

**77th Meeting of the
Metro Area Transit Coordinating Board
March 20, 2019
Fargo Commission Chambers**

Members Present:

Jim Aasness, Dilworth City Council
Annie Wood , MSUM
Paul Grindeland, Metro Senior Ride
Kevin Hanson, Chair
Jackie Maahs, Concordia College
John Strand, Fargo City Commission
Sara Watson Curry, Moorhead City Council
Deb White, Moorhead City Council
Brad Olson, West Fargo City Commission

Members Absent:

Teresa Stolfus, M|State
Brit Stevens, NDSU
Tony Grindberg, Fargo City Commission

Others Present:

Julie Sellner, First Transit
Michael Maddox, FM Metro COG
Lori Van Beek, City of Moorhead
Julie Bommelman, City of Fargo
Shaun Crowell, City of Fargo
Matthew Peterson, City of Fargo
Jordan Smith, MATBUS
Taaren Haak, City of Moorhead

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Mr. Hanson called the meeting to order, introductions were made, and a quorum was present. Mr. Hanson introduced two new members, Annie Wood, representing MSUM and Deb White, representing Moorhead City Council. Chair Hanson then introduced Julie Sellner, Region Director of Operations for First Transit, who gave a brief update and summary on First Transit Operations in the Fargo-Moorhead Metro.

2. Action Items

a. November 28, 2018 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Aasness and seconded by Ms. Watson Curry. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

b. 2019 MATBUS Free and Discounted Fare Events

Ms. Van Beek presented the 2019 MATBUS Free and Discounted Fare Events for 2019 and said that the list is similar to last year. She went on to say that there are a few new events for 2019 and reduced and promotional fares for large groups.

A motion to recommend to the Moorhead City Manager approval of the 2019 Moorhead MATBUS listing of free or reduced promotional fares was made by Ms. White and seconded by Ms. Wood. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved.

3. Informational Items

a. Ground Transportation Center (GTC) Renovation

Ms. Bommelman presented an update about the GTC renovation project and a recent grant award from the NDDOT that brings the total funding of the renovation to about three-million dollars. There were two proposals for the design-build RFP and the selected firm was KLJ, whom also completed the MATBUS Transit Facility Study. Ms. Watson Curry asked about operating hours and if Jefferson lines changed the hours the facility was open, Ms. Bommelman answered that Jefferson Lines is open on Sundays for a brief window of time so the GTC is accessible for customers during those times that the Jefferson Line office is open.

Ms. Watson Curry also asked if the renovation would help with security issues that have been a growing concern for MATBUS and the GTC. Ms. Bommelman said that safety and security is one of the top priorities of the renovation project, and is hoping there will be significant improvement.

Ms. White asked about the timeline of the project and how long the GTC would be under construction and what measures would take place to alleviate some of the disruptions for riders during construction. Ms. Bommelman said that the phased construction is anticipated to start June of 2019 and be wrapped up in April of 2020. She said part of the RFP was that the construction accommodate all bus movements and to avoid major conflicts, some of the more robust construction would take place on Sundays, when MATBUS is closed and only Jefferson Lines is operating for a short period of time.

b. State of Minnesota Operating Grant Amendment

Ms. Van Beek explained that the State of Minnesota had a surplus of transit money for 2019 and would be amending some of the operating grants so the local match for Moorhead would be decreasing considerably. She went on to say that the City of Moorhead would be looking at using the opportunity to hopefully fund much needed projects such as the Dilworth transit hub near Walmart, replacement of aging bus shelters throughout Moorhead, and a joint project with the engineering department for green-light priority for buses.

Ms. White asked if there are priorities for Moorhead and Ms. Van Beek said she would be offering recommendations to the city manager, however the manager's budget may dictate which projects would be realistic to fund in the short-term.

c. Update on Transit Authority Study: Selection of Consultant and Steering Committee

Mr. Maddox presented the Transit Authority Study being conducted by MATBUS and Metro COG to determine long-term funding solutions, especially after the 2020 Census, when federal funding may decrease due to an increase in population.

d. 2018 Accomplishments

Ms. Bommelman and Ms. Van Beek presented the 2018 accomplishments of MATBUS in Fargo and Moorhead including but not limited to: bus replacements, safety improvements,

maintenance vehicles, fare changes, marketing, route changes, facility improvements, personnel training, paratransit, and the First Transit contract.

e. 2018 Year-End Operations Report and College Ridership

Ms. Van Beek and Mr. Peterson presented the 2018 Year-End Operations Report and College Ridership. Ms. Van Beek and Mr. Peterson said that it was a good year and ridership was up, which is a good sign.

f. January and February 2019 Operations Report and College Ridership

Mr. Peterson presented the January and February 2019 Operations Report and College Ridership. He explained that ridership is down, but there were several days of inclement weather in which MATBUS was not operating.

g. 2019 Marketing Plan

Mr. Peterson presented the 2019 Marketing Plan and explained that for 2019, MATBUS will be contracting with Absolute Marketing to reinvigorate marketing techniques.

4. Other Business

Hearing no other business Mr. Hanson adjourned the meeting at 9:04 AM.