

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Board Meeting
April 23, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.
Eagan Bus Garage

Board Members Present:

Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville
William Droste, Rosemount
Ruth Grendahl, Apple Valley
Margaret Schreiner, At Large
Jane Victorey, Savage
Will Branning, Dakota County
Jon Ulrich, Scott County
Tom Pepper, Eagan

Others Present:

Beverly Miller, Executive Director
Michael Abegg, Planner
Barb Ross, Best & Flanagan
Troy Beam, Scott County TWG
Robin Selvig, Customer Relations Manager
Lois Spear, Finance Officer
Tom Lovelace, Apple Valley TWG
Tom Bright, Facilities Manager
Connie Massengale, Schmitt & Sons
David Pritzlaff, Farmington Councilmember
Steve Mielke, Lakeville Administrator
Holly Dahl, Lakeville Mayor
Sam O'Connell, Dakota County

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Elizabeth Kautz.

II. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Margaret Schreiner and seconded by Jane Victorey to approve the agenda with the addition of Updates on Watson's and the City of Lakeville under "Staff Reports." Motion carried.

IV. Consent Agenda

Motion by Margaret Schreiner and seconded by Bill Droste to approve the Consent Agenda with the change of "March" Meeting Minutes to "February" Meeting Minutes. Motion carried. Resolutions adopted as part of the Consent Agenda are attached to these minutes.

V. New Business

A. I-35W BRT Service Plan.

Michael Abegg distributed some information and provided background and discussion regarding the I-35W BRT Service Plan, which is part of the UPA. He described plans from 2003-2004 that identified improvements along the I-35 corridor in phases. With the approval of the UPA funding via the federal government, many projects have been moved into Phase I with a completion of September 2009. He reviewed several documents that identified the improvements included in the UPA project. He noted the possibility of a south Burnsville

on-line station near County Road 42/I-35W and will be presenting this to the City of Burnsville next week.

Mr. Abegg then identified some issues and challenges about these projects moving forward, including opening of facilities, what is the operational plan and who will be operating the service, funding for ongoing operations as neither the MVTA nor Metro Transit and the Met Council have funds to cover the additional operational costs and costs of such items as bus garages to house additional vehicles, and the greatest question being “who is driving the bus?” or who is leading this charge?

The Board discussed at length concerns about how to proceed, given the short time span to complete this work. It was reiterated that if all the work is not completed, the entire project is in jeopardy. There were questions about who will be operating what service, and various understandings that the MVTA is getting the work on Cedar, but Metro Transit/Met Council would be operating service on I-35W. MVTA Board members have been working with area legislators to have this clarified in law. The Board was reminded that when Hiawatha was ready to begin operations, the work went out for bid and was not just awarded to Metro Transit.

There was discussion regarding the ownership of Watson’s – currently the MVTA has the deed, and is proceeding. The buildings will be removed when weight restrictions are lifted, and there will be minor improvements to the parking lot, including lighting, some pavement repair work and striping until the building design work is complete and the project moves into the next phase.

There was discussion of a meeting with City of Apple Valley and staff regarding the Povolny Group’s ongoing interest in partnering at 140th & Cedar. Elizabeth Kautz reminded them of the offer made by the MVTA Board and at what price, and said that was all we could offer. Beverley Miller offered that the stops at 140th St. & 147th St. could be moved (they were listed as “near” those locations) if there were a better site to be used.

Steve Mielke and Holly Dahl gave an update on the most recent proposal offered to the City of Lakeville by the Met Council to bring Lakeville into the transit taxing district and to bring transit service to the community. There will be a public open house on April 29, and the Council will make its final decision on May 5. Mielke described the proposed service and the sources of revenues, including:

- 3 options for parking at the weigh stations on I-35: 200 spaces east of I-35; parking both east and west of I-35; or a 500-space structure east of I-35 facilities to be funded by UPA and local match from the Met Council/State Bonds;
- 6 am and pm express trips to downtown Minneapolis, with full capacity being 10-12 trips; service expansion costs to be funded by ¼ cent sales tax approved by five counties and operated by a Joint Powers Board
- Addition of a third lane between the Burnsville Parkway and the I-35W/I-35E split (northbound only); HOT lane extension to be covered by unassigned transit funds estimated to be \$15 million

Ruth Grendahl suggested that perhaps the Board should meet with the Commissioner of Finance regarding the MVTA approach to clarify the language about owning assets. The

legislation is waiting to be added to a new bonding bill and the MVTA has received assurances that the language will be placed in several locations.

Mr. Abegg's presentation is posted on the MVTA web-site.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Personnel Committee

Jane Victorey reported that the Personnel Committee will have a report next month. additional work, and to be brought back to the full Board at a future meeting.

B. Strategic Planning Report

There was nothing to report regarding the Strategic Planning committee.

C. STA

The next STA committee meeting is tomorrow

VII. Staff Reports

The Watson's and Lakeville items were discussed as part of the I-35W BRT Service Plan discussion.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Ruth Grendahl and seconded by Margaret Schreiner to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By: Robin L. Selvig

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled: May 21, 2008, 4:30 p.m. Eagan Bus Garage

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: _____