

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Board Meeting
December 8, 2010 – 4:30 p.m.
Burnsville Bus Garage, 11550 Rupp Dr., Burnsville, MN 55337

Board Members Present:

Will Branning, Dakota County (briefly)
Gary Hansen, Eagan
Jane Victorey, Savage
Sharon LaComb, Apple Valley
William Droste, Rosemount
Wally Lyslo, At-Large
Dan Kealey, Burnsville

Others Present:

Beverley Miller, Executive Director
Tom Pepper, Eagan TWG
Tom Lovelace, Apple Valley TWG
Robin Selvig, Customer Relations Manager
Tom Bright, Facilities Manager
Lois Spear, Finance Officer
James Strommen, Kennedy & Graven
Samantha Porter, Operations Manager
Michael Abegg, Planning Manager
Glenn Boden, Fleet Maintenance Manager
Connie Massengale, Schmitt & Sons

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Will Branning. Roll call followed and a quorum was present.

Will Branning read a brief salute to Sharon LaComb, thanking her for her service to the MVTA Board. She was also presented with a token of thanks from the MVTA. Branning had to leave, so while awaiting a quorum, the MVTA Board celebrated the debt retirement of the 2002 Certificates of Participation (COP) for the Burnsville Bus Garage and acknowledged the retirement of Board-member LaComb. Cake and sparkling grape juice was available. Gary Hansen took the helm for the remainder of the meeting.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by William Droste and seconded by Sharon LaComb to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

IV. Consent Agenda

Motion by Sharon LaComb and seconded by Jane Victorey to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried. Resolutions adopted as part of the Consent Agenda are attached to these minutes.

V. Old Business

A. Service Investment Strategy

Michael Abegg presented the next chapter of the Service Investment Strategy, noting where some revisions have been made to proposed strategies based on input from

City/County staff and from the Public. He commented on the complex deficiency analysis conducted looking at each route and facility in conjunction with each strategy. He noted some “deficiencies” that resulted from the analysis. The Board agreed with the proposed next steps including: 1) Conduct a service availability analysis of local routes, 2) Engage the Finance Committee in completing a detailed review of cost impacts, and 3) Adopt final strategies and list of recommendations for the next two years. It is expected that the item will be back to the Board for approval at the March 2011 meeting.

Given that this is a new process, there were questions about how the MVTA has handled route analysis to this point. Beverley Miller and Michael Abegg responded, indicating that to date, the MVTA has been reactive primarily to standing loads due to consistent growth in ridership. Other review components include rider comments and a review of gaps in service – with the results based on available funds.

VI. New Business

A. Establish a Nominating Committee

Beverley Miller said staff proposed establishment of a Nominating Committee in preparation for the Board elections in January. Motion by Bill Droste and seconded by Wally Lyslo to establish a Nominating Committee, with Gary Hansen as Chair and Jane Victorey and Dan Kealey as members. Motion carried. Rosemount will select the at-large alternate for 2011. It was also noted that the Board should again look at its governing documents during 2011.

B. 2011 Draft Board Calendar

The draft 2011 calendar was presented and Board members agreed to continue meeting at the Burnsville Bus Garage.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Finance

The Finance Committee met on Nov. 29 to review the final 2011 Operating Budget, 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Plan and to review an amendment to the 2010 Operating Budget. At the Board meeting, Jane Victorey and Lois Spear highlighted changes between the draft documents previously adopted and the final documents now before the Board. The biggest change in the 2011 Operating Budget was the inclusion of additional MVST funds to bring the MVTA’s Fund Balance to the minimum Met Council standard (25 percent by their calculation). Spear indicated there may be an opportunity for additional MVST funding but it would occur late in the year. Motion by Bill Droste and seconded by Jane Victorey to adopt the 2011 Operating Budget. A roll-call vote followed:

William Droste – Aye

Sharon LaComb – Aye

Dan Kealey – Aye

Wally Lyslo – Aye

Jane Victorey – Aye

Gary Hansen – Aye

Motion carried.

The capital improvement plan for 2011-2016 was discussed and Board members were reminded that projects would not be started until they were funded and approved by the

Board. Motion by Dan Kealey and seconded by Sharon LaComb to adopt the 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program. A roll-call vote followed:

William Droste – Aye	Sharon LaComb – Aye	Dan Kealey – Aye
Wally Lyslo – Aye	Jane Victorey – Aye	Gary Hansen – Aye

Motion carried.

Lois Spear presented information regarding an amendment to the 2010 Operating Budget, updating revenues and expenses for the year. Motion by Jane Victorey and seconded by Bill Droste to adopt the amended 2010 Budget. A roll-call vote followed:

William Droste – Aye	Sharon LaComb – Aye	Dan Kealey – Aye
Wally Lyslo – Aye	Jane Victorey – Aye	Gary Hansen – Aye

Motion carried.

Lois Spear reviewed the updated information regarding the COP. Purchase of Build America Bonds has become less attractive, and the underwriter has been selected. MVTA expects to close on the property on Dec. 20 and will then plan to issue the bond sale in March. Motion by Dan Kealey and seconded by Wally Lyslo to approve an updated resolution. A roll-call vote followed.

William Droste – Aye	Sharon LaComb – Aye	Dan Kealey – Aye
Wally Lyslo – Aye	Jane Victorey – Aye	Gary Hansen – Aye

Motion carried.

VIII. Staff Reports / Update

A. Response to Route 444 Comments

Michael Abegg provided background and a verbal response regarding the Route 444 scheduling request to improve connection with Route 540. He spoke of the ongoing challenges of connection times and indicated the MVTA has been dealing with this issue since at least 1995. When the Mall of America opened, regional transit providers determined that buses should serve the Mall around the Route 180 bus schedule (operated by Metro Transit between MOA and downtown Minneapolis).

When light-rail operations began in 2004, the MVTA determined that because of the frequency of trains, MVTA buses will operate around the Route 54 schedule (MOA to downtown St. Paul). When MVTA opened the Cedar Grove Transit Station earlier this year, it was determined that service in our own area would be given transfer priority, seeking to improve total trip times for riders. Because of the unpredictability of headways (frequency of service) and the number of routes/trips serving the Mall of America, it is not possible to schedule all these connections.

At this time, Abegg indicated that it is not in the best interest of the MVTA and our riders to re-time our route 444 to make specific connections. Mr. Drahos will be informed of this in a letter from MVTA, copying in Gary Hansen.

B. Cedar Avenue Vehicle Procurement Process

Michael Abegg gave a brief verbal update on the BRT vehicle procurement process, indicating that there will be a meeting with County Board/Staff and others next week at the New Flyer Plant in St. Cloud – to get a sense of the “range of possible” for BRT Vehicles for the Cedar Avenue Corridor.

C. AVL Request for Information Results

Finally, Michael Abegg briefly commented on the Request for Information for AVL systems – information was received from 10 vendors and there were a total of seven presentations. The Request for Information process was termed “eye opening.”

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Wally Lyslo and seconded by William Droste to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By: Robin L. Selvig

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled: January 26, 2011, 4:30 p.m. Burnsville Bus Garage, 11550 Rupp Dr., Burnsville.

All regularly Scheduled Board Meetings will be held on the **FOURTH** Wednesday of the month at the posted time and location unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____