

**77<sup>th</sup> 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.