



Minutes
Transportation & Commerce Committee
Wednesday, June 25, 2025
9:00 AM
Kennedy Room

Minutes are preliminary and may change until finally approved

I. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

II. Roll Call

The Chair directed the Associate Clerk to call the roll and the following members answered their names: Mr. Oldenburg, Mr. Narayan, Ms. Schweitzer, and Chair Cohn **4 members were present. A quorum was established.**

III. Approval of Minutes

None

IV. Board Bills for Review

(The committee will discuss the following and take public comment on the following)

Board Bill Number 17

Introduced by Alderman Shane Cohn

This Board Bill authorizes the acceptance generally of grant agreements offered by the State of Missouri for the furtherance of airport operations and programs. This Board Bill contains a severability clause.

Chair Cohn recognized Antonio Strong, Airport Deputy Director of Finance Administration and Rob Salarano.

Mr. Strong gave a brief description outlining the importance of Board Bill Number 17. He stated that they receive state grants throughout the year from

various state agencies, such as the Missouri Department of Transportation, Aviation Trust Fund, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Missouri Department of Agriculture. He stated that they would like to streamline the process for the receipt of state grants which they are using for various airport operational needs or infrastructure improvements. He stated that the purpose of the is to streamline that process so that they can receive the grant funds immediately, which would allow them to receive the grant funds without a three or four-month approval process.

After no further discussion, the Chair opened the discussion up to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Ms. Schweitzer asked in terms of accepting state grants if they could still inform the committee when they accept a state grant and about the amount received, which department and for the type of project.

Mr. Strong stated that they would continue to keep the BOA informed gradually throughout the year.

Hearing no further questions or comments from members of the committee, the Chair entertained a motion to pass Board Bill Number 17 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation**.

Ms. Schweitzer moved to pass Board Bill Number 17 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation**.

Seconded by Mr. Oldenburg.

Chair Cohn recognized Antonio Strong, Airport Deputy Director of Finance Administration and Rob Salarano.

Mr. Strong gave a brief description outlining the importance of Board Bill Number 17. He stated that they receive state grants throughout the year from various state agencies, such as the Missouri Department of Transportation, Aviation Trust Fund, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and Missouri Department of Agriculture. He stated that they would like to streamline the process for the receipt of state grants which they are using for various airport operational

needs or infrastructure improvements. He stated that the purpose of the is to streamline that process so that they can receive the grant funds immediately, which would allow them to receive the grant funds without a three or four-month approval process.

After no further discussion, the Chair opened the discussion up to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Ms. Schweitzer asked in terms of accepting state grants if they could still inform the committee when they accept a state grant and about the amount received, which department and for the type of project.

Mr. Strong stated that they would continue to keep the BOA informed gradually throughout the year.

Hearing no further questions or comments from members of the committee, the Chair entertained a motion to pass Board Bill Number 17 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation**.

Ms. Schweitzer moved to pass Board Bill Number 17 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation**.

Seconded by Mr. Oldenburg.

Ms. Schweitzer requested the previous roll.

Hearing no objection to the previous roll, the Chair directed the Associate Clerk to record the votes from the previous roll.

The Associate Clerk recorded the votes from the previous roll.

The following voted Aye: Mr. Oldenburg, Mr. Narayan, Ms. Schweitzer and Chair Cohn. **4 Aye votes were cast.**

The following voted No:

None

The following voted Present:

None

The following Abstained:
None

A total of 4 Aye votes were cast. The motion carried.

Board Bill Number 25

Introduced by Alderman Shane Cohn, President Megan E. Green

An ordinance amending Title 18 - Airports and Aviation Code, of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis, to add a new chapter pertaining to car rental operations at St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

Chair Cohn gave a brief description of Board Bill Number 25 before adopting the Committee Substitute to Board Bill Number 25. He also stated that Board Bill Number 25 Committee Substitute would be held in committee.

After no further discussion, Chair Cohn entertained a motion to adopt the Committee Substitute to Board Bill Number 25 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation.**

Mr. Cohn moved to adopt the Committee Substitute to Board Bill Number 25 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation.**

Seconded by Ms. Schweitzer.

Ms. Schweitzer requested the previous roll.

Hearing no objection to the previous roll, the Chair directed the Associate Clerk to record the votes from the previous roll.

The Associate Clerk recorded the votes from the previous roll.

The following voted Aye: Mr. Oldenburg, Mr. Narayan, Ms. Schweitzer and Chair Cohn. **4 Aye votes were cast.**

The following voted No:
None

The following voted Present:
None

The following Abstained:

None

A total of 4 Aye votes were cast. The motion carried.

After no further discussion, the Chair opened the discussion up to members of the public for public testimony.

In Support of Board Bill Number 25 Committee Substitute

1. David Sweeny
2. Lewis Rice
3. Tim O'Connell
4. Robert Salarano

In Opposition of Board Bill Number 25 Committee Substitute

1. Aaron Barraza
2. James Bangasser

After no further discussion, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Board Bill Number 35

Introduced by Alderman Shane Cohn

This Bill is the City's annual appropriation of the Transportation Sales Tax imposed pursuant to Sections 94.600 through 94.655, RSMo., from the City Transportation Trust Fund in the amount of \$26,308,000 to the Bi-State Development Agency for transportation purposes for the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This Bill contains an emergency clause.

The Chair recognized Mr. Taulby Roach, President, CEO of Bi-State Development, for introducing Board Bill Number 35, 36, and 37.

Mr. Roach recognized members of his staff, Chuck Steward and Ron Forest, Chief Operating Officers for Bi-State Development, and Tammy Purris, CFO.

Mr. Roach gave a brief presentation on his operating and capital budget, outlining his fiscal responsibility and a 7-year average growth of 1.64%.

After no further discussion on his portion of the presentation, he recognized Ms. Purris to present the remainder of the presentation.

Ms. Purris gave a thorough presentation outlining the Metro Transit System. She outlined their statement of revenue and expenses, funding sources \$344.2m, ranging from passenger revenue, investment income, federal vehicle maintenance, and other miscellaneous fees, of which portions covered Saint Clair County, St. Louis City, and St. Louis County. She also spoke on the appropriation request, which is up about 1m from the prior year. For FY 2025, they requested \$46.6m, and for FY 2026, they requested \$47.6m.

After no further discussion, the Chair Cohn stated that the pie chart says the City of St. Louis is 42m, but the appropriation request for 2025 was 46.6m, and the appropriation request for 2026 is 47.6m. What is the discrepancy?

Ms. Purris stated that the pie chart is reflective of the operating budget, but in addition to that, they asked for the local match on capital projects, which is 4m and then 2m for debt on their bonds, so this is the principal amount.

Chair Cohn asked if they could provide the year-to-date actuals for 2025 to make sure that they are on track.

Ms. Purris stated that she would provide the actuals to the board at a later date.

Chair Cohn asked if they had a cash reserve.

Ms. Purris stated that they do not have a cash reserve, but what they do have are obligated funds.

After no further discussion, the Chair opened the discussion up to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Mr. Oldenburg asked if there was any yearly data regarding ridership.

Mr. Roach stated that ridership has been increasing year after year. However, their average revenue has gone down due to a combination of things, such as

people using passes and the new fare system.

Ms. Schweitzer stated that if fuel prices are going down because of the way you are charging fuel, will the electric buses have any improvements to how much is being paid?

Mr. Roach stated that the hedge is designed to take the oscillation off. He stated that they buy millions of gallons of diesel fuel based on a hedging implementation, which is meant to make costs consistent over time, not to make money. As far as electric buses, he did not have an answer for that, but stated he would consult his team about it.

Members of the committee continued to ask questions and make comments.

Hearing no further questions or comments from members of the committee, the Chair opened the discussion up to non-committee members for questions and comments.

Mr. Browning asked questions and made comments surrounding safety measures, bus stop improvements, shared data with law enforcement agencies such as ICE, the Office of the Disabled, and ambassadors on the trains.

After no further questions or comments from non-committee members, Chair Cohn entertained a motion to pass Board Bill Number 35 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation**.

Ms. Schweitzer moved to pass Board Bill Number 35 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation**.

Seconded by Mr. Oldenburg.

The Chair directed the Associate Clerk to call the roll.

The Associate Clerk called the roll and the following votes were recorded. The following voted Aye: Mr. Oldenburg, Mr. Narayan, Ms. Schweitzer, and Chair Cohn. **4 Aye votes were cast.**

The following voted No:

None

The following voted Present:
None

The following Abstained:
None

A total of 4 Aye votes were cast. The motion carried.

Board Bill Number 36

Introduced by Alderman Shane Cohn

This Bill is the City's annual appropriation of the Transit Sales Tax imposed pursuant to Section 94.660, RSMo., from the City Public Transit Sales Tax Trust Fund – Account ONE in the amount of \$13,657,000 to the Bi-State Development Agency for the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This Bill contains an emergency clause.

The Chair gave a brief description of Board Bill Number 36. He stated that Board Bill Number 36 is the annual appropriation from the transit sales tax account, one imposed in the amount of 13.6m.

After no further discussion, the Chair opened the discussion up to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Hearing no questions or comments from members of the committee, the Chair entertained a motion to pass Board Bill Number 36 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation**.

Ms. Schweitzer moved to pass Board Bill Number 36 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation**.

Seconded by Mr. Oldenburg.

Ms. Schweitzer requested the previous roll.

Hearing no objection to the previous roll, the Chair directed the Associate Clerk to record the votes from the previous roll.

The Associate Clerk recorded the votes from the previous roll.
The following voted Aye: Mr. Oldenburg, Mr. Narayan, Ms. Schweitzer and

Chair Cohn. **4 Aye votes were cast.**

The following voted No:

None

The following voted Present:

None

The following Abstained:

None

A total of 4 Aye votes were cast. The motion carried.

Board Bill Number 37

Introduced by Alderman Shane Cohn

This Bill is the City's annual appropriation of the Transit Sales Tax imposed pursuant to Section 94.660, RSMo., from the City Public Transit Sales Tax Trust Fund – Account TWO in the amount of \$13,657,000 to the Bi-State Development Agency for the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This Bill contains an emergency clause.

The Chair gave a brief description of Board Bill Number 37. He stated that Board Bill Number 37 is the annual appropriation from the transit sales tax account two imposed in the amount of 13.6m.

After no further discussion, the Chair opened the discussion up to members of the committee for questions and comments.

Hearing no questions or comments from members of the committee, the Chair entertained a motion to pass Board Bill Number 37 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation.**

Ms. Schweitzer moved to pass Board Bill Number 37 out of committee with a **Do Pass Recommendation.**

Seconded by Mr. Oldenburg.

Ms. Schweitzer requested the previous roll.

Hearing no objection to the previous roll, the Chair directed the Associate

Clerk to record the votes from the previous roll.

The Associate Clerk recorded the votes from the previous roll.

The following voted Aye: Mr. Oldenburg, Mr. Narayan, Ms. Schweitzer and Chair Cohn. **4 Aye votes were cast.**

The following voted No:

None

The following voted Present:

None

The following Abstained:

None

A total of 4 Aye votes were cast. The motion carried.

V. Resolutions for Review

None

VI. Committee Discussions

None

VII. Acknowledgment of Any Written Testimony

None

VIII. Announcements

None

IX. Excused Members

All members were present.

X. Adjournment

Having no other business to discuss, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Schweitzer moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Oldenburg.

Ms. Schweitzer requested the previous roll.

Hearing no objection to the previous roll, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Hearing no objection to the previous roll, the Chair directed the Associate Clerk to record the votes from the previous roll.

The Associate Clerk recorded the votes from the previous roll.

The following voted Aye: Mr. Oldenburg, Mr. Narayan, Ms. Schweitzer and Chair Cohn. **4 Aye votes were cast.**

The following voted No:

None

The following voted Present:

None

The following Abstained:

None

A total of 4 Aye votes were cast. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]