

**SUBURBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, December 3rd, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
League of Minnesota Cities Building
Itasca (3rd Floor)
St. Paul, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Chair Elizabeth Kautz. A quorum was present.

Members in attendance: Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, City of Burnsville; Executive Director Beverley Miller, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority; Transit Manager Sarah Hellekson, City of Plymouth; Executive Director Mike Opatz, Maple Grove Transit; Commissioner Will Branning, Dakota County; Executive Director Michael Leek, Shakopee Transit; Nancy Lukens; SouthWest Transit; and, Executive Director Len Simich, SouthWest Transit.

Others in attendance: James Clark and Patrick Murray, Messerli & Kramer P.A.; and, Sherry Munyon, Capitol Access

Chair Kautz asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Hearing none, Mike Opatz moved approval of the agenda which was seconded by Len Simich. The agenda was approved.

Sarah Hellekson moved to accept the minutes from the October 8th, 2009 Legislative Committee meeting. Michael Leek seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

James Clark gave an update of the MVST receipts from October. He noted that the numbers were above projections and that the federal *Cash for Clunkers* program once again played a role in the increase.

James Clark led a discussion on the Minnesota Management & Budget November Forecast. He stated that for the current budget (Fiscal Year 2010-11) the state was facing a \$1.203 billion budget deficit. Contributing factors included little change in the forecast for real gross domestic product. In addition, the decline in wages and employment was much greater than was forecast in February.

James Clark gave an update on the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government (LCMG). He informed the group that Chair John Doll wanted to have a pre-meeting with the members of the STA to discuss governance issues before their group meets again in January. The Executive Directors agreed to meet prior to the meeting with Sen. Doll.

James Clark then gave an update on the STA/Metropolitan Council staff and policy group meetings. He stated the Council had recently forwarded draft policies to the STA on facility, fleet, procurement, reserves and the revenue service improvement plan. The Council asked that the STA provide feedback and comments on the policies. In addition, James informed the group that a Policy group meeting was to be held in the near future.

James Clark also updated the group on the upcoming meeting scheduled for December 16th at 10:00am with House Minority Leader Rep. Kurt Zellers and Rima Kuwas from Gov. Tim Pawlenty's office. The meeting will be to discuss issues the STA is facing with the Metropolitan Council.

The group then discussed the appointment of a STA member to the Metropolitan Council's Twin Cities Transitways Guidelines Advisory Committee. Elizabeth Kautz made a motion that Will Branning serve as the appointee, with Sarah Hellekson serving as the alternate. Beverley Miller seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

James also updated the group that the Legislative Agenda Committee met on November 11th to work on the 2010 legislative agenda. The group decided that the Legislative Agenda Committee would meet again on December 16th at 11:00am to complete work on the 2010 legislative agenda.

Sherry Munyon updated the group on the Transportation for America campaign and their push to influence Congressman Jim Oberstar's transportation bill in the United States Congress. The group consists of a broad coalition of housing, business, environmental, public health, transportation, equitable development, and other organizations. They are seeking to align national, state, and local transportation policies with an array of issues like economic opportunity, climate change, energy security, health, housing and community development.

The group agreed that the next Board meeting would be held from 9:00am to 11:00am on Thursday, January 14th in St. Paul.

The group also agreed that the next Legislative Committee meeting would be held from 9:00am to 11:00am on Thursday, February 11th in St. Paul.

Beverley Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Lukens seconded the motion and it was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am.

Signed on behalf of STA

Date