

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 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
Samantha Porter, Operations Manager
Tom Bright, Facilities Manager
Tom Pepper, Eagan TWG
Greg Konat, Dakota County TWG
Tom Knier, Laidlaw Transit
Connie Massengale, Schmitt & Sons
David Zech, Dakota County
Tom Poul, Schmitt & Sons
Barb Ross, Best & Flanagan

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Droste at 4:33 p.m.

II. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ruth Grendahl and seconded by Elizabeth Kautz to approve the agenda.
Motion carried.

IV. Consent Agenda

Items A and B were pulled from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Ruth Grendahl to approve the remaining portion of the Consent Agenda. Motion carried. Resolutions approved as part of the Consent Agenda are attached to these minutes.

Ruth Grendahl had a question about the amount being paid to Master Electric and Viking Electric, and questioned if it was time to put this work out for bid. Tom Bright noted that he usually calls Master Electric because they are very responsive. Lois Spear agreed to provide an analysis of funds paid to Master and Viking, as compared to the blanket PO for presentation at next meeting. Motion by Ruth Grendahl and seconded by Elizabeth Kautz to approve the Operations/Expense Reports. Motion carried.

Ruth Grendahl also questioned the need to change the Joint Powers Agreement to reflect a later budget approval date, given that for the past several years, the MVTA has postponed budget preparation until after the Legislative session is complete. Most Board members were okay with the proposed change, and it will be considered further at a later time. Motion by Ruth Grendahl and seconded by Elizabeth Kautz to postpone approval of the budget until August 2005. Motion carried.

V. Committee Reports

A. Strategic Planning Committee

Elizabeth Kautz reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met prior to the full Board meeting and reviewed the revised Strategic Plan document pulled together by MVTA staff after the half-day discussion by the Board. Several revisions will be made, and then the document will be distributed to Board members by May 27, requesting review and comment by June 13. The Committee will then reconvene to review the proposed revisions and submit the plan to the full Board for approval at the June 22 meeting.

B. STA

Tom Poul of Messerli & Kramer reviewed the 2005 Legislative session with the MVTA Board. He explained that the Legislature doesn't "have its work done" yet, but there were several items of interest that have been approved. Most notable was the public finance bill, which included funding for the Eagan Bus Garage and replacement buses for the MVTA, as well as funding for other opt-out items.

He reviewed the legislation considered this year regarding the Transit Taxing District, stating that both Rep. Cybart and Sen. Gerlach were strong proponents of legislation to help with the issue of growth in areas contiguous to the transit taxing district. He said that while it is still possible to get something enacted, it appears that the majority of STA members would rather have nothing approved than have bad legislation approved. There was some discussion about how to engage the Metropolitan Council in this discussion, given that it is a regional issue that needs a regional solution. Because transit funding is an issue (i.e., the \$66 million Metro Transit shortfall), the Council is not interested in proposing a solution at this time. Bill Droste believes that the transit taxing district needs to be tied to regional growth. There are a number of regional issues that need to be addressed in concert with the Metropolitan Council.

Poul finally discussed several other bills, including the transportation bill vetoed by the Governor. However, the Constitutional Question regarding dedication of the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) for transit and transportation cannot be vetoed and at this time, the question will be on the ballot in November of 2006.

VI. Old Business

There was no New Business.

A. Lebanon Park & Ride

Greg Konat and Dave Zech of Dakota County joined Board members at the table to review a presentation about the County Road 46/County Road 31 Park & Ride project. Zech provided background on the history and current status of the project. Board members then discussed next steps, including the need to resolve ownership/operational issues between the three key players: Dakota County, City of Apple Valley and MVTA. Several Board members were vocal about the MVTA's need to own the site. However, it was unknown if Dakota County and Apple Valley would want to be compensated for the land involved, and if so, at what price. Commissioner Will Branning stated that the County will want to know the MVTA's position, when it discusses this site. It was decided that a list of issues from each of the three parties, would be brought forward at the next MVTA Board meeting, for discussion and resolution such that the legal documents can begin to be drafted. It is expected that service will begin to the site in late

2005. The MVTA has funds budgeted for operations, but not for the purchase or maintenance of the site. If the MVTA is to participate in these activities, it will need to be clarified in time for preparation of the 2006 budget.

B. Review Video from Bus Camera System

Review of incidents from the on-board camera system on MVTA local buses was delayed until a later meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Appointment to Cedar Transitway Committee

A letter from County Board Commissioner Will Branning was distributed to Board members, seeking appointment of the Chair, Executive Director and an alternate to the Cedar Corridor Transportation Infrastructure Improvement Group (Cedar Group).

Motion by Jon Ulrich and seconded by Will Branning to appoint William Droste as Chair, Beverley Miller as Executive Director and Meg Tilley as alternate to the Cedar Group. Motion carried.

VIII. Staff Reports / Update

A. Go-To Card Update

Board members were referred to the memo included in the packet regarding the status of the Go-To Card project, noting that it is moving ahead, but there are still plenty of concerns.

B. Wheelchair Policy Update

Robin Selvig reported that the MVTA has yet to receive the written ruling regarding the ADA complaint made against the MVTA. However, it is likely that the FTA will rule in the MVTA's favor. Upon receipt of that correspondence, the MVTA will draft the wheelchair policy for approval by the MVTA Board.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes Prepared By:

Robin L. Selvig

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled: June 22, 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: _____