



Minnesota Regional Transit
Board: Records.

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MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Tuesday, September 6, 1988
Mears Park Centre Chambers
4:00 p.m.

AMENDED AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes Regional Transit Board Meetings:
 August 15, 1988
 August 22, 1988
4. Minutes of August 11, 1988 Public Hearing on Budget
5. Amendment to the Regional Transit Board Bylaws
6. REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
 A. Proposed Approach for the Development of the
 Regional Transit Board's Implementation Plan
 B. Development of an I-35W Travel Demand
 Management (TDM) Program
Doris Caranicas,
Chair
7. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Ruth Franklin,
Chair
8. OTHER BUSINESS
 - A. Chairman's Report
 - B. Members' Reports
 - C. Advisory Committee Reports
 - D. Staff Reports
9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elliott Perovich
Chairman



REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Mears Park Centre
230 East 5th Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
612/292-8789

MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

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Elliott Perovich
Chairman

Bertland
Entzel
John
Kordak

REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD
ROLL CALL AND ATTENDANCE SHEET

KC
GT
MF
CU
CF
KT
EK
TB

DATE: 9/2/88
BOARD OR COMMITTEE: Bd

MEMBER NAME	PRESENT	VOTE	VOTE	VOTE	VOTE	VOTE
Chairman	✓					
Doris Caranicas	✓					
Ruth Franklin	✓					
Carole Faricy						
Alison Fuhr	✓					
Rochelle Graves		on at start of ATF mtg				
George Isaacs	✓					
Paul Joyce	✓					
Edward Kranz	✓					



Mears Park Centre, 230 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN. 55101
612/292-8789

Minutes of the Meeting of the
REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD
Mears Park Centre Chambers
August 15, 1988

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elliott Perovich, Chairman; Doris Caranicas; Carole Faricy; Ruth Franklin; Alison Fuhr; George Isaacs; Rochelle Graves; Paul Joyce; Ed Kranz

OTHERS PRESENT: Gregory Andrews, Tom Beaver, Kathy Christopherson, Bob Dietrick, Cindy Fish, Mary Fitzgerald, Jan Hennings, Judy Hollander, Mike Kuehn, Ed Kouneski, Cindy Mayor, Randy Rosvold, Mark Ryan, Katie Turnbull, Elba Zuniga, Regional Transit Board Staff; Charles Weaver, legal counsel; Arnie Entzel, Amalgamated Transit Union; Emil Brandt, Natalio Diaz and Dirk deVries, Metropolitan Council; Steve Bertrand, Transportation Handicapped Advisory Committee; Greg Failor, Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC)

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and roll taken. Fuhr moved approval of the agenda; Caranicas seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Caranicas moved approval of the minutes of the July 18, 1988 meeting; Isaacs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Caranicas moved approval of the minutes of the July 21, 1988 meeting; Isaacs seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO THE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT COMMISSION

Isaacs nominated the incumbent commissioner, Carolyn Cochrane, to serve on the Metropolitan Transit Commission for the term to expire August 27, 1991. The chairman called for additional nominations; there being none, Fuhr moved and Caranicas seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion carried unanimously. Caranicas moved and Isaacs seconded that Carolyn Cochrane be appointed; the motion was unanimously approved.

TAXICAB DRIVERS TRAINING PROJECT

The chairman said he has discussed this matter with a number of interested organizations and the support for this initiative has been excellent. (Kranz arrived.) The financial support is expected to be approximately \$10,000 from each organization. This is an attempt to start drivers training and clean up the taxicabs. The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) will take the lead because they have the authority to pass ordinances. The taxi companies will pay for the ongoing training and the drivers will pay for their own class materials. There are a number of world-class activities scheduled for this region in the 1990's and it would be helpful to have this program established before then. In response to Isaacs' question, Perovich said the members may wish to approve a motion to authorize the executive director to enter into an

agreement to participate in this activity. Isaacs said this should be directed to the Policy Committee for information and discussion. While he would favor this, Isaacs said the proposal should go through the normal process. (Faricy arrived.)

Caranicas said there is consensus that the board wishes to become involved. The chairman said that by the September 6 meeting of the board there will be more information available. There was discussion of the legal authority and bidding requirements for various kinds of board expenditures. (Joyce arrived.) Caranicas moved and Fuhr seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board endorse the concept of being involved in the taxicab driver training project.

The motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBER

Andrews introduced Judy Ellison who has joined the Programs Section. Her most recent position was as transit manager in Moorhead, Minnesota. She will work on small urban programs, including new service demonstrations.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Franklin reviewed the report of the committee's meeting on August 1, 1988.

ROSEVILLE NEW TRANSIT SERVICES TEST MARKETING PROGRAM

Franklin moved and Caranicas seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board authorize the executive director to issue a Request for Proposal for weekday and weekend local circulation services as outlined in the staff report of July 20, 1988.

That the Regional Transit Board direct staff to work with the Metropolitan Transit Commission and North Suburban Lines on examining the feasibility of incorporating the service enhancements outlined in the July 20, 1988 staff report into their 1989 budgets.

That the Regional Transit Board direct staff to work with business and community representatives on other elements of the service plan and improvements to the Rosedale transit hub.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE 1989-1991 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Franklin moved and Joyce seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board approve the transit section of the 1989-1991 Transportation Improvement Program for submittal to the Metropolitan Council.

The motion carried unanimously.

MARCH AND APRIL 1988 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Franklin moved and Joyce seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board receive the March and April 1988 financial statements and direct that they be placed on file.

The motion carried unanimously.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR COMPENSATION STUDY

Franklin said the committee requested the staff to report to the board on the State Department of Administration's availability to conduct the study. Andrews said Dietrick contacted the Department of Employee Relations, but they indicated they do not have the resources or desire to do it. Documentation for the need for the study is in the Joint Metropolitan Area Agencies' Report to the Legislature, which discusses the personnel issues, background, and comparisons between the agencies. This request is to provide Christopherson and Andrews with assistance of an independent review of the compensation plan and recommendations for improvements. Franklin moved and Caranicas seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board authorize the executive director to issue an Request for Proposal for a compensation study at the Regional Transit Board in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

Faricy asked if the consultant would review all the positions, from receptionist to executive director. Andrews said all positions, except for the chairman who is appointed by the governor, would be reviewed. Some positions correlate to state positions, but with some senior management and project administrators you must look at the degree of responsibility. The study will compare compensation at the RTB with the marketplace. In most cases staff came from municipal government, MTC, or other planning agencies. In response to Kranz' questions, Andrews said the purpose of the study is to establish whether our classification system is comparable to other positions so RTB can attract the type of employees it needs. In several key positions he had difficulty in recruiting qualified applicants.

Kranz said several years ago a person was hired in the finance office at a low figure, which made no sense at the time. The salaries for these positions should be established and people should not be hired at the lowest possible rate. Andrews agreed, however he noted that people should not be hired at the high end of the range either, leaving no room to grow in the position.

Kranz asked if there is an apparent correlation to our competitive bidding policies where we bid transit service, encouraging operators to pay minimum wage. Andrews said the only similarity is that compensation levels should reflect the qualification levels of the individual who is hired so we can attract the people we need. Kranz said he concurs with the concept and it should be expanded into the services we fund so we can assure the public that the positions are paid at the going rate to attract qualified people.

Graves said, in reviewing the information given to the board that compared the regional agencies and the study comparing our rates with the state positions, RTB's salaries are comparable, so she cannot understand the need for the study when we already have the information.

Joyce asked how long the study will take. Andrews said it will be completed before the annual recommendation to the board in November to update the compensation plan. Christopherson said each year the board is required to adjust the salary ranges. It has been several years since a comparison was made and the market is different for each category. For planners it is necessary to recruit nationally for people with a government background because this is a very specialized area. Every year we use state guidelines but we are not finding comparable positions. Management would like help comparing RTB with the Metropolitan Council, MTC and others. Graves asked, if the board votes for this and the study indicates RTB's salaries are comparable or should be lower, are we ready to do that? The chairman said the board will have to deal with that. Caranicas called the question; the motion carried (Graves, Faricy and Kranz voted nay).

RECEIPT OF URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION ENTREPRENEURIAL SERVICES PROGRAM GRANT

Franklin moved and Caranicas seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board amend its 1988 budget and its inter-agency agreement with the Metropolitan Council for the purposes of accepting a \$56,000 Section 8 grant under the Urban Mass Transportation Administration's Entrepreneurial Services Program.

In response to Kranz' request for a description of the grant, Kouneski said the grant is for planning of transit service. The proposed service is "reverse commute" from lower income neighborhoods in Minneapolis to job sites in Eden Prairie and Shakopee. There are no capital funds included and the goal is that the service become self-sustaining. Matching dollars will be negotiated with UMTA. Initially the other transit providers in the area expressed reservations about the grant, but staff has met with them and they now view it as complementary service, different from the service presently in place. Southwest Metropolitan Transit Commission and the City of Shakopee support the concept. The motion carried unanimously.

Entzel asked if these funds will be used for administrative costs. Kouneski said they will not; these grants are seed money for businesses and operators to put the service together. The businesses will pay part of the operating costs and users will pay a portion of them. Perovich said the area businesses will select the operators. Entzel said it appears this will take service out of the central cities. Kouneski said one of the requirements is that it does not duplicate other service. Entzel said there have been instances when MTC service went directly to businesses at rush hour and dropped off passengers. The chairman said this is a different service, using very small vehicles to bring passengers to small businesses. Kranz said the issue should be tabled until the entire matter can be reviewed.

Franklin said the intent is to develop ways of supplying transit where it does not now exist. The members have discussed this four or five times and it would be wrong to delay it further. Joyce called the question.

Isaacs said he shares Kranz' concerns and, while he supports the proposal because it may work, he would like to see these things go through the regular process. The motion carried unanimously.

MAINTENANCE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF METRO MOBILITY PROVIDERS

Franklin moved and Isaacs seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board authorize the executive director to enter into contract with LTK Management Services, Inc., to conduct a Metro Mobility maintenance performance evaluation project in an amount not to exceed \$19,400.

Andrews said Morley Bus Company is one of the major providers of Metro Mobility service and some concerns about the customers' safety have surfaced. Staff wishes to determine how well the Metro Mobility fleet is maintained and what the board needs to do to monitor all the providers of Metro Mobility. This may result in working with Mn/DOT to upgrade the operating standards. Eventually the board may want to explore having Metro Mobility Administrative Center (MMAC) perform these audits on a regular basis. Mn/DOT's operating standards are really the minimum we would find acceptable. The motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSIT AUDITS

Franklin moved and Caranicas seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board authorize the executive director to enter into contract with Deloitte Haskins & Sells to audit the Regional Transit Board's 1986 and 1987 transit assistance contracts with Medicine Lake Lines and North Suburban Lines in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

In response to Kranz' questions, Andrews said Mn/DOT is responsible for closing out the Medicine Lake Lines audits for the years 1981 through 1984. They have given Medicine Lake Lines a deadline of the end of July to supply the necessary information. Christopherson and Brechlin are in contact with both parties and DH&S will also follow through. Kranz said he is very supportive of contracting out these audits to avoid developing the same problems Mn/DOT is experiencing. We are doing business with people who may have a large liability that dates back a long time. He asked if there would be merit to releasing an Request for Proposal (RFP) for audit. Christopherson said this is an excellent opportunity to utilize a minority business. She would like to send out RFPs for next year's audit. At this time she would like to get some of the bigger audits done. We plan to use DH&S to set up an audit form that would include schedules. She will present a proposal to the committee to develop the audit program. We should be able to let that out to other firms. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC INFORMATION PLAN

Franklin moved and Graves seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board approve the "Regional Transit Board's Public Information Plan."

Andrews said the plan is designed to complement the efforts of the other agency departments. When the board places a higher priority on a particular activity, the plan and budget would be amended to incorporate the new initiative. The plan is the result of the process conducted by Media Rare. Mike Priesnitz of Media Rare and our public information people met individually with the board members to gather their input. When a particular project comes up it will come back to the board for authorization.

The chairman said the board did not approve the total expenditure; the plan is a menu of choices. Isaacs said if the board approves the program it should have the ability to veto anything it does not want.

Faricy said her figures indicate the total amount would be \$255,050, of which \$120,300 would be consultant's work. This program should move forward and she suggested that the board select those projects it wants removed. She distributed a list of activities with those items highlighted that would have to be done by a consultant (Exhibit A) and urged that the choices be made now. The chairman asked members to call Mary Fitzgerald and give her available dates for a special meeting. Kranz said he would prefer that the discussion take place at a Administration and Finance Committee meeting rather than at a retreat. Graves moved to table the item until the next meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee. Kranz seconded the motion; the motion failed.

Returning to discussion of the original motion, the chairman said it appears everyone is receptive to the plan in general and the board should meet to make its choices. Vote was taken. The motion carried (Faricy and Kranz voted no).

The chairman said the vote accepts the plan in concept and then board can then choose those items that should be pursued and those that should be eliminated. In response to Kranz' question on process, the chairman said that at a retreat it was made clear that the board will select the projects. The board needs a working session to select what it will implement. Andrews said staff is already working on many things listed in the program; for example, the Annual Report is required by legislation and is currently being prepared. A special Administration and Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the plan further.

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT

LRT INFORMATION SHEET

Committee Chair Isaacs expressed concern about this issue ^(not) going through committee process. Andrews said the Public Information Plan lists this effort at a cost of \$15,000, which is probably high. Administration and Finance Committee Chair Franklin said she does not object to moving the issue to the board directly. The action does not approve a dollar figure. Perovich said the committee process was not intended to delay projects. Any member can ask that an issue referred to committee. Franklin moved and Fuhr seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board authorize the executive director to prepare and distribute Requests for Proposals to develop a light rail transit information sheet.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Caranicas said the committee will meet immediately after the close of this meeting and asked members to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Perovich said Mike Kuehn is setting up the Chairman's Local Officials meeting. Specific information will be ready next week and he asked members to attend the meetings in their area.

Perovich and Andrews held their monthly meeting today with Frank Snowden and John Capell to discuss a variety of issues.

STAFF REPORT

Andrews said the third HOV conference will be at the Marriott in Minneapolis from October 17 through 19, At his request, Fuhr moved and Caranicas seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board, along with the Transportation Research Board, Metropolitan Council, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, agrees to cosponsor the Third Annual High Occupancy Vehicle conference to be held in Minneapolis from October 17 through 19, 1988.

The chairman said there is no financial commitment for the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Andrews said on October 21 the board will sponsor, with the Urban Mass Transportation Administration, a Suburban Mobility Conference for city and state officials. It will focus on Travel Demand Management strategies on I-35 and I-494. The times and location are not yet scheduled.

There being no further business, Fuhr moved and Caranicas seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fitzgerald
Secretary

Approved by the board: _____, 1988.



Mears Park Centre, 230 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN. 55101
612/292-8789

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD
Mears Park Centre Chambers
August 22, 1988

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elliott Perovich, Chairman; Doris Caranicas; Carole Faricy; Alison Fuhr; Rochelle Graves; George Isaacs; Paul Joyce; Ed Kranz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth Franklin

OTHERS PRESENT: Gregory Andrews, Kathy Christopherson, Mike Kuehn, Howard Blin, Mary Fitzgerald, Jan Hennings, Judy Hollander, Katie Turnbull, Regional Transit Board Staff; Arnie Entzel, Amalgamated Transit Union; Dirk deVries, Mike McLaughlin, Emil Brandt, Natalio Diaz, Metropolitan Council; Steve Bertrand, Transportation Handicapped Advisory Committee; Carolyn Cochrane, Glenn Olson, Frank Snowden, Metropolitan Transit Commissioners, Bev Auld and John Capell, Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC)

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and roll taken. Fuhr moved approval of the agenda; Caranicas seconded the motion. Motion carried (Graves and Joyce not present).

Isaacs moved approval of the minutes of the August 1, 1988 meeting; Caranicas seconded the motion. The motion carried (Graves and Joyce not present).

REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF HENNEPIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM PLAN

Committee Chair Caranicas reviewed the committee's August 15 discussion of the plan and reviewed the board's changes, as outlined in the August 16 memorandum written by Howard Blin. She moved and Isaacs seconded:

That the Regional Transit Board approve the comments on the Hennepin County Comprehensive Light Rail Transit System Plan contained in the staff report dated August 9, 1988 as amended in the staff report of August 16, 1988, and directs that the comments be transmitted to the Minnesota Legislature and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority.

Andrews said the comments from the Transportation Advisory Board were received during the course of the staff review. (Joyce arrived.) In response to Fuhr's question, the chairman said the Transportation Advisory Board is advisory to the Metropolitan Council and the Regional Transit Board. It is their responsibility to make comments and recommendations to both bodies, but it is the board's responsibility to take action. Vote was taken; the motion carried (Graves not present).

OTHER BUSINESS

Andrews updated the members on the negotiations between the three metro agencies and John McDonald regarding construction of the parking ramp adjacent to Mears Park Centre. When the new offer from the developer is received, the governing bodies of the three agencies will be asked to take action.

There being no further business, Fuhr moved and Caranicas seconded a motion that the meeting be adjourned; the motion carried (Graves not present). The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

JOINT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD AND THE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT COMMISSION

The joint meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. (Graves arrived)

John Capell began with a discussion of the Strategic Plan developed by the MTC as it relates to budget development: current and proposed.

Perovich discussed the revenue picture in terms of shares from property taxes, fares, state, and federal funds.

deVries asked the members of the board and commission to respond to the council staff comments relating to the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority that will be presented to the Metropolitan Council's Metro Systems Committee on August 23, 1988.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fitzgerald
Secretary

Approved by the board: _____, 1988.



Mears Park Centre, 230 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN. 55101
612/292-8789

Minutes of the Public Hearing
REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD
Mears Park Centre, Room A
August 11, 1988

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Elliott Perovich, Chairman; Doris Caranicas; Ruth Franklin; Alison Fuhr; George Isaacs; Paul Joyce; Ed Kranz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carole Faricy and Rochelle Graves

OTHERS PRESENT: Gregory Andrews, Tom Beaver, Kathy Christopherson, Mary Fitzgerald, Judy Hollander, Mike Kuehn, Regional Transit Board Staff; Arnie Entzel, Amalgamated Transit Union

The chairman called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the Regional Transit Board's draft 1989 budget. The public hearing record will remain open until September 12, 1988 to receive written comment. The usual public hearing rules will apply; that is, those who called beforehand to be placed on the list of speakers will be heard first, followed by those in the audience who wish to comment to the board. If a copy of the testimony is available, it should be given to the secretary of the board for inclusion in the records.

No one asked to be heard so the members agreed to wait for a short time in case anyone arrived late. The hearing was closed at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Fitzgerald
Secretary



Mears Park Centre, 230 East Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN. 55101
612/292-8789

REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

At its meeting of August 15, 1988, the committee reviewed and approved the following recommendations. The Regional Transit Board is expected to take formal action on these recommendations at its meeting of September 6, 1988.

PROPOSED APPROACH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RTB'S IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

That the Regional Transit Board endorse the proposed approach for development of the Implementation Plan as outlined in the staff memorandum dated August 2, 1988.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN I-35W TRAVEL DEMAND MANAGEMENT (TDM) PROGRAM

That the Regional Transit Board endorse the development of an I-35W Travel Demand Management program as outlined in the staff memorandum of August 2, 1988 and approve the following actions:

1. The RTB will take the lead in the development of the I-35W TDM program and will coordinate these activities with the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and with other agencies and organizations.
2. Staff is directed to develop a more detailed work program and identify additional staffing and consulting needs for presentation to the board in September.
3. Staff is directed to seek the assistance, coordination and cooperation of the Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Transportation, the City of Minneapolis and other communities in the corridor, and appropriate agencies and organizations in this effort.

The members discussed, but took no action on:

- o Metro Mobility Administrative Center Quarterly Report
- o Proposed RTB Community Grant Program
- o Study of Regional Coordination and Public Information Services
- o Regional Transit Board Energy Emergency Plan

The committee took action on the RTB's comments on the Hennepin County Comprehensive LRT System Plan. The board will act on this item at its special meeting of August 22, 1988.

Doris Caranicas
Chair

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE
BY-LAWS OF THE
REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the By-Laws of the Regional Transit Board are amended so that Article II (A) reads as follows:

Article II - MEETINGS

A. DATE, PLACE AND TIME

Regular meetings of the board shall be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, except that if such meeting date is a national or state holiday, the board shall designate another date for its regular meeting. The time and place of regular board meetings shall be determined by the board chair.

Done at a regular meeting of the Regional Transit Board this _____ day of _____, 1988.

Elliott Perovich, Chair

Mary Fitzgerald, Secretary

Ex A

NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION
OF AMENDMENT TO
BY-LAWS

Notice is hereby given that the Regional Transit Board shall consider the adoption of the attached resolution amending its By-Laws at a regular meeting on the ____ day of _____, 1988.

Elliott Perovich, Chair

REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Mears Park Centre
230 East Fifth Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101
292-8789

DATE: August 25, 1988
TO: Regional Transit Board
SUBJECT: Advisory Committee Report - THAC

At its meeting on August 8, 1988, the Transportation Handicapped Advisory Committee discussed, but took no action on, the following topics:

- o Metro Mobility Administrative Center Monthly Report;
- o MTC Accessible Bus Demonstration Project Update;
- o Eligibility Criteria and Recertification Plan (MCIL); and
- o Customer Service Enhancement Project (Pine & Associates).

RTB staff also provided the committee with a status report on various RTB activities and projects.

Discussion on two agenda items--certification issues and after-hours emergency service--was postponed until the September meeting.

jmo

REGIONAL TRANSIT BOARD

Mears Park Centre
230 East Fifth Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101
292-8789

DATE: September 1, 1988
TO: Regional Transit Board
FROM: Howard Blin, Planner *HB*
SUBJECT: Meeting of LRT Advisory Panel - August 24, 1988

The LRT Advisory Panel met on Wednesday, August 24, 1988. Panel members include:

Donald MacDonald - Vancouver, British Columbia
E.L. Tennyson - Arlington County, Virginia
Tom Matoff - Santa Clara County, California
Roger Clark - San Diego, California

The purpose of this initial meeting of the panel was to give the group an introduction to light rail planning efforts in the Twin Cities to outline the RTB's expectations for assistance from the group and to identify future activities for their involvement. An agenda for the day is attached. The following provides a summary of panel activities.

BREAKFAST MEETING

Attending: LRT Advisory Panel
George Isaacs, RTB Board Member
Judy Hollander, RTB
Katie Turnbull, RTB
Howard Blin, RTB
Natalio Diaz, Metropolitan Council
Steve Wilson, Metropolitan Council

Judy Hollander described the origins and role of the RTB. The history of light rail planning in the Twin Cities was summarized, including early fixed guideway proposals and legislative moratoriums. The creation and role of the regional railroad authorities was also discussed.

Natalio Diaz presented an overview of the current status of light rail planning. This included descriptions of Hennepin County, Ramsey County and Anoka County planning efforts. The roles of the Metropolitan Council and RTB in reviewing county plans and in reviewing applications to Mn/DOT for LRT funding were also discussed.

Panel members asked what the level of political support for LRT was. Hollander and Diaz briefed the panel on historical support for LRT at the state, county and local levels. The opposition of various groups to LRT was also discussed.

Issues relating to LRT financing were discussed. Hollander and Diaz described the existing means of funding, transit capital and operating costs. Thus far, only Hennepin County has proposed an LRT financing plan which includes traditional sources such as the property tax levy and MVET, as well as tax increment financing and potential private financial participation. When asked if a dedicated sales tax, as used in California, was under consideration, Diaz responded that use of the sales tax for transit was unlikely to be supported.

Tour of Light Rail Corridors

Panel members toured the five corridors under consideration in Hennepin County (Northwest, Southwest, South, Hiawatha and University) and two alignments under consideration by Ramsey County in the Midway Corridor (BN Southern Mainline and University Avenue). Panel members asked a number of questions concerning the different alignments and raised a number of elements for consideration.

LUNCH MEETING

Attending: LRT Advisory Panel
George Isaacs, RTB Board Member
Greg Andrews, RTB
Judy Hollander, RTB
Katie Turnbull, RTB
Randy Rosvold, RTB
Howard Blin, RTB
Steve Wilson, Metropolitan Council
Ken Stevens, Hennepin County
Kathy DeSpiegelaere, Ramsey County
Tim Yantos, Anoka County
Elwyn Tinklenberg, Anoka County
Bev Auld, MTC

The purpose of the luncheon meeting was to introduce the LRT Advisory Panel members to representatives from each of the county railroad authorities, the MTC, and Mn/DOT. This was felt to be important since the RTB will be using the advisory group on an ongoing basis and they will be reacting and commenting on plans and proposals from the county railroad authorities. A representative from Mn/DOT was unable to attend.

Judy Hollander opened the luncheon by explaining the RTB's use of the LRT advisory group and the RTB's ongoing interest in continuing to work with the county railroad authorities and others in planning and coordinating LRT. Each of the LRT advisory group members introduced themselves and provided a brief background of their experience.

Representatives of the county regional rail authorities briefed panel members on the status of light rail planning in their respective counties. Kathy DeSpiegelaere of Ramsey County reported that the county will soon begin development of a comprehensive LRT plan covering all potential corridors. Preliminary engineering will also be undertaken on the Midway Corridor alignments. No decision has been made on an alignment within this corridor and the RCRRA intends to carry at least two alignments into preliminary engineering.

Ken Stevens of Hennepin County noted that the county recently completed a comprehensive LRT system plan. The rail authority will be considering, on August 30, a contract to perform preliminary engineering on the five corridors identified in the plan. Preliminary engineering would be conducted in two phases. The county could stop the process after each phase.

Tim Yantos of Anoka County described the study of the Northeast Corridor which will be conducted jointly with Hennepin County. The study will identify the preferred alignment within the corridor between downtown Minneapolis and southern Anoka County.

Bev Auld, Assistant Chief Administrator of the MTC described the MTC's activities in anticipation of becoming the regional LRT system operator.

The advisory panel members were asked to describe how systems, with which each was familiar, had either met or failed to meet ridership estimates. Ridership experience in the San Diego, Buffalo, Edmonton, Portland and Santa Clara County systems were discussed. It was noted that ridership estimates which prove low result in systems with too few light rail vehicles to meet ridership demands.

Panel members also described that in many cases there was negative publicity and opposition to development of LRT. In all cases, this turned to positive publicity once the systems began operations and positive results were shown. Members also indicated that in most successful systems there was one key individual or a small group of individuals who were instrumental in developing the system.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Attending: LRT Advisory Panel
George Isaacs, RTB Board Member
Judy Hollander, RTB
Katie Turnbull, RTB
Howard Blin, RTB
Steve Wilson, Metropolitan Council
Natalio Diaz, Metropolitan Council

Turnbull described the process used in the Midway Corridor Alignment Study and the results of the study. Ramsey County will select the preferred alignment. The RTB will recommend a particular alignment to the county.

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Hollander discussed future activities for the panel. The purpose of the panel is to provide expertise and to assist the RTB staff in review of light rail plans. These include review and comment on Midway Corridor issues, review and comment on grant applications the rail authorities will be submitting to Mn/DOT in early September and possible future meetings with local decision makers to discuss LRT issues. Additional activities may be identified as light rail planning progresses.

It was determined that with regard to the Midway Corridor RTB staff would forward additional technical information as well as specific questions to which the panel members will respond in writing.

Applications for Mn/DOT funding will also be sent to the panel with specific questions from RTB staff. Panel members will again respond in writing.

In addition, panel members may be asked to return to the Twin Cities in one or two months to meet with the RTB and others as appropriate.

SUMMARY

The feedback received from both the LRT Advisory Panel members and representatives from the railroad authorities and MTC attending the luncheon meeting was very positive. A follow-up request has been received from Anoka County for a meeting with members of the Anoka County Regional Railroad Authority the next time the group is in town. RTB staff are currently working on sending additional information on the Midway Corridor to the LRT Advisory Panel members for their review. It is anticipated that the next meeting of the group will include sessions with Regional Transit Board members.

LRT ADVISORY PANEL

AGENDA

Wednesday, August 24, 1988

7:30 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. -- BREAKFAST MEETING
Minneapolis, Vista Marquette Inn, Suite 755

- o Introduction to Local LRT Planning
 - Judith Hollander, Regional Transit Board
 - Natalio Diaz, Metropolitan Council
- o Description of Proposed LRT Corridors
 - Howard Blin, Regional Transit Board

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon -- TOUR OF LRT CORRIDORS

12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. -- LUNCH
St. Paul, University Club, Library

- o Introduction to County Regional Rail Authority Planning Efforts
 - Kathy DeSpiegelaere, Ramsey County
 - Ken Stevens, Hennepin County
 - Tim Yantos, Anoka County
- o The Mn/DOT Grant Program, Randy Halverson, Mn/DOT Office of Transit
- o Overview of the Metropolitan Transit Commission, Bev Auld, MTC

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. -- WORK SESSION
St. Paul, University Club, Library

- o Discussion of Midway Corridor Issues
 - Katherine Turnbull, Regional Transit Board
- o Future Activities for Panel
 - Judith Hollander, Regional Transit Board
 - Katherine Turnbull, Regional Transit Board