

DATE: April 28, 2011
TO: Board Members unable to attend April 27 Regular MVTA Board meeting/TWGs
FROM: MVTA
RE: Meeting Summary

Here is a meeting summary of the MVTA April 27, 2011 regular meeting of the MVTA Board of Directors. Supplemental materials are posted at http://www.mvta.com/MVTA_Board.html.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chair Will Branning. Roll-call was taken and a quorum was present.
2. Item VIII – C, Update on MVTA/Met Council Transit Commuter Information and Real-time Sign Systems was moved to Item V – B. Motion by Dan Kealey and seconded by Gary Hansen to approve the revised agenda. Motion carried. Motion by Jon Ulrich and seconded by Jane Victorey to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.
3. Michael Abegg presented information regarding the proposed MVTA Service Improvement Plan Submittal for 2011-2016 in order to hold the MVTA's place in line should expansion funds become available. Will Branning asked how the project list was developed. Abegg noted 1) Projects were selected from applications MVTA has submitted but were unfunded, 2) Projects were identified that MVTA has tracked but hasn't had funds to implement, and 3) Projects were selected that might be implemented if dollars were freed up internally by making adjustments to the existing service plan. Motion by Dan Kealey and seconded by Clint Hooppaw to approve the project list for submittal to the Regional Service Improvement Plan Process. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.
4. A memo and resolution were distributed to Board members regarding the UPA Information Systems Operations and the Interagency Agreement between MVTA and Met Council. Michael Abegg noted that after the last Board meeting, the MVTA received a proposal regarding the MVTA's portion of the annual maintenance and support costs for the LCD signs and the LED Real-Time Signs. At this time, the MVTA is only LCD signs (\$305 per year). Motion by Gary Hansen and seconded by Bill Droste to approve the agreement with the Met Council for the TCIS/RTS Operation Agreement based on the April 25, 2011 Council draft. Jim Strommen stated he does not need to review the agreement again, if it meets the terms described by Abegg. Jon Ulrich asked if there was a dollar amount in which an item need not come before the MVTA Board. It was noted that there is not such an amount at this time, but the Board may wish to consider such delegation to the Executive Director in the future. Additionally, it was noted that the Agreement itself, regardless of dollar impact, would still need Board approval. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.
5. Lois Spear presented information regarding the contract for archaeological services at the Rosemount Park & Ride. The contract amount is \$30,300, with the MVTA's portion being 20 percent or a maximum of \$6,060. Funding for the contract will come from the Reserve/Contingency Budget. MVTA has asked the archaeologist to use scanning to the extent possible, to minimize cost and time of the dig. Motion by Bill Droste and seconded by Jane Victorey to approve the agreement with MnDOT and Louis Berger Group, Inc. for archaeological services in conjunction with the Rosemount Park & Ride and to amend the MVTA's 2011 Operating Budget by reducing the Reserve/Contingency budget by \$2,060 and increasing the Professional Services – Engineering Budget by \$6,060. Clint Hooppaw asked how the MVTA determines when it will pay for something additional on a project and when an individual city will be asked to cover the cost. Beverly Miller said that the first consideration is "what is needed to get the project done?" but acknowledged the need for consistency and fairness when making such decisions. Jim Strommen noted that he has received a draft of the agreement, but has not yet reviewed it. The resolution specifies the Board's approval is subject to staff approval of terms. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.

6. Sherry Munyon provided an update on activities at the Legislature. She noted that the Session is in the last four weeks. This year, the Legislature reversed its schedule by dealing with finance bills, then policy bills. There are 10 omnibus finance bills, but only one has been signed by the Governor. The House and Senate Transportation bills are still far apart (House is a \$132 million cut to transit, but Suburban Transit Providers (STPs) are held whole for the biennium; Senate is a \$32 million cut to transit and reduces MVST funding to STPs by some \$8 million for the biennium). The final bill will be settled in the Conference Committee. Munyon noted that for the first time, all conferees are of a single party, many are first-time legislators and there is no representation from Minneapolis or St. Paul. The STPs have also been brought into the discussion of reserves and how the State can use various reserve funds to help minimize other budget reductions (i.e., fire fighter and other reserve funds).
7. Jon Ulrich asked about “fiscal notes” and Munyon explained that the Office of Budget and Management generally prepares the fiscal notes, which have varying degrees of accuracy. This year, the Legislature decided that because they couldn’t specifically rely on the fiscal notes, they haven’t asked for them. There has been discussion about establishing a new office to create fiscal notes, but that is still being debated. Ulrich also noted that SF 1157 introduced by Sen. Claire Robling was moved out of the Committee on Local Government and Elections to the Transportation Committee on 4/27 (this is the bill that would modify provisions governing metropolitan transportation planning, create a metropolitan transportation board, and designate the board as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for purposes of federal transportation law)
8. Munyon explained that she and James Clark have been busy meeting with freshman legislators and educating these individuals on the many issues surrounding transit. First deadline for policy bills is this Friday and the next deadline is next week. Word at the Capitol, she said, is that there is likely to be a special session to finish the budget bills.
9. Beverley Miller also noted that the Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee set dates for hearings regarding both a fare increase and service cuts. Will Branning thanked Sherry and James for the work they are doing at the Capitol and asked that if there are any calls or meetings with Legislators that are needed, MVTA Board members be tapped.
10. Beverley Miller briefly updated the Board on the status of the Allocated Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST) Agreement with Met Council, indicating we are about ready to return our changes to the Council for their review. The most substantive comment relates to the fact that this agreement covers only the additional MVST revenue and does not include our base. Jim Strommen noted he is also working on this effort to strengthen the language for MVTA.
11. Beverley Miller noted that a working group of Board members met before the meeting to discuss the MVTA’s plans for service on the I-35W Corridor based on the fact that the MVTA was awarded federal CMAQ dollars in 2007 for this year. Staff will be submitting some revisions to the grant application in the near future, seeking the funds for use in the I-35W corridor and requesting the local match from the Met Council.
12. Will Branning noted that he has been involved in many meetings, including with local legislators, with representatives of the Met Council, with Met Council Chair Susan Haigh and Regional Administrator Pat Born and more. He also thanked MVTA Vice Chair Gary Hansen for his involvement in some of these meetings.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled for May 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the Burnsville Bus Garage.