

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting

January 20, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting conducted via video conference

Board Members Present:

Clint Hooppaw, Apple Valley
Kevin Burkart, Prior Lake
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
Aaron Bartling, 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
Shaun LaFrance, MVTA
John Miller, MVTA
Vicky Loehrer, MVTA
Amanda Novak, Elko New Market
Connie Massengale, Schmittty and Sons
Bill Forbord, Schmittty and Sons
Jenni Faulkner, City of Burnsville
Kyle Klatt, City of Rosemount
Jason Wedel, City of Prior Lake
Tom Lovelace, City of Apple Valley
Josh Feldman, City of Eagan
Lisa Freese, Scott County
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.

Oath of Office

Hooppaw administered the Oath of Office to Tammy Block, new MVTA Board Commissioner from the city of Rosemount.

II. Approval of Agenda

A letter on TMA Certification was added immediately after the consent agenda.

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

III. Nominating Committee Report

A. Election of MVTA Board Officers

MVTA Public Information Manager Richard Crawford presented the Management Committee’s recommendations for MVTA Board leadership positions for 2021. The Management Committee recommended Clint Hooppaw for chair; Kevin Burkart for vice chair; and Jon Ulrich for secretary/treasurer. A motion by Whiting and seconded by Gene Abbott to approve the leadership positions for 2021. A roll call vote was taken.

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

B. 2021 Board Committee Assignments

MVTA Public Information Manager Richard Crawford reviewed Board Committee Assignments for 2021 and noted that determining membership on the Management Committee was a priority with a meeting scheduled before the next board meeting in February. Commissioners were asked to identify interest in serving on committees prior to February meetings.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Consent Agenda

A Motion by Kevin Burkart and seconded by Dan Kealey 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
Ulrich – Aye	Hansen – Aye	

VI. New Business

A. Met Council Transportation Management Area Certification letter

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, said MVTA had prepared comments sought by the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding Transportation Management Areas. Wynder said MVTA’s draft letter pertained to the Metropolitan Council’s role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the metro area and the draft letter was distributed to MVTA commissioners for review. Gary Hansen said the city of Eagan also had prepared a letter for submission. Wynder said MVTA’s letter would be submitted with signatures from the MVTA chair, vice chair and chief executive officer.

A Motion by Burkart and seconded by Hansen to approve submission of the Transportation Management Area Certification letter. A roll call vote was taken.

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

VII. Committee Reports

A. STA

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, reported on the January Suburban Transit Association meeting and plans for a legislative breakfast presentation on Jan. 25. Wynder said MVTA staff had been assisting with the presentation on the legislative priorities that will be presented to legislators and legislative turnout was expected to be good based on preliminary RSVPs.

VIII. Board and Staff Reports

A. 2020 Year End Ridership

Ben Picone, MVTA Transit Planner, provided an update on 2020 ridership. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, ridership was down 67 percent compared to 2019 ridership, with 907,683 rides recorded in 2020. Weekday express routes experienced the largest decline at 76 percent. Weekday local and weekend routes were more resilient, with declines of 51 percent and 36 percent, respectively. Route 495 was the best performing route, with a decline of 26 percent compared to 2019.

Picone said the next few months will be key as the vaccine rolls out and Mvta will closely monitor ridership and adjust as needed.

B. MVTA Connect

Grace Vriezen, MVTA Transit Planner, provided an update on MVTA Connect, MVTA's ride-on-demand service. MVTA Connect launched in June 2019 and originally served Savage and Burnsville. In October 2020, MVTA Connect expanded into Apple Valley and Rosemount and in December 2020, weekend service was added.

MVTA Connect also will undergo a platform change that will allow customers to book rides from the Ride MVTA app. Richard Crawford, MVTA Public Information Manager, said MVTA will be reaching out to member cities in the MVTA Connect service area to promote the expanded service and new booking platform.

IX. Adjournment

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, Feb. 17, 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: _____