

DATE: March 1, 2012
TO: Board Members unable to attend February 29 Regular MVTA Board meeting/TWGs
FROM: MVTA
RE: Meeting Summary

Here is a meeting summary of the MVTA February 29, 2012 regular meeting of the MVTA Board of Directors. Supplemental materials and meeting hand-outs are posted at http://www.mvta.com/MVTA_Board.html.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Bill Droste, in the absence of Chair Gary Hansen. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
2. Everyone introduced themselves, given two Met Council reps were at the table. There were no public comments. Two items were added to the agenda: Old Business item A1 relating to the BRT paint scheme and directing staff to proceed with providing that to Nova Bus and to get a quote on what additional costs would be incurred; Old Business item C regarding a Non-disclosure Agreement with Cubic. The agenda and the Consent Agenda were then approved.
3. Michael Abegg presented information to the Board regarding the need to execute the proposed paint and graphics scheme on the Cedar Avenue BRT Station-to-Station vehicles. He indicated that this is not an unexpected change, but we will need to determine the additional costs associated with this change (to be approved by the Board via a change order). Arlene McCarthy then presented the graphics to the Board, pointing out the differences that were made to the vehicle design following discussions with Dakota County. Main changes were replacement of the “circle M” with a “circle T” which is recognized worldwide as a “transit system.” There were some additional elements with the red swoosh (continuing it to the top of the vehicle and adding another splash on the lower portion of the vehicle.) The Board then directed staff to execute proposed paint and graphics scheme on the Cedar Avenue BRT Station-to-Station vehicle purchase. Further, staff was authorized to enter into a discussion with Nova Bus on additional costs resulting from the scheme and timing of its selection. Approval of any cost changes would come back to the Board.
4. Jim Strommen distributed a page from the currently MVTA Joint Powers Agreement (item 8 B regarding “the annual financial contribution.” He said this was raised as an issue by Dakota County and had not been on the radar of the Strategic Working Group. He said he has contacted most MVTA city attorneys, as well as the Scott County attorney’s office and no one expressed any concern about this section being deleted from the JPA. The Board approved adding this section as something to be deleted in the amended JPA and authorized the Chair to send a letter so stating to Dakota County. It is anticipated that the County will take the issue up again in April.
5. Michael Abegg presented information regarding a non-disclosure with Cubic relating to the RouteMatch (AVL) installation. This was first presented to the Board in October 2011 and agreement was reached in the past few days. The agreement has been reviewed by MVTA’s attorney and the Board approved executing the agreement.
6. Beverley Miller spoke about the MVTA’s Strategic Plan and that it has been five years since it was last updated. She said it would be good to review this year and wanted to know how the Board wished to proceed. Board members suggested a couple of half-day workshops, including reports from staff on the current status of projects. Then, it was suggested that a committee tackle the plan, with input from all Board members. It was suggested that it would be nice to avoid the expense of a consultant to lead the Board through the plan update. Two half-day workshops will be scheduled, beginning in March.

7. Jane Victorey reported on behalf of the Finance Committee regarding the reclassification of the Accountant I position. She said the Finance Committee agreed that the position should be moved from a Level 8 to a Level 9 and suggested a four percent salary increase effective March 10, 2012. The Board approved this action.
8. Beverley noted that there are lots of things going on at the Legislature as deadlines approach. She reminded Board members of the Friday meeting of the STA Legislative Committee.
9. It was noted that expenses approved by the Executive Director were included in the Board packet, along with an article that was favorable about the MVTA and ridership growth.
10. Acting Chair Droste then thanked Met Council representatives Wendy Wulff and Steven Chavez for attending the MVTA meeting and opened the session up to comments. Both Wulff and Chavez indicated they have had positive experiences riding MVTA buses. Ms. Wulff indicated that discussions were just beginning about a possible fare restructuring, but it was unlikely anything would take place in 2012.
11. Motion by Bill Droste and seconded by Dan Kealey to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 28 at 4:30 p.m. at the Burnsville Bus Garage.