

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
Regular Board Meeting  
February 23, 2005 – 4:30 p.m.  
Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room - Eagan

**Board Members Present:**

William Droste, Rosemount  
Margaret Schreiner, At Large  
Kevin Lienau, Savage  
Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville  
Will Branning, Dakota County  
Jon Ulrich, Scott County  
Tom Pepper, Eagan

**Others Present:**

Beverley Miller, Executive Director  
Tom Knier, Laidlaw Transit  
Robin Selvig, Customer Relations Manager  
Mitch Rasmussen, Burnsville TWG  
Tom Bright, Facilities Manager  
Lois Spear, Finance Officer  
Connie Massengale, Schmitt & Sons  
Wally Lyslo, At Large Alternate  
Todd Telin, Schmitt & Sons  
Yhone Chapinski  
Sarah Chapinski  
Allen Barnard, Best & Flanagan

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Bill Droste called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

**II. Public Comments**

Chair Bill Droste made a presentation to MVTA rider Yhone Chapinski, thanking him for his quick-thinking in stopping an MVTA bus after the driver experienced a medical emergency. The Board presented Mr. Chapinski with an Award of Valor, including a certificate, model MVTA coach-style bus and bus pass as a token of appreciation from the MVTA Board and its riders. Connie Massengale of Schmitt & Sons also presented a certificate to Mr. Chapinski as a token of thanks.

There were no comments from the public.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Jon Ulrich to approve the agenda as published. Motion carried.

**IV. Consent Agenda**

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Kevin Lienau to approve the Consent Agenda as published. Motion carried. Resolutions adopted as part of the Consent Agenda are attached to these minutes.

**V. Old Business**

*A. Apple Valley Parking Permit Status*

VI. Beverley Miller briefly reviewed what has transpired with regard to concerns about parking in Apple Valley and discussed the upcoming meeting with the Metropolitan Council and local legislators, including representatives from Lakeville and Farmington. She indicated that STA has a bill being drafted to provide for an amount (perhaps 50 percent or so) of the funding generated by expanding the transit taxing district to be used for operating funds, not just to pay off debt as is currently written into statute.

There was significant and lively discussion on this issue, including concerns about the lack of regional leadership on this issue, the mixed messages being sent by Met Council staff to key players (i.e., MVTA, City of Apple Valley, City of Lakeville, and legislative representation for these communities). The Board then directed MVTA staff to draft letters to the Met Council reps for the MVTA cities, with copies to the Chair of the Council and all other Met Council members. Additionally, the Board requested a list of talking points to be used by Board members when discussing this item. These talking points include:

- Given that some Dakota County residents pay property taxes to support transit and others do not, this becomes a tax equity issue. Further, it should be noted that the transit taxing district was established in 1976 when the MUSA boundary was identified. The district has not been updated since that time.
- Basing transportation issues on general population survey data does not provide the whole picture of a community's transportation needs. Given that the nationwide statistics indicate that some 2-5 percent of residents use public transportation, a more accurate means of viewing this is to consider how many cars can be removed from congestion-clogged freeways by use of public transit – thus providing a better commute for all.
- MVTA Board and staff are receiving mixed messages from the region (i.e., Met Council). Regional issues need regional solutions; therefore it is critical that there be regional leadership on this issue. Further, in order to adequately plan for future needs, it is critical that the leadership from growth cities participate in the planning process.
- Board members were reminded that this is not a new issue – information-sharing has been going on for years. Several years ago, similar circumstances in Maple Grove brought the issue to a head in an article by Laurie Blake of the *Star Tribune*. Now, it is critical in the south metro area. The problem needs to be resolved, not discussed to death.
- It is important that major corridors (i.e., 35W) function smoothly, and transit can de-load these major corridors. By working together, and supporting the investment made by cities in the Transit Taxing District, residents of the south metro area are all able to have a less stressful commute.

The Board also discussed the City of Apple Valley's plan to implement a permit parking program. Will Branning noted that this should be done, and it should be considered in other cities (i.e., Burnsville).

## **VI. New Business**

There was no New Business.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### *A. STA*

Margaret Schreiner noted this was the key topic of discussion at the STA meeting, but also noted the committee was updated on the bonding bill. She noted that the issue of permit-parking is of huge concern to the region and there has been talk that if this is implemented, at least one legislator will introduce a bill to outlaw it.

### *B. Personnel Committee*

Elizabeth Kautz reported that the Personnel Committee will have a recommendation for the full Board at the March meeting regarding the Executive Director's salary.

*C. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting*

The Board agreed to keep the March 10 Strategic Planning Committee meeting date, and offered several suggestions for meeting locations in Dakota County.

**VIII. Staff Reports / Update**

*A. Driver of the Year Awards Dinner*

The Dinner will follow the Board meeting.

**IX. Adjournment**

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by William Droste to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried.

**Minutes Prepared By:**

**Robin L. Selvig**

**Next Regular Meeting Scheduled: March 23, 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: \_\_\_\_\_