

A regular meeting of the St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission was held on the 15th day of June, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the Metro Bus Operations Center. Chairman Ringsmuth presided with the following present:

Commissioners:	1. Paul Ringsmuth
	2. Carolyn Garven
	3. Mark Campbell-absent
	4. Dave Kleis
	5. Steve Hennes
Executive Director:	David W. Tripp
Director of Operations & Technology:	Tony Kellen-absent
Director of Planning & Marketing:	Tom Cruikshank
Administrative Secretary:	Libby Dykema
Others:	Hazel Youngmann, Derrick Shaney

Additions or Changes to the Agenda. Add #9a. The Trolley. **Commissioner Kleis moved, and Commissioner Hennes seconded a motion, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

Consent Agenda. **Commissioner Kleis moved, and Commissioner Garven seconded a motion, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the April, 2010 Budget Statements, the May, 2010 Balance Sheets, and the May, 2010 List of Bills. Motion carried.**

Old Business.

8.) Update on Transit Center. Mr. Tripp announced that he received a letter from the FTA Administrator, Marisol Simone, approving the categorical exclusion for protective acquisition on the Northwestern Mutual Life building because there is currently an interested buyer for that building. Mr. Tripp sent appraisal documents to Guggenburger Appraisal Services in Cold Spring. The appraisal should be done and negotiations with the seller should begin within a month.

9.) Update on Scheduled Fare Increase. Mr. Cruikshank reminded the Commission that last fall they approved a two-phase fare increase effective on November 1, 2009 and July 5, 2010.

9a.) The Trolley. Mr. Tripp explained that it has always been the intention of Metro Bus to make the trolley available to the citizens of the four cities. Unfortunately, insurance and liability issues made the previous (see April 20, 2010 minutes) idea unrealistic for private operators. Instead Mr. Tripp proposed leasing the Trolley with a minimum mileage rate. The operator would be responsible for providing the driver, maintenance and storage, and would be limited to the four city area. The lease would include the second Trolley as a back-up. Metro Bus would have the right to inspect it at any time and use it for governmental functions. This idea would allow Metro Bus to make some money, but more importantly, for the Trolley to be in use. While Commissioner Kleis liked the idea, he expressed his wish to explore the downtown option in the future when the economy is stronger. Commissioner Garven said she would be very excited to see it being used again. **Commissioner Kleis moved, and Commissioner Hennes seconded a motion, to approve the development of an RFP for leasing the trolley. Motion carried.**

New Business.

10.) Operations Reports

a. May, 2010 Ridership. Mr. Cruikshank noted that May was fairly stable for the Fixed Route system. Passengers per hour was up slightly compared to last year. Dial-a-Ride remains stable even without increasing service hours like in previous years.

b. Northstar Link Ridership. The first two weeks in June has decreased to 71 average passengers per day from 85 in May probably due to SCSU being on summer break.

c. Northstar Link Schedule Changes. Mr. Cruikshank reported that the weekend service for the Link was approved. There are now three runs on each Saturday and Sunday along with twelve special Twins runs through-out the summer. Commissioner Hennes suggested starting some kind of training program for new riders. Mr. Cruikshank thought that would be a good project for Community Ed to become involved in. He also said he would mention the idea to Jill Brown next time he speaks with her and maybe she would want to promote it.

11.) Consideration of Amendment No. 1 to Grant Agreement Between Metro Bus and NCDA.

The amendment adjusts the schedule to provide for weekend service, service to Twins games, and an additional stop in the city of Becker. **Commissioner Garven moved, and Commissioner Hennes seconded a motion, to approve Amendment No. 1 to Grant Agreement for Northstar Phase II Commuter Bus Service Demonstration Project. Motion carried.**

12.) Consideration of Final Sartell Route Adjustments.

Commissioner Garven thanked the individuals involved in answering all the questions at the informational meetings. Mr. Cruikshank said that the turn-out at the meetings was ok and staff learned some things. Adjustments made to the previous revisions include: 1.) the first route will start earlier and will begin at Mid-town Square instead of in Sartell, 2.) the last route will end at Country Manor instead of at the Epic Center, and 3.) Saturday morning runs will go into the Centra Care Health Plaza. The new service will begin August 22 and Mr. Cruikshank predicts it will be a busy route. There is a possibility that the custom bus shelters will not be ready at the Epic Center before the stores open; the standard shelters may need to be used initially. Commissioner Hennes voiced his hope that ridership will drastically increase. **Commissioner Hennes moved, and Commissioner Garven seconded a motion, to approve the Finalized Sartell Route. Motion carried.**

13.) Consideration of 2010-2011 SCSU/Metro Bus Agreement. Commissioner Ringsmuth pointed out a couple of typos and suggested that someone proof the entire document. Mr. Tripp briefly explained some of the details of the contract. **Commissioner Kleis moved, and Commissioner Garven seconded a motion, to approve the 2010-2011 SCSU/Metro Bus Agreement. Motion carried.**

14.) Update on New Flyer “Partnership Celebration” on June 16th. Commissioner Ringsmuth noted that he planned to attend the event. Mr. Tripp said two New Flyers were due to arrive on site at any moment, so members could stay after the meeting to look at them.

Open Discussion. Hazel Youngmann asked when the new Southwest Route was going to begin. Mr. Cruikshank said they didn’t know yet as they just received the surveys back, but they would make an announcement within the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Youngmann suggested to the Commissioners, “Put your cars in your garages for two months and ride the bus-one month in the hot summer and one month in January!”

Adjournment. Commissioner Ringsmuth adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

