

DATE: July 28, 2011  
TO: Board Members unable to attend July Emergency MVTA Board meeting/TWGs  
FROM: MVTA  
RE: Meeting Summary

Here is a meeting summary of the MVTA July 20, 2011 emergency meeting of the MVTA Board of Directors.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chair Will Branning. A quorum was present.
2. The agenda was approved as presented.
3. Will Branning provided some background regarding a series of telephone calls that transpired during the past weekend as information started to become available about the Transportation Bill. He spoke of calls to Susan Haigh and Pat Born of the Met Council and others. He determined that an emergency Board meeting should be called to discuss the potential impact of the bill on the MVTA, as a preliminary look showed that the MVTA would need to reduce service by 30 percent and close three of nine transit facilities.
4. Beverley Miller provided background, calling attention to several points in the Transportation Bill. She noted the reduction of \$1.65 million in funds to the Suburban Transit Providers (STPs) and the fact that the STPs are constrained to their 2011 funding levels for 2012 and 2013. She further noted that additional funding will come through the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), by moving from a 50-50 match to a 75-25 match. She then discussed information prepared by Messerli & Kramer regarding affects to the Met Council and the STPs based on information released by the Met Council and preliminary information gathered from the STPs.
5. Finance Officer Lois Spear presented information regarding the MVTA's 2011 revenue and expense budgets based on actual information. She noted that the revenue budget could have a larger deficit, if the Met Council were to decide not to pay the remaining "allocated" MVST slated for 2011. (There is a clause in the contract that provides for this.) She then discussed funding for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2012-2013 Biennium, which indicates a decrease in MVST funding for the STPs of some 7.7 percent in 2012 and holding STPs steady at the 2011 rate in 2013. (This is a change to the statute that allocated 21.5 percent to the STPs.) In turn, the Transportation Bill provides for a drop in state appropriations for the Met Council for 2012, but the Council receives all other MVST revenue. This results in a 2.8 percent decrease in 2012 but a 5.1 percent increase in 2013. Information was provided regarding anticipated affects in funding reductions based on previous allocations. Detail for each of the STPs was presented based on numbers provided by the Met Council.
6. Michael Abegg continued the presentation, discussing what specific impacts there would be on MVTA service. He commented that these service cuts would be like "turning back the clock" in that the operating budget would be reduced to 2005 levels, ridership would be reduced to 2004 levels and hours of service would be reduced to 2003 levels. He provided information on what the impact of \$3 million in cuts would mean to the MVTA: elimination of up to five local routes and four express routes, major reductions on five local and two express routes, reductions/merging on all other routes, closure of 3-4 park & ride facilities. He also talked about a potential timeline for public meetings regarding such cuts.
7. Beverley Miller then summarized a telephone conference call held at 2:30 p.m. between Pat Born (Met Council Regional Administrator), Wes Kooistra (Met Council Director and Chief Financial Officer), Amy Vennewitz (Met Council Deputy Director, Finance & Planning), Will Branning and

herself to address the MVTA's concerns about severe service reductions. Will Branning asked about how we can resolve what's in the Transportation Bill with the MVTA's needs. Mr. Born responded that the Met Council has some discretion in implementing the Transportation Bill and that the Council's plan is to have no service reductions in the region. The Council will meet with each of the Suburban Transit Providers and will prepare numbers regarding potential impacts for each. New allocation formulas may be used and the allocations will be based on bottom-line numbers. Mr. Born asked for several weeks to calculate these figures and information will be available for discussion and decision at the August MVTA Board meeting.

8. Chair Branning said he would like to work with the Council and that his goal is to have a good relationship with the Met Council, but also to keep the MVTA whole. Therefore, he recommended that no information be disseminated to the public until after the August Board meeting. Board members discussed the legislation and their interest in remaining optimistic that something can be worked out. Concern was also expressed about how the legislation was developed and the fact that there was not a public process. STA's lobbyist was not allowed in the Capitol during the shutdown, so the transit portion of the bill was written by the Met Council with no input from the STPs.
9. Motion by Will Branning and seconded by Clint Hooppaw to schedule a meeting at the earliest possible date between MVTA Board members and the Met Council staff and representatives. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote. MVTA Board members to participate are Will Branning, Gary Hansen, Jane Victorey, and Clint Hooppaw.
10. Motion by Will Branning and seconded by Gary Hansen to direct staff to submit dates and prepare information for public meetings, to be determined at the August 24 Board meeting. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.
11. Will Branning noted that on behalf of the Suburban Transit Association of which he is Chair, he has asked Nancy Tyra-Lukens (vice chair) to be available in his absence. He will also rely on MVTA Vice Chair Gary Hansen and possibly former STA Chair Tom Furlong, if representation is needed and he is not available.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled for August 24, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. at the Burnsville Bus Garage.