

**SUBURBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, April 1st, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
League of Minnesota Cities Building
Itasca Room (3rd Floor)
St. Paul, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Vice Chair Nancy Lukens. A quorum was present.

Members in attendance: Mayor Tom Furlong, City of Chanhassen; Nancy Lukens, SouthWest Transit; Executive Director Beverley Miller, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority; Transit Manager Sarah Hellekson, City of Plymouth; Executive Director Mike Opatz, Maple Grove Transit; Chief Operating Officer Dave Jacobson, SouthWest Transit; City Planner Tom Lovelace, City of Apple Valley; and, Matt Fyten, SouthWest Transit intern.

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

Vice Chair Lukens asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Sarah Hellekson suggested an item be added to discuss regional planning. Beverley Miller moved that the agenda be approved with the addition. Dave Jacobson seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Tom Lovelace moved to accept the minutes from the December 3rd, 2009 Legislative Committee meeting. Mike Opatz seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

James Clark gave an update of the MVST receipts from January and February. He noted that the numbers were slightly below projections.

James Clark then led a discussion on Minnesota Management & Budget's February Forecast. He noted that the state's budget outlook had improved modestly since November due to a reduction in projected expenditures and an increase in revenues. James also noted the state's budget deficit accounts for 6 percent of Fiscal Year 2011 spending. Lastly, budget planning estimates for Fiscal Year 2012-13 show a projected shortfall of \$5.789 billion.

Mike Opatz updated the group on the status of 2009 audit. He stated that the audit field work conducted by Kern DeWinter Viere was complete and that there were no issues of note. He expected the reports to be sent out in the next few weeks.

Chair Furlong opened a discussion on the MPTA newsletter article submitted by the STA. The group agreed that the article was a great success as it was featured on the front page of the newsletter. Among those who receive the newsletter are elected officials, transit officials and staff members of the Metropolitan Council.

James Clark then gave an update on the upcoming STA/Metropolitan Council staff and policy meetings. The staff meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13th in St. Paul. Items to be addressed at the meeting include a follow up conversation to the Reserves Workshop held on

Monday, March 8th, as well as discussions on the Regional Service Improvement Plan Policy and the Regional Transit Operating Revenue Allocation Policy. The policy meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27th. Items to be addressed include the status of provider contracts, the Revenue Allocation Policy and the Facilities Ownership Policy.

James Clark and Sherry Munyon then gave the group an update on the 2010 legislative session and legislative meetings. They mentioned that the Supplemental Budget bill and the Jobs bill were both passed by the legislature. In addition, the meetings with the members of the STA legislative delegation have all gone well. Additionally, a meeting was held at the State Office Building on Monday, March 15th for the members of the STA legislative delegation. Feedback from the STA membership and legislators was very positive and turnout was excellent.

Sarah Hellekson opened up a discussion on the Metropolitan Council's regional planning philosophy. The group reviewed the mix of bus service versus rail service in the scheme of transit options in the metropolitan area.

Sherry Munyon updated the group on the activities of the Legislative Audit Commission (LAC). She stated governance was not discussed at the most recent meeting, but that it will be brought up later in the spring after the LAC finalizes their work on future topic selections.

The group agreed that the next Legislative Committee meeting would be held from 9:00am to 11:00am on Thursday, May 6th in St. Paul.

Sarah Hellekson moved to adjourn the meeting. Beverley Miller seconded the motion and it was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

Signed on behalf of STA

Date