

**MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
May 25, 2022 – 4:30 pm  
Meeting conducted via video conference

**BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Luther Wynder, MVTA  
Rukia Aden, MVTA  
Aaron Bartling, MVTA  
Chad Deegan, MVTA  
Jason DeMoe, MVTA  
Tyre Fant, MVTA  
Nene Israel, MVTA  
Cody Kruse, MVTA  
Hani Lanzl, MVTA  
Elle Larkin, MVTA  
Vicky Loehrer, MVTA  
Dawn McGuire, MVTA  
Samantha Porter, MVTA  
Dan Rudiger, MVTA  
Heidi Scholl, MVTA  
Matt Tabaka, MVTA  
Anthony Taylor, MVTA  
Grace Vriezen, MVTA  
Syreeta Goodwin, MVTA (contracted)  
Ben Reber, Legal counsel  
Josh Feldman, Eagan  
Bill Forbord, Schmitt and Sons  
Tom Lovelace, Apple Valley  
Casey McCabe, Prior Lake  
Alyssa Olson, Shakopee  
Victoria Pena, Schmitt and Sons

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Chair Kevin Burkart. A quorum was present.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved without objection.

**III. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**IV. Introductions**

Aaron Bartling, MVTA Planning Manager, introduced new MVTA Scheduler, Data Analyst, Matthew Tabaka.

Heidi Scholl, MVTA Chief Administrative Officer, introduced Elle Larkin, new MVTA Finance Manager, Procurement & Contracts.

**V. Consent Agenda**

A motion by Jon Ulrich and seconded by Jay Whiting to approve the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

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

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization – Phase I Update**

Anthony Taylor, MVTA Infrastructure and Capital Projects Manager, provided an update for the Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization Project. Taylor reviewed progress on Phase 1 of the project, including the new bush wash building that’s being installed on the northwest side of the property.

Other updates include:

- Bus storage edition going on the north end of the garage.
- Mechanical and electrical updates throughout the garage.
- Storm water management improvements.
- Interior and exterior repairs on the east masonry wall.
- Painting inside the garage on the roof deck.
- A new backup power generator will be installed.

Taylor said the estimated completion for the project is November 2022.

Kevin Burkart thanked the staff for the May 4 groundbreaking ceremony at Burnsville Bus Garage.

**VII. New Business**

**A. BRT Feasibility Study (RFP 2022-01)**

Aaron Bartling, MVTA Planning Manager, provided an overview of a County Road 42 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Feasibility Study designed to determine the benefits, costs and impacts of implementing a new BRT route along County Road 42 in MVTA’s service area.

Bartling said if the BRT route is implemented, the desired outcomes are to:

- Increase ridership through high-quality, frequent, and reliable transit service.

- Enhance connections with the regional transit system, including regular bus route service and existing/planned transitways.
- Fill a gap of east-west transit connections through MVTA's service area.
- Improve mobility by offering more attractive transportation choices in the corridor.
- Catalyze transit-oriented development along a key commercial corridor.
- Optimize returns on public investment and maximize funding opportunities from a range of sources.

Bartling noted that the County Road 42 corridor has been identified as a corridor with strong transit potential. Most recently, the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce completed transit study that included a recommendation to implement an arterial BRT line on County Road 42 to respond to growth and fill an east-west gap between Dakota and Scott counties.

MVTA is the lead agency for the project, which will be coordinated with others, including the cities of Shakopee, Prior Lake, Savage, Burnsville, Apple Valley and Rosemount, Dakota County, Scott County and MnDOT. An RFP was issued on May 6 and proposals will be reviewed in July and be brought to the Board for consideration.

Gary Hansen asked whether we had reached out to all potential stakeholders, including Dakota County.

MVTA Chief Executive Officer Luther Wynder said that MVTA will be having conversations with Dakota County and other stakeholders in the project.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Suburban Transit Association**

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on the May Suburban Transit Association meeting. Wynder said that MVST numbers continued to be strong. Wynder noted that the legislative session ended without out a Transportation Bill. He said there is a chance it could be considered in a Special Session.

Kevin Burkart provided an update on the Transportation Advisory Board meeting, which featured a discussion on climate change and discussions of pre-pandemic vs. current ridership.

Dan Kealey said he had watched the meeting on tape and continues to have concerns about the TAB meetings considering a return to in-person meeting formats and how that would have a negative impact on attendance by TAB members. Kealey credited Jon Ulrich for making an argument at the meeting for TAB to consider providing a hybrid meeting option.

### **B. Management Committee**

Syreetta Goodwin, contracted Finance Manager for MVTA, provided an overview of the 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Amendment. Staff indicated during the 2022 Operating and Capital Budget planning/execution process, MVTA would update forecasted revenues through a budget amendment based on Motor Vehicle Sales Tax (MVST), American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), and Federal Formula Earnings (NTD dollars). With revenue actuals received, MVTA can budget expenses, prioritize unfunded needs, invest in Microtransit, and revisit projects that were not completed in 2021.

Goodwin explained as a result of updated revenue projections, MVTA revenues increased \$9.1 million compared to the original budget.

Amended expenditures noted in the 2022 Amended Operating Budget include:

- Service Operations – increase of \$1M, compared to original budget, to support ridership demand and expansion of MVTA Connect service.

- Facilities Management – increase of \$786K to support ongoing maintenance costs, improvement projects (157th Street Station, Palomino Hills Park and Ride), and various mill and overlay projects.
- Administration – increase of \$1.1M to support professional consultant services (MVTA studies), temporary services (staff support), and revenue vehicle insurance premiums (to be removed from Schmitt and Sons contract).
- Personnel Salaries and Benefits – minimal increase (1.5%) to fund one FTE (Support Specialist). The position's primary responsibilities include management of ticket vending machines (TVMs) – previously maintained by Metro Transit but with acquisition of 10 new TVMs, real-time information/equipment, and passenger fare collection must transition to internal support. Total FTE count is 30.
- Capital Cost of Operating – increase of \$1M to support 2021 re-prioritized projects; to include: BBG Modernization and Technology Innovations.

MVTA's General Fund balance ended 2021 in a strong financial position with an ending fund balance of \$15,856,277. The 2022 Amended Operating Budget results in a decrease of approximately \$4,064,994 in the MVTA's fund balance with a projected ending fund balance of \$11,791,284, and 4 months or 33 percent of next year's expenditures assuming 2022 results come in as budgeted.

Gene Abbott asked what MVTA's fund balance goal is. MVTA Chief Executive Officer Luther Wynder said the agency's goal is to stay between 25 percent and 35 percent.

Heidi Scholl, MVTA Chief Administrative Officer reported that MVTA did receive \$2.1 million in Federal Formula Earnings that will be used for technology, hardware and software allocations including a website redesign and in Phase 3 of the Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization.

A motion by Jay Whiting and seconded by Clint Hooppaw to approve the 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Amendment. A roll call vote was taken.

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

### **C. Partnership Committee**

Richard Crawford, MVTA Public Information Manager, provided an overview of the May 9 Partnership Committee meeting. Items that were reviewed:

- Committee Overview
- MVTA CoGo Initiative
- Mall of America Outreach Opportunities
- Special Events
- Parades and other outreach events

The next MVTA Partnership Committee meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2022 – 4:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

## **IX. Board and Staff Reports/Updates**

### **A. 2022 Federal Transit Administration Grant Programs**

Luther Wynder, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update regarding MVTA's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant program applications. MVTA has three active applications:

**AVTS Modernization**

MVTA is requesting funding to complete the modernization of Apple Valley Transit Station. Funds will be used to update safety and security measures at AVTS through enhanced technology and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) initiatives, improve customer amenities through facility enhancements and technology integration, develop a designated and effective space for operator training, and redesign the Connect areas to create a dedicated zone for MVTA's micro transit service.

Safety and security improvements include replacement and expansion of security cameras, installation of emergency phones and CPTED elements. Customer amenities consist of real-time information signage, updated bike lockers, interactive kiosks, and electric car chargers for rider vehicles. Additional initiatives within the scope of this project include transforming the current MVTA overflow parking lot at AVTS to function as the sole MVTA training lot and creating a designated space for MVTA's Connect service.

**Shelter, Stop Modernization**

MVTA is requesting funds to complete a modernization of shelters and bus stops, with a concerted effort to convert flag stops to fixed stops. The funds will be used to update 10 bus stops with modernized shelters and equip 15 - 20 stops with e-signage for real-time information.

**Low-No Emissions Program**

MVTA is requesting funding through the Low-No Emissions Program to introduce zero-emission vehicles to the fleet through replacement of five diesel powered buses operating on Route 444.

**X. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 6:07 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford, MVTA Public Information Manager.

Next MVTA Board meeting is June 22, at 4:30 pm, to be hosted via video conference. All MVTA Board meetings will be held at the posted date/time and location, unless otherwise noted.

Approved By	<i>Kevin Burkart</i>
Date	Jun 23, 2022