

**SUBURBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, December 15, 2011

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The Board Room

Minnesota League of Cities Building

145 University Avenue W.

St. Paul, MN 55104

Members in attendance: Council Member Gary Hansen, City of Eagan; Executive Director Mike Opatz, Maple Grove Transit; Executive Director Beverley Miller, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority; Transit Manager Sarah Hellekson, Plymouth Metrolink; Planning Director Jane Kansier, Prior Lake Laker Lines; Executive Director Michael Leek, Shakopee Transit; and Administrative Services Director Pat Qvale, SouthWest Transit.

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

Council Member Gary Hansen called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

There were no additions to the agenda. Mike Opatz moved that the agenda be approved. Michael Leek seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

The approval of the minutes was tabled when it was discovered that an incorrect version of the minutes had been distributed.

James Clark noted that the MVST Receipts Report for November 2011 is not yet available.

James Clark provided an overview of the status of the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Governance. STA will testify about transit governance. James also noted that Chair Beard would be calling another meeting to lay out his concepts of the transportation governance bill. James reported that the Chair of the Commission, Rep. Peggy Scott, would carry the Metropolitan Governance bill.

James Clark and Mike Opatz provided an overview of the meeting on December 14 with Speaker Kurt Zellers, Mayor Steffenson of Maple Grove and Maple Grove City Administrator Al Madsen regarding Maple Grove Transit.

James Clark provided an update on the efforts of the Legislative Agenda Committee noting that another meeting of the committee is needed in early January. A discussion was held regarding

the need for draft language for bills STA is supporting in its agenda. Michael Leek moved to direct the creation of the bill language. Mike Opatz seconded the motion. The motion prevailed.

Michael Leek moved that the minutes from the meeting on November 17 be approved. Sarah Hellekson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

The next item for discussion was a review of the Legislator Recognition event held on December 7, 2011. It was agreed that there was very positive feedback regarding the event. James suggested that it would be a good gesture to offer the legislators to assist with a press release to their local newspapers.

The preparations for the Legislative Delegation Breakfast on January 26, 2012 at the Best Western Kelly Inn were discussed next. The invitations will be sent to legislators on December 15, 2011. Additional legislators and staff were identified to receive invitations. Lesley will make arrangements to hold the room for the STA Board Meeting which will be held after the breakfast.

Lobbyist evaluations were the next topic of discussion. Chair Branning stated that formal evaluations would be done following the 2012 session. In the meantime separate meetings will be scheduled with James Clark and Sherry Munyon.

A discussion was held regarding the expansion of social media for the STA website. It was decided not to expand to Twitter but to look into a connection to FaceBook. It was also noted that the content on the website needs to be updated.

The next meeting of the committee will be determined at a later time. The STA Board will meet on Thursday, January 26 at 10:00 a.m. at the Kelly Inn following the Legislative Delegation Breakfast.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Signature

Date