

A regular meeting of the St. Cloud Metropolitan Transit Commission was held on the 15th day of November, 2011 at 4:06 p.m. at the Metro Bus Operations Center. Chairman Ringsmuth presided with the following present:

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

Additions or Changes to the Agenda. Add 9c. Preliminary Tax Calculations. **Commissioner Hennes moved, and Commissioner Kleis seconded a motion, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

Consent Agenda. **Commissioner Garven moved, and Commissioner Hennes seconded a motion, to approve the Consent Agenda which included the October 2011 List of Bills and the Meeting Minutes from October 18 and November 3, 2011. Motion carried.**

Old Business.

Update on Transit Center Project. Mr. Cruikshank reported that the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Building is scheduled for demolition beginning Monday, November 28th and should take 3-4 days. There is a possibility that the Transit Center will be closed during the approximate 4-5 week renovation process scheduled for next June. Daily business would be conducted out of a temporary shelter set up in the Lady Slipper lot at 6th Avenue and 1st Street. Advantages of closing the Transit Center would include decreased construction time, less service disruption and a safer passenger area.

New Business.

Operations Reports.

- a. October 2011 Metro Bus Ridership. Mr. Kellen reported that Saturday and Sunday Fixed Route service is up, but the University/Campus routes are down. This could possibly be due to decreased enrollment and fewer people parking in the South lot which impacts the Husky Shuttle. The DAR system remains steady.
- b. October 2011 Northstar Link Ridership. The Northstar daily average grew from 104 riders in October of 2010 to 179 riders in October of 2011. September 2010 daily average was 109 and in 2011 grew to 196.
- c. FYI on Preliminary Tax Calculations. Mr. Tripp shared with the Commissioners the Metro Bus Tax Levy Rate history along with the history of each city's Net Tax Capacity Valuation, the Transit Dollars Generated and the Net Tax Capacity Rates. Valuations for 2012 are estimated to decrease by approximately 9%. As a result, in

order to generate the same dollar amount as 2010, the Net Tax Capacity Rate will increase from 1.372% to 1.499%.

Open Discussion. Hazel Youngmann asked why the 200 series buses are only used on routes that don't go to the Transit Center. Mr. Kellen responded that they are on the lowest passenger per hour routes and running the smaller buses is a great cost savings. Ms. Youngmann commented that the Southwest route buses have been filled to capacity. Mr. Kellen said the 33 Southwest Route averages 16 passengers per hour and when the new Walmart opens, a larger bus will probably be necessary.

Commissioner Garven congratulated Tony Kellen on receiving the award at the Minnesota Public Transit Association conference for Transit Professional of the Year.

Adjournment. Commissioner Ringsmuth adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.