

**SUBURBAN TRANSIT ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, September 12, 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: Commissioner Will Branning, Dakota County; 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; Executive Director Jane Kansier, Prior Lake Laker Lines; Executive Director Michael Leek, Shakopee Transit; Executive Director Len Simich, SouthWest Transit and Chief Operating Officer Dave Jacobson, SouthWest Transit.

Others in attendance: James Clark and Lesley Hinz, Messerli and Kramer, P.A.; Sherry Munyon, Capitol Access; and House Transportation Chair, Representative Mike Beard.

Chair Branning called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

There were no additions to the agenda. Len Simich moved that the agenda be approved. Sarah Hellekson seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

Len Simich moved that the minutes from the meeting on August 15 be approved. Sarah Hellekson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Representative Mike Beard joined the meeting for a discussion several topics including the regular and special session of 2011; how Met Council intends to interpret the transportation bill passed in the special session; the Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT); and, plans for transit governance for the Met Council.

Rep. Beard provided an overview of the negotiations and actions taken by Met Council that took place during the special session which led to the final bill. Rep. Beard is of the opinion that the Met Council is looking for funds to expand light rail and subsidize rail operations. He also noted that on the evening of the special session, Met Council provided a press release stating that there would be no fare hikes or service cuts by Metro Transit. As to the Cedar Avenue BRT funding, Met Council announced in early August that they do not have the funds for buses for the BRT. Rep. Beard asked the committee what the legislature could do to assure the funding for the Cedar BRT was available. Chair Branning explained what has already been contributed by CTIB and what Dakota County and MVTA have determined is still required in funds. A

meeting regarding funding is scheduled for September 22, 2011. Michael Leek presented the Governance Concepts document to Rep. Beard which presents various options.

The committee held a discussion regarding the obstacles to good communication with Met Council. Understanding Met Council's accounting of the funding cuts to the suburban transit providers in the special session bill has been a challenge. Chair Branning suggested inviting Patrick Born to the meeting of the STA Board in October to discuss the Met Council/STA relationship going forward.

James Clark noted that the August 2011 MVST report was not yet available. The committee decided that it would be helpful to continue to receive the reports even though the opt-out providers now receive a set dollar amount each month. The August report will be sent out electronically as soon as it is available.

The next meeting of the committee will be determined at a later time. The STA Board will meet on Monday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Signature

Date