

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting

February 17, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting conducted via video conference

Board Members Present:

Clint Hooppaw, Apple Valley
Kevin Burkart, Prior Lake
Lisa Freese, for Jon Ulrich,
Scott County
Tammy Block, Rosemount
Dan Kealey, Burnsville
Gary Hansen, Eagan
Gene Abbott, Savage
Jay Whiting, Shakopee

Others Present:

Luther Wynder, MVTA
Heidi Scholl, MVTA
Richard Crawford, MVTA
Tania Wink, MVTA
Tyre Fant, MVTA
Ben Picone, MVTA
Grace Vriezen, MVTA
Nene Israel, MVTA
Dawn McGuire, MVTA
Samantha Porter, MVTA
Chad Deegan, MVTA
Steve LaFrance, MVTA
Dan Rudiger, MVTA
Vicky Loehrer, MVTA
Amanda Novak, Elko New Market
Connie Massengale, Schmitt and Sons
Bill Forbord, Schmitt and Sons
Jenni Faulkner, City of Burnsville
Kyle Klatt, City of Rosemount
Tom Lovelace, City of Apple Valley
Josh Feldman, City of Eagan
Ben Reber, Wiley Law Office

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Clint Hooppaw. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion by Gene Abbott and seconded by Jay Whiting to approve the agenda. The Agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

MVTA Public Information Manager Richard Crawford noted that Commissioner Tammy Block had expressed interest in serving on the Partnership Committee. A Motion

by Whiting and seconded by Gary Hansen to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye	Block – Aye	Abbott – Aye
Burkart – Aye	Kealey – Aye	Whiting – Aye
Freese – Aye	Hansen – Aye	

V. Old Business
None

VI. New Business
None

VII. Committee Reports
A. STA

1. Legislative Breakfast (January 25, 2021)

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on the Suburban Transit Association’s Legislative Breakfast on Jan. 25. Wynder said the STA shared its legislative priorities with legislators and there many positive comments on the format. Chair Hooppaw said the virtual meeting format resulted in higher attendance than in previous years. Kevin Burkart said he continues to be impressed with the number of legislators who are supportive of the STA.

2. STA Meeting (February 8, 2021)

Wynder also gave a recap of the STA monthly meeting on Feb. 8. That meeting focused on re-capping the Legislative Breakfast. Wynder also discussed a Feb. 16 Senate hearing that he participated in regarding the potential of Suburban Providers becoming direct recipients of federal funding rather than having the money go through the Metropolitan Council. Wynder said there also is the potential of legislators considering MnDOT serving as the MPO for Suburban Providers later in the legislative session.

B. Management Committee Update

1. Dakota County Update

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on ongoing relationships with Dakota County, including the process for communicating on the county’s Capital Improvement Program and plans to conduct annual meetings. Since Dakota County opted to leave the joint powers agreement with MVTA, Wynder said Dakota County has transitioned from an MVTA policy maker to a stakeholder. Commissioner Gary Hansen encouraged MVTA to develop metrics to measure how the new status works moving forward.

2. Red Line Update

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on Red Line operations. MVTA has been working out some operational issues with Metro Transit, including access to the Apple Valley Transit Station network closet.

VIII. Board and Staff Reports/Updates

A. Systemwide Study Update

Ben Picone, MVTA Transit Planner, provided an update on the Systemwide Study. MVTA is conducting in collaboration with SouthWest Transit. MVTA is working with consultant FourSquare on the comprehensive study. Picone said the study was in its early stages and is on the verge of stakeholder engagement. Commissioner Jay Whiting asked about challenges with assessing ridership during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Picone said FourSquare is examining ridership data during the pandemic as well as 2019 ridership data to develop system recommendations.

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, also said the pandemic has opened eyes to the importance of local ridership and reverse commutes and he noted that shift workers don't have the ability to telework. Although express ridership has been down during the pandemic, suburban local routes have shown high ridership resiliency.

B. February 2021 Service Update

Grace Vriezen, MVTA Transit Planner, reviewed service and schedule updates planned to take effect on Saturday, Feb. 20. Vriezen highlighted changes to Route 442 and new Route 447.

Route 442X will provide express service from Apple Valley Transit Station to the Mall of America with new stop locations next to the Twin Cities Premium Outlets mall in Eagan. Route 447 will provide new east-west connections with seven-day-a-week service between Apple Valley Transit Station and Mystic Lake Casino with stops at Burnsville Center, Savage Park and Ride, and downtown Prior Lake. The new service will have 30-minute frequency and was borne from unmet need.

Public Information Manager Richard Crawford said a marketing campaign has alerted current riders about the new routes and outreach is being conducted with communication departments with member cities and local media.

IX. Adjourn

A Motion was made by Whiting and seconded by Hansen to adjourn the meeting at 5:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled Wednesday, March 31, 4:30 p.m., at Burnsville Bus Garage, 11550 Rupp Drive, Burnsville, MN. All regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held at the posted time and location unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____