

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting  
April 27, 2005 – 4:30 p.m.  
Burnsville Transit Station

**Board Members Present:**

William Droste, Rosemount  
Kevin Lienau, Savage  
Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville  
Will Branning, Dakota County  
Meg Tilley, Eagan  
Ruth Grendahl, Apple Valley  
Margaret Schreiner, At Large  
Jon Ulrich, Scott County

**Others Present:**

Lois Spear, Finance Officer  
Robin Selvig, Customer Relations Manager  
Michael Abegg, Planner  
Wally Lyslo, At Large Alternate  
Tom Pepper, Eagan TWG  
Greg Konat, Dakota County TWG  
Tom Knier, Laidlaw Transit  
Bryan Tucker, Savage Alternate  
Connie Massengale, Schmitt & Sons  
David Browne, Perteet  
Tom Bright, Facilities Manager  
Samantha Porter, Operations Manager

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Droste at 4:30 p.m.

**II. Public Comments**

There were no comments from the public.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Several items were added to the agenda: V. Old Business item “C - Correspondence” and under VIII. Staff Reports items “B - Clarify Joint Powers At-Large Commissioner Appointment language,” “C - Audit/Board Conflict of Interest Information,” and “D - Call from FTA”. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Meg Tilley to approve the agenda as modified. Motion carried.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Meg Tilley to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried. Resolutions approved as part of the Consent Agenda are attached to these minutes.

**V. Old Business**

*A. Scott County Report*

MVTA Planner, Michael Abegg, introduced David Browne of Perteet, to give the presentation on the findings of the Scott County study. Mr. Browne discussed the growth in Scott County and described how transit services have not kept pace. He said that as the consultant to this project, it is hoped that all of the associated groups will consider the study and eventually adopt it and the recommendations. Key in his comments was the need to develop a transit hub at the south end of the 169 bridge over the Minnesota River. Transit service on Hwy 169 into downtown Minneapolis was a recurring theme throughout his presentation particularly for those in the western portion of Scott County where travel to I-35W is not practical. He also spoke of the need for east-west

connections, and service to entertainment venues in the area. Perteet's research included focus groups and discussions with a variety of businesses and stakeholders. He shared concerns about the need for signage for existing transit service (no sign at Savage Park & Ride), and about the dot-maps showing where riders are coming from that are using park & ride facilities..

While most of the study focused on fixed-route transit, there was discussion about dial-a-ride services and how to coordinate these in the future. While this study focused on the northern portion of the County, Mr. Browne indicated that the County needs to watch areas such as Elko and New Market in the southeast portion of the County as they are fast growing and their needs will be apparent soon. He presented information regarding phase one and phase two service plans, and discussed equipment and other capital needs (with the intent being to submit applications for the next round of federal funding later this year). Wally Lyslo asked about the funds required, and Mr. Browne indicated that the final report would include detailed financial information. Further, he noted that while there are excess funds now, it is anticipated that additional funds over and above MVET and fare revenue will be required by 2008. A variety of options for governance of the system were also presented. Jon Ulrich indicated that he is a member of SCALE (Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency), and that a number of SCALE members believe it would be in Scott County's best interest to join the MVTA and have MVTA be the service provider for South of the River. Elizabeth Kautz indicated that the MVTA Board would entertain such discussions.

When reviewing "next steps," Mr. Browne indicated there are a variety of steps: discussions should take place to pool existing resources to better provide service today, planning should begin immediately to acquire a park & ride side at the south end of the Minnesota River crossing on Hwy 169, joint marketing and service development plans should be established and there are specific routing/service recommendations.

Ruth Grendahl asked about the climate in Prior Lake and their response to this study. Mr. Browne indicated that they have listened, but he is not especially able to read City Councilmembers. He said staff seems more wedded to the service than the Council. Mike Abegg noted, with regard to Prior Lake, that one-half of the Prior Lake bus riders use MVTA services, and one-half of the bus riders using the Prior Lake service are from outside Prior Lake. There was also a question about the Met Council involvement in this process, and Mr. Browne indicated that a Met Council staff member was involved in the meetings, but a presentation to the Met Council was canceled. MVTA Board members believe the Council must get involved in the process and also use this report as a stepping-off point for growth of the transit-taxing district. Chair Bill Droste suggested that as communities submit their 2030 plans to the Met Council for approval, there needs to be some type of formula in place to expand the transit-taxing district as the MUSA line expands. The Board thanked Mr. Browne for his presentation.

#### *B. Fare Policy*

Michael Abegg presented a revised fare policy for consideration by the Board, including several "clean-up" items and a new section about who can ride free. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Meg Tilley to approve the policy. Motion carried.

#### *C. Correspondence*

Margaret Schreiner raised some questions regarding the letter to the MVTA from LSA Design. Chair Droste noted that he requested this letter to have an understanding of the status of the project. He also distributed a letter to the MVTA from Greg Konat, which was Dakota County's response to the letter sent to the County after the MVTA's March Board meeting. Ms. Schreiner questioned if the MVTA has the expertise to undertake construction coordination (it was noted that this was part of the agreement between the MVTA and LSA Design). The status of the funds available for this work was also questioned (it was noted that the MVTA has received all funds from Dakota County per the current agreements, and all funds have been paid to LSA based on the agreements.)

Mr. Konat was questioned regarding the timeline for an agreement between the County and the MVTA regarding operation of service. He stated that the discussions have started. The question of ownership of the site was also raised and it was explained that this is complicated due to the fact that both Dakota County and the City of Apple Valley own portions of the Transit Station site. Elizabeth Kautz asked when these items would be decided, as budgets need to be prepared and service plans need to be developed. These items will be placed on the May Board agenda for significant discussion. Bill Droste also noted that of the \$60 million deficit (this is a two-year figure), \$5.3 million is attributable to the Opt-Outs (the MVTA's portion is \$1 million in 2005, to be covered by fund balance).

## **VI. New Business**

There was no New Business.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### *A. Strategic Planning Committee*

Elizabeth Kautz noted that the Strategic Planning Committee will schedule a meeting soon to complete its work. Committee members are Elizabeth Kautz, Bill Droste, and Jon Ulrich.

### *B. STA*

Margaret Schreiner reported on STA, expressing concern regarding the language included in the Cybart bill that is now part of the omnibus bill. She commended Rep. Cybart on his efforts at the committee meeting, but his amendment was voted down. Commissioners Schreiner and Grendahl both commended the City of Farmington for their involvement, including testimony by a Farmington Councilmember and Dave Urbia, Farmington's Administrator. A breakfast meeting is scheduled for May 9 for STA members to meet with their legislators. Board members expressed concern about the status of the House bill. Commissioner Branning stated that we would be better off with no bill than with the current language. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Meg Tilley directing staff to get clarity from Messerli regarding the House language. Further, staff is to request a side-by-side comparison of the House and Senate versions of the bill, is to solicit opinions and ideas of what to do next, is to request an understanding of the pros and cons of these bills and the viability of each, and is to understand what Messerli's strategy is from here until the end of the session with regard to this legislation. Some MVTA Board members suggested that the STA Legislative Committee meet to formalize a position on these bills and then communicate that position to the Met Council and opt-out area legislators. Motion carried.

*C. Personnel Committee*

Elizabeth Kautz noted that the Board has been significantly delayed in acting on the Executive Directors compensation following the review that was conducted. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Meg Tilley to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation of a two percent merit increase and a 1.5 percent cost of living increase for the Executive Director, retroactive to her review date in August. Motion carried with one nay vote. The Board will work hard to get these reviews done in a timelier manner, with materials going out to the Board in late June or early July for action at the August Board meeting. Chair Droste also reminded Board members that it is important for them to complete the Executive Director review form when it is distributed.

**VIII. Staff Reports / Update**

*A. Review of Public Meetings*

Robin Selvig distributed a summary of two public meeting conducted in the MVTA area, including the Met Council's public hearing at Burnsville City Hall on April 20 and the MVTA's public meeting at the Apple Valley Transit Station on April 25. To date, the Council has received more than 3,000 comments (from hearings, e-mails, comment cards, letters, etc.). Most comments at the Burnsville meeting were from groups of people concerned about service cuts. The Council has heard that riders are willing to tolerate a fare increase if service is not cut. It was noted that the MVTA stated that we are not looking at service cuts, but would participate in a fare increase.

The Apple Valley meeting was well-attended by individuals wanting to comment on the revised express service changes. However, the majority of those attending wanted information on the status of a parking permit at the Apple Valley Transit Station. MVTA staff had riders sign up on a list to receive information when it is available. Riders also asked about the status of the new park & ride.

*B. Joint Powers Agreement*

Barb Ross clarified that the only change to the Joint Powers Agreement was removal of the term-limit for the at-large position. The Board agreed that this is correct at this time.

*C. Audit Information*

Information required from Board members in preparation for the MVTA's audit was distributed. Board members are asked to return these documents by May 17.

*D. FTA Call*

Robin Selvig reported on a telephone call she received from the FTA this afternoon, regarding an MVTA rider lodging a complaint against the MVTA stating that our bus lifts are not ADA compliant. She gave background to the FTA inquirer regarding our understanding of the situation (the rider's wheelchair is larger than that required for ADA compliance (31" vs. 30") and it fits on some MVTA buses, but not all buses. This rider also has the option of riding DARTS buses. It is expected that the FTA will make a ruling in the near future, but Selvig wanted to keep the Board informed in the event they hear from this rider.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried.

**Minutes Prepared By:**

**Robin L. Selvig**

**Next Regular Meeting Scheduled: May 25, 2005, 4:30 p.m. Burnsville Transit Station,  
Second Floor Conference Room**

All regularly Scheduled Board Meetings will be held on the **FOURTH** Wednesday of the month at the posted time at the Burnsville Transit Station Second Floor Conference Room unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_