Motion passed.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Metro Transit

Director of Bus Maintenance Jan Homan introduced the three winners of Metro Transit's 2012 Maintenance Roadeo Competition. They competed against other mechanic-technicians and earned the opportunity to compete nationally this May in Long Beach, California.

- Dan Aasen has worked for Metro Transit for 18 years as a mechanic-technician. While Dan is proficient in all areas of the bus, he currently works as a power train/electrical technician. Dan has worked at the Heywood garage for his entire career at Metro Transit. Dan is a 7-time winner in Metro Transit's Roadeo competition.
- Latchminarine ("Nar") Timaul is on the verge of completing 12 years as a Metro Transit mechanic-technician. Nar currently works as an articulated bus technician at Heywood garage. In addition to performing all types of general mechanical repair and maintenance, Nar has also held positions that specialize in power train, electrical and wheelchair lifts. This is the second consecutive year that Nar has been a Roadeo winner.
- Chris Antholz has worked at Metro Transit for about 2½ years as a mechanic-technician. Chris has worked his entire career as a power train/electrical technician and is currently working on the second shift at Heywood Garage.

Mr. Homan also presented Heywood Maintenance Manager Bill Beck for recognition by the committee. Bill manages Metro Transit's largest fleet at the busiest garage – a challenging task that he does very well. He recently received a commendation from the Instruction Center for lending his support in making buses available for on-road operator training as well as for his overall professionalism. Bill has also been instrumental in coordinating and arranging other company events and projects – including the Bus Maintenance Roadeo, planning and coordinating the event for several years and serving as a coach for the national competition.

A nearly 32-year employee of Metro Transit, Bill is highly respected by his employees, peers and other departments. Beginning his Metro Transit career as a bus cleaner, Bill worked up through the ranks to his current position, which he has held for about 5 years.

Heywood Garage Manager Jeff Wostrel introduced Bus Operator Tony Taylor, and South Garage Manager Danielle Julkowski introduced Bus Operator Jerry Olson, both of whom are being recognized for their many contributions to Metro Transit.

- Tony Taylor started with Metro Transit in 1978 and has received the Safe Driving award 32 times and Outstanding Operator award 27 times. He was a full-time driving instructor from 1985-2000 and still provides route training at Heywood garage. Tony has also been a go-to person for media outreach, including a *Star Tribune* feature on drivers maintaining their professionalism even during challenging roadway conditions such as narrowed and icy winter streets.
- Jerry Olson began his career with Metro Transit in 1972. Beginning in 1978 he was a driving instructor for 18 years. Jerry has received the Safe Driving award 38 times and Outstanding Operator award 24 times. South Garage Assistant Transportation Manager Vicki Shimek stated that “Jerry is a hard worker, dependable and always willing to lend a hand.”

Chair Elkins and Metro Transit General Manager Lamb offered their thanks and congratulations and presented each individual with a plaque commemorating his achievement.

METRO TRANSIT GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Brian Lamb, General Manager, Metro Transit, reported the following:

The free-ride program that is sponsored and funded by MillerCoors was again very popular on St. Patrick’s Day. Ridership during the promotion this year was 56,412 total free rides on Metro Transit buses and trains. There were 56,022 free rides last year, for an increase of 390 rides or 0.7 percent. Also, total ridership on Saint Patrick’s Day was among the highest for Saturdays in 2011 and YTD 2012, surpassed only by the two Saturdays during the Minnesota State Fair. To support the special service, the Transit Information Center stayed open an extra two hours, and representatives handled 38 percent more calls than on a comparable day. Several extra buses were added on popular routes. This was the 15th year of this enduring partnership that has been well received by riders and recognized by law enforcement agencies and public safety advocates.

The Revenue Operations department reports that 50.5 percent of all rides in February were taken by customers using Go-To Cards, the highest percentage ever. There were 115,495 unique cards used on Metro Transit buses and trains last month compared to 101,439 in February 2011 (a 13.8 percent increase). Although usage numbers will fluctuate month-by-month, the 2012 goal is 50 percent of all rides taken on Go-To Cards.

Safety enhancements to two pedestrian crossings along the Northstar Line have been completed ahead of schedule. To improve pedestrian safety, BNSF has added gate arms to sidewalk crossings near Elk River and Anoka stations to parallel the operation of gate arms for roadway traffic at those locations. For enhanced onboard security, all Northstar coach and cab cars are all being retrofitted with three additional security cameras, totaling 11 per car.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DIRECTOR REPORT

Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, reported the following:

CTIB, MnDOT and the Council have submitted a joint application to host the 2014 Rail~Volution conference. The application was submitted electronically, but a hard copy application package was also prepared (with assistance from the Hennepin County Office of Public Affairs) and was used for the CTIB board’s review and approval. The Rail~Volution selection committee is expected to make its decision no later than mid-2012.

The current extension of SAFETEA-LU is due to expire on March 31. On March 22, Representative John Mica, chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, introduced the ninth extension of the bill, which would continue funding until June 30, 2012. The House vote is likely to be held on March 26 with the Senate voting later in the week. The Senate had previously passed a two-year transportation bill, known as MAP-21, but the House declined to take up similar legislation. The hope is to have a new federal transportation bill in place before Congress’s July 4 recess.

Motor Vehicle Sales Tax receipts are at 99 percent of forecast for the first eight months of state fiscal year 2012. The Council's budget is based on 95 percent of the February 2011 forecast, so levels are currently at approximately 103 percent of budget.

BUSINESS

Consent Items

Motion by Commers, seconded by Munt to approve items 2012-85, 2012-103, 2012-104 and 2012-105 as consent items. Motion passed.

2012-85: Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement with the University of Minnesota

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement with the University Of Minnesota for up to \$498,000 for the purchase of one 30' Gillig Hybrid Bus.

2012-103: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request to add SP#164-070-025: Nice Ride Expansion at the St Paul Capitol Complex and State Offices (TAB Action 2012-14)

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#164-070-025: Nice Ride Expansion at the St Paul Capitol Complex and State Offices.

2012-104: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request to reflect cost adjustment for Lakeville SP#188-118-004: Lake Marion Trail Extension (TAB Action 2012-12)

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect cost adjustment for Lakeville SP#188-118-004: Lake Marion Trail Extension.

2012-105: Authorization to Execute Contract Options with Gillig

Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to exercise purchase options on contract 07P162 with Gillig Corporation to purchase three forty-foot buses in an amount not to exceed \$1,320,000.

Non-Consent Items

SW 2012-102 SW: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request: Hennepin County – Transportation Interchange in Minneapolis (TAB Action 2012-13)

James Andrew, MTS Senior Planner, presented this item. In response to a question from CM Brimeyer, staff explained that the total funding package for The Interchange project has not yet been assembled and that all project partners continue to work on closing the funding gap.

Motion by Duininck, seconded by Munt:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include Section 5309 FTA discretionary funding for construction of The Interchange project in downtown Minneapolis.

Motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION

1. Metropolitan Council Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Strategic Action Plan

Manager of TOD Allison Bell presented this item, outlining the rationale, objectives and process of the plan. Along with other staff, Bell responded to committee members' questions about funding, staffing, and the role of affordable housing and Community Development. Several committee members had positive comments about the value of the initiative and noted that TOD opportunities should be explored along existing and future transit corridors. GM Lamb stated that he would look into scheduling a tour or series of tours to observe new development along the Hiawatha and

other corridors.

2. Twins 2012 Promotional Campaign

Bruce Howard, Metro Transit Director of Marketing and Customer Services, presented the item. He played two promotional radio spots and answered committee members' questions about fare structures for the special service and Metro Transit's history of partnering with the Twins to promote transit.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Elkins adjourned the Transportation Committee meeting at 5:07 p.m. March 26, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,
LuAnne Major, Recording Secretary