

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting
June 23, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting conducted via video conference

Board Members Present:

Clint Hooppaw, Apple Valley
Jon Ulrich, Scott County
William Droste, Rosemount
Jenni Faulkner, Burnsville,
Dan Kealey, Burnsville
Josh Feldman, Eagan,
Gary Hansen, Eagan

Others Present:

Luther Wynder, MVTA
Heidi Scholl, MVTA
Richard Crawford, MVTA
Tania Wink, MVTA
Ben Picone, MVTA
Grace Vriezen, MVTA
Vicky Loehrer, MVTA
Steve LaFrance, MVTA
Cody Kruse, MVTA
Jason DeMoe, MVTA
Rukia Aden, MVTA
KaSondra Wiederich, MVTA
Lisa Freese, Scott County
Amanda Novak, Elko New Market
Victoria Pena, Schmittty and Sons
Bill Forbord, Schmittty and Sons
Tom Lovelace, City of Apple Valley
Ben Reber, Legal counsel
U.S. Rep. Angie Craig
Cristina Diaz
Will Mitchell

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chair Clint Hooppaw. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion by Jenni Faulkner and seconded by Jon Ulrich to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Gary Hansen asked that the May MVTA Board minutes be updated to reflect that the MVTA Board was supportive of potential legislation pertaining to Suburban Transit Association governance. A Motion by William Droste and seconded by Ulrich to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye
Hansen – Aye

Droste – Aye
Kealey – Aye

Ulrich – Aye

V. Old Business

A. Introduction to Representative Angie Craig

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, introduced U.S. Rep. Angie Craig and thanked her for introducing legislation to address Burnsville Bus Garage and Apple Valley Transit Station modernizations.

Craig thanked MVTA staff and the board for supporting the applications for the INVEST in America Act. She said she had a high level of confidence that the U.S. House will support the legislative package and that she was hopeful the Senate would be supportive. She said the legislation would likely be addressed in the latter half of July. Craig said the House Bill included \$547 billion and would represent a record investment for public transit, including \$2.4 million for Burnsville Bus Garage improvements and \$800,000 for Apple Valley Transit enhancements. The INVEST in America Act is a five-year surface transportation bill that directs federal investments in America's roads, bridges, transit and rail to invest in American workers and communities.

Cristina Diaz, Constituent Advocate for U.S. Rep. Craig, also thanked MVTA for contributing to the quality of the application.

B. 2021 Surface Transportation Authorization Legislation

MVTA staff presented a recap of improvements for Apple Valley Transit Station and Burnsville Bus Garage that are included in the INVEST in America Act bill. MVTA submitted two projects to U.S. Representative Angie Craig's office for consideration for funding through the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's INVEST in America Act. Projects included the Apple Valley Transit Station Modernization (Phase II), and Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization (Phase III). These initiatives were among seven selected by Representative Craig to be included in the surface transportation reauthorization bill.

VI. New Business

A. Connections

MVTA Chief Executive Officer Luther Wynder updated the board on MVTA plans to expand MVTA Connect service to Eagan in September; shelter upgrades at the Scott County Government Center, Valleyfair, downtown Prior Lake and in the city of Eagan.

Wynder also reviewed outreach events for Juneteenth at Apple Valley High School; July 9 and 10th during the Lakefront Music Festival; summer parades and plans for providing service to Canterbury Park to support the Twin Cities Summer Jam.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Suburban Transit Associations

1. STA Meeting (June 14, 2021)

MVTA Chief Executive Officer Luther Wynder provided a special session update and noted that Motor Vehicle Sales Tax performance remained strong.

Dan Kealey noted that a series of speakers on equity are scheduled to give presentations to the Transportation Advisory Board and other board members are invited to attend.

B. Management Committee Meeting

1. Approval of 2021 General Fund Operating Budget Amendment

MVTA Director of Finance Tania Wink provided an overview of a General Fund Operator Budget Amendment recommended by the MVTA Management Committee.

The proposed amendment is comprised of the following:

- Revenues \$27,355,701 - The proposed amendment represents an increase of:
 - \$6.5M in Carryforward to the Fund Balance
 - Final result of 2020 annual audit
 - \$5.2M in Federal Revenue
 - Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)
 - \$1.7M in State Revenue
 - MVST receipts collected since January 2021 and updated Met Council MVST February Forecast.
- Expenditures \$34,935,599 - The FY2021 proposed budget amendments represent a \$4.5M increase to operating expenditures consisting of:
 - \$1.5M in Operations
 - MVTA continues to prioritize recovery, delivery, and improved rider experience as well as expanding suburban service options such as Connect and additional service concepts. It's critical that MVTA plans for a future where our riders potentially use the system more outside of peak traditional commute hours.
 - \$400K in Facilities Management
 - Facilities Debt Service rental will see the largest increase in Facilities Management, this is primarily due to our continued efforts to reduce the debt service payments relating to the 2013 Gross Revenue Bond by applying an additional principal and interest payment in 2021 using general fund dollars.
 - \$1M in Administration
 - Professional Services takes up the majority of the increase in Administration. This is due to the agency's need for security, legal, consulting, and engineering service contracts.

- Marketing/branding is an agency focus as we work to identify strategies and programs that will help improve the overall perception of transit as an attractive travel option and help foster a culture of transit use in our service area.
- Salaries/Benefits - A total of 1 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, to manage and support multidepartment projects and initiatives such as Transit Oriented Development (TOD), garage modernization projects and small Start/Build Grant projects.
- Seasonal Temporary Support - 2 summer interns, and 2 seasonal support staff are proposed to be added in the amended budget. The addition of these positions will support Administration and Operations.
- \$1.5M in Capital Costs of Operating
 - The FTA recommends CRRSAA recipients prioritize capital expenses (such as vehicle procurements or facility construction) relating to State of Good Repair (SGR) to maintain their bus systems. MVTA plans to use these funds to maintain its vehicles and support facility assets in a state of good repair based on a condition assessment performed on MVTA assets for reporting to the FTA. Over the course of the past several months, MVTA has prioritized re-investment in capital projects.
- Fund Balance
 - The beginning fund balance on Jan. 1, 2020, was \$11,110,169; the ending fund balance on Dec. 31, 2020, was \$17,632,029. The amended budget results in the use of fund balance of \$6,765,898, a decrease of \$1.6M as compared to the 2021 adopted budget. The fund balance as a percentage sees an increase from 29% in the adopted budget to 31% in the proposed budget amendment.
 - The amended FY2021 Operating Budget will see an increase to revenues of \$5.8M and in expenditures of \$4.5M while also retaining 4 months or 31% fund balance, which is over 5% of the Council's minimum fund balance policy and on target with MVTA's fund balance policy. The fund balance as a percentage grew from the 2021 adopted budget.
 - A Motion by Dan Kealey and seconded by Gary Hansen to approve the Operating Budget Amendment recommended by the Management Committee. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye
Hansen – Aye

Droste – Aye
Kealey – Aye

Ulrich – Aye

VIII. Board and Staff Reports/Updates

MVTA Board Chair Clint Hooppaw thanked MVTA for having a cooling bus staged at Apple Valley High School for Juneteenth participants.

IX. Adjourn

A Motion was made by Kealey and seconded by Ulrich to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford

Next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, July 28, 4:30 p.m., conducted via WebEx. All regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held at the posted time and location unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: Clint Hooppaw

Date: _____