

Minutes

Transportation Committee



Meeting date: December 11, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Heywood Chambers

Members present:

Chair, Deb Barber, D4

Vice Chair, Reva Chamblis, D2

Tyronne Carter, District 3

John Pacheco Jr., District 5

Anjuli Cameron, District 8

Diego Morales, District 9

Susan Vento, District 12

Toni Carter, District 14

Tenzin Dolkar, District 15

= present

Call to order

A quorum being present, Committee Chair Barber called the regular meeting of the Transportation Committee to order at 4:00 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 Carter, Toni to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2023, regular meeting of the Transportation Committee. **Motion carried.** (Cameron was absent for the vote.)

Employee recognition – Metro Transit

1. Metro Transit General Manager

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced Great Workplace Project Project Manager Sarah Berres who presented awards to Rail Transportation Supervisor Latina Laramée, Bus Maintenance Warranty Supervisor Christopher Darsow, Assistant Transportation Manager Camille Mitchell and Principal Administrative Specialist Jer Yang. Kandaras also presented Sarah Berres with an award.

Reports

1. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director

Regional Solicitation

Regional Solicitation applications are due this Friday, December 15th at 4:00pm. The Council approved the solicitation in September. Application review and scoring would then begin with an anticipated slate of projects for nearly \$250M across 13 categories to be determined next July by TAB, and then brought to the Council for consideration late in the summer.

Legislative Task Force on Aging

Tomorrow Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras and MTS Executive Director Charles Carlson will present to the legislative task force on aging.

This Task Force was established to: review and develop state resources for an aging demographic, identify and prioritize necessary support for an aging population and ensure all

aging-related state policies are inclusive. Adults aged 65+ comprise 14% of the region's residents, growing toward forecasted 22% by 2050. From a transportation standpoint, older adults make similar numbers of trips to younger age groups, but the trip purposes differ. Adults 65+ have a greater share of errands, shopping, medical and a lower share of commuting.

2. Metro Transit General Manager

Administrative Citations

Community Service Officers began to inspect fares and issue administrative citations on December 4th. Monday through Thursday conducted just under 1700 and issues just under 170 citations.

House Transportation Hearing

There will be a Minnesota House Transportation hearing tomorrow on transit public safety. Metropolitan Council Chair Charlie Zelle, Metro Transit Police Department Chief Ernest Morales and Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandarar will provide that committee an update on where Metro Transit stands on implementing several provisions in the transportation omnibus bill related to transit public safety.

3. Transportation Accessibility Advisory Board (TAAC)

No report.

Consent business

Consent business adopted

1. **2023-280:** METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit – Subordinate Funding Agreement (19I054E) with Washington County

Proposed Action: That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #19I054E (“SFA”) with Washington County (“County”) for reimbursement of costs for the procurement of snow removal equipment for the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Gold Line Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$859,040.00.

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Toni.

Motion carried. (Cameron was absent for the vote.)

Non-consent business

1. **2023-279 SW:** 2023 MTS Small Bus Procurement

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 23P238 with North Central Bus Sales for up to 16 expansion buses not to exceed \$2,500,000; and Contract 23P239 with Hoglund Bus for up to 28 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$4,400,000 for a total procurement value not to exceed \$6,900,000.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Services Fleet Manager Paul Colton presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried. (Cameron was absent for the vote.)

2. **2023-286 SW:** MTS Purchase of 25 Metro Mobility Buses through Sourcewell Contract

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Contract 23P237 with North Central Bus Sales for up to 25 replacement buses in an amount not to exceed \$3,750,000.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Contracted Services Fleet Manager Paul Colton presented this item. Carter, Toni asked why the previous business item wasn't procured



through the same Sourcewell contract to allow for greater competition. Colton stated that this is simply due to the timing of when the bus needs were identified, and the process initiated.

Motion carried. (Cameron was absent for the vote.)

3. **2023-287:** Authorization for the Regional Administrator to Execute First Amendment to Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Saint Paul and St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority for Redevelopment of the Central Station Block and Authorization for the Regional Administrator to Execute Non-Material Amendments to the Joint Powers Agreement

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Chamblis, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to: (1) execute a First Amendment to Joint Powers Agreement with the City of St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Saint Paul HRA), and the City of Saint Paul (City); and (2) execute any subsequent non-material amendments to support the redevelopment of the Central Station Block.

Metro Transit Transit Oriented Development Senior Manager Michael Krantz presented this item. Chamblis asked if there was a reason we are entering into an agreement and targeting this area. Krantz stated both entities share the same goal of more redevelopment on that site which could increase ridership for Metro Transit and revenue for the city, among other goals. Carter, Toni asked that ask the process advances, that progress or updates be provided to the Council members. Chair Barber asked who is leading the marketing. Krantz stated staff are working closely with the city but that the Council is leading the process and going through the Council's procurement process.

Motion carried.

4. **2023-288 SW:** METRO B Line – Authorization to Award Contract 23P079, West Construction Package

It was moved by Chamblis, seconded by Cameron, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P079 with Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc. for construction of the METRO B Line Arterial BRT – West Package in an amount not to exceed \$32,787,228.

Metro Transit Arterial BRT Senior Project Coordinator Alicia Valenti presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

2023-297 SW: Blue Line Enhancements Phase IIB Construction SCADA Programming, Contract 23M005D

It was moved by Morales, seconded by Carter, Toni, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute 23M005D – Work Order # 4 in the amount of \$808,965 with Wabtec Railway Electronics, Inc.

Metro Transit Principal Project Coordinator Michael Wnek presented this item. Chamblis asked why we went with a single source provider as it limits us on other vendors who can perform the work. Wnek stated that most, if not all, SCADA systems are proprietary and that constantly switching that system from different vendors would have severe disruptions to the light rail and NorthStar lines.

Motion carried.

5. **2023-302 SW:** Allied Universal Contract 22P123 Amendment 2

It was moved by Carter, Toni, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an amendment to Contract 22P123 with Allied Universal for additional security services and to include new personnel that the Council hereby authorizes under this contract to perform the duties required under Minn. Stat. § 473.4075 Transit Rider Investment Program (TRIP) as TRIP personnel for a total contract value not to exceed \$11,000,000.

Metro Transit General Manager Lesley Kandaras introduced this item. Metro Transit Police Department Lieutenant Jason Lindner and Metro Transit Transit Rider Investment Program Interim Manager Leah Palmer presented this item. Lt. Lindner gave a brief overview on how the current Allied supplemental security has been working. Chamblis asked if we are getting support or funding from other municipalities around the areas of our transit stations/platforms/stops. Kandaras stated that we've been convening partners around areas where we have been implementing supplemental security; we can successfully move people around but that is not getting to the root cause of the problems. Kandaras added that we have vendors through TSIP who are focused on providing social services. Chair Barber asked if the TRIP personnel will receive customer service training. Palmer responded that in discussions with Allied about the potential, it was laid out the requirements of this role and will include Metro Transit specific training. Chair Barber asked if there are plans to extend TRIP personnel to ABRT lines. Palmer stated this will be something that staff will analyze where we need the TRIP staff based on data and feedback from customers and employees.

Motion carried.

6. **2023-303 SW:** METRO Green Line Extension Amendment No. 4 to Lease Agreement 12P008 with Middleton Park Place Investors, LLC

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Morales, that the Metropolitan Council ratify the Regional Administrator's May 3, 2023, execution of Amendment No. 4 to the lease agreement (12P008) between the Metropolitan Council and Middleton Park Place Investors, LLC that extends the lease by 24 months beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.

Metro Transit Green Line Extension Project Director Jim Alexander presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion carried.

Information

1. Regional Transportation Forecasting

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Dennis Farmer presented this item. Council members and Farmer discussed how these tools might be used to find where there are gaps or redundancy in our transit area and the potential to have tools that produce a model of how people might act if there are different transit options available.

2. FTA DBE Program Semi-Annual Report

Metropolitan Council OEEO Senior Equity Opportunity Consultant Trina Bolton and Metropolitan Council OEEO Assistant Director Ashanti Payne presented this item. Several Council members congratulated staff on the progress that has been made. Council members and staff discussed the importance of this work, how to measure success that isn't just based on numbers, and the mentor protégé program.

Adjournment

Business completed; the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Certification

I hereby certify that the foregoing narrative and exhibits constitute a true and accurate record of the Transportation Committee meeting of December 11, 2023.

Approved this 8th day of January 2024.

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