

**SUBURBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, April 20, 2011
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
The Board Room
Minnesota League of Cities Building
145 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55104

Members in attendance: Commissioner Will Branning, Dakota County; Executive Director Beverley Miller, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority; Council Member Gary Hansen, City of Eagan; Executive Director Michael Leek, Shakopee Transit; Executive Director Jane Kansier, Prior Lake Laker Lines; Executive Director Sarah Hellekson, Plymouth Metrolink; Executive Director Mike Opatz, Maple Grove Transit; and Executive Director Len Simich, SouthWest Transit.

Others in attendance: James Clark and Lesley Hinz, Messerli and Kramer, P.A.; and, Sherry Munyon, Capitol Access.

Chair Branning provided a summary of the meeting on March 25 with Commissioner Tom Sorel, MnDOT.

James Clark provided a legislative update. The Omnibus Transportation Finance Bill outlook is very uncertain. There is a \$100 million difference in transit spending between the two bodies that must be resolved. The Senate position is extremely damaging and the House position is much better, particularly when taking into consideration the overall budget situation. Leadership in the House and Senate will need to provide direction to the conference committee.

James provided a summary of the meeting he and Beverley Miller had with Sen. Julianne Ortman regarding Regional Transit Capital (RTC) bonds. The meeting was an opportunity to lay out concerns and discuss them. Sen. Ortman requested a breakdown from Met Council regarding the “list of projects” that they provide to legislators. A meeting was held with Met Council, Sen. Ortman, Sen. Gimse and Rep. Beard on April 15. They will meet again. Sen. Ortman will not move her bill until she has answers from Met Council.

James noted that STA participants have not made individual bonding requests in the past. The group discussed making individual requests next year.

Chair Branning called the meeting to order at 10:03. A quorum was present.

There were no additions to the agenda. Michael Leek moved to approve the agenda. Len Simich seconded the motion. The agenda was adopted.

Michael Leek moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 25, 2011. Len Simich seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted.

The list of meetings with legislators was reviewed. Lesley will follow up with Jeff Wosje and Judy Johnson regarding which legislators from the Plymouth area did not attend the April 8 Twin West Chamber meeting and attempt to schedule meetings with them before the end of session.

Chair Branning attended the Minnesota GO meeting .

The meeting with Met Council Chair Susan Haigh on April 25 was the next item on the agenda. It was determined that STA would request that only elected officials would attend the meeting with Chair Haigh and Pat Born. An agenda for the meeting was discussed.

The next meeting of the STA Legislative Committee is Thursday, May 12 at 9:00 a.m.

Chair Branning turned the meeting over the Councilor Gary Hansen at 10:35 when the Chair had to leave.

The discussion returned to the Omnibus Transportation Finance Bill.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Signature

Date