

## MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting  
October 30, 2019 – 4:30 p.m.  
Burnsville Bus Garage

### **Board Members Present:**

William Droste, Rosemount  
Bob Coughlen, Savage  
Clint Hooppaw, Apple Valley  
Chris Gerlach, Dakota County  
Jon Ulrich, Scott County  
Dan Kealey, Burnsville  
Kevin Burkart, Prior Lake  
Gary Hansen, Eagan  
Jay Whiting, Shakopee

### **Others Present:**

Luther Wynder, MVTA  
Tania Wink, MVTA  
Richard Crawford, MVTA  
Heidi Scholl, MVTA  
Steve LaFrance, MVTA  
Dawn McGuire, MVTA  
John Miller, MVTA  
Aaron Bartling, MVTA  
Chad Deegan, MVTA  
Bill Forbord, Schmitt and Sons  
Connie Massengale, Schmitt and Sons  
Joe Morneau, Dakota County  
Chris Marshall  
Jim Strommen, legal counsel  
Deb Barber, Met Council  
Wendy Wulff, Met Council  
Phillip Sterner, Met Council  
Nick Thompson, Met Council  
Jen Lehmann

### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chair William Droste. A quorum was present.

### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Chair William Droste noted that an item to accept Route 495 State appropriated funds in the amount of \$200,000 was added to the Consent Agenda as item IV.1.J.

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

### **III. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

Chair Droste presented a Special Service Recognition Award to Jen Lehmann, for her service to Minnesota Valley Transit Authority since 2012.

### **IV. Consent Agenda**

A Motion by Kevin Burkart and seconded by Chris Gerlach to approve the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye	Coughlen – Aye	Burkart – Aye
Kealey – Aye	Ulrich – Aye	Gerlach – Aye
Hansen – Aye	Whiting – Aye	Droste – Aye

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Downtown Routes Update**

Public Information Manager Richard Crawford, Acting Planning Manager Aaron Bartling and Transit Administrator Chad Deegan provided an update on downtown routes. Crawford said that MVTA has been seeking ways to improve trip times and reliability on southbound routes leaving Minneapolis.

In addition to advocating for more traffic enforcement to improve traffic flow out of Minneapolis, MVTA has rerouted Route 477 and six other southbound routes in an effort to improve service.

Beginning in May 2019, Route 477 bus stops north of Washington Avenue were removed to improve on-time performance. A Customer Survey was conducted that found majority support for the initiative. Bartling reviewed time checks before and after the rerouting that trip times out of downtown were about half as long after the rerouting began.

Facing unacceptable delays getting buses out of downtown, MVTA detoured six routes – 46 bus trips – off Marquette Avenue beginning July 8. An extensive public information campaign preceded the detour. According to MVTA time checks, trip time performance has improved significantly on the routes on detour and performance also has been positive for routes remaining on Marquette Avenue. Trip times getting out of downtown on the detoured routes have dropped by more than a half. Deegan explained that prior to the detour, peak traffic levels on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue caused jams inside the Gateway Ramp that prevented buses from entering and exiting in a timely manner. Deegan also noted that additional development planned on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (a parking ramp and fire station) will contribute to additional delays and safety concerns.

The time savings on the detoured routes have resulted in fuel savings and reduced overtime costs.

MVTA conducted a Customer Survey on the detoured routes and found twice as many customers said they were getting to their destinations faster. A majority of customers favored maintaining the routes if additional shelters were installed.

Staff indicated because of the improved trip times and Customer Survey feedback that the routes will be maintained in their current configuration.

## **VI. New Business**

None.

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### **A. STA Update**

Luther Wynder, MVTA Executive Director, gave a recap of the October Suburban Transit Association meeting. He said discussions have begun on STA'S 2020 legislative agenda. Wynder said STA has been working with the Transportation Alliance to underscore the benefits of transit agencies in the suburbs and Greater Minnesota and a

goal is to get a percentage of funding dedicated to Suburban Providers. Currently, there have been no proposals with dedicated funding to STA.

## VIII. Board and Staff Reports

### A. Ridership Update

Acting Planning Manager Aaron Bartling provided an update on ridership for the third quarter. Overall, MVTA ridership is down 2.7 percent from 2018. Bartling said the decline is similar to other regional providers (SouthWest Transit - down 2 percent and Metro Transit – down 3.7 percent). He noted the service reductions last year as well as poor winter weather, 35W delays and low gasoline prices have been factors in ridership.

### B. Metropolitan Council Update

Metropolitan Council representatives Deb Barber, Wendy Wulff, and Phillip Sterner provided updates. Barber said that December will be a time to frame discussions regarding a structural deficit anticipated in 2021 and it will be a time to make sure regional transit is represented. She also noted that the grand opening of the new Mall of America Station is planned in December/January and that Metro Mobility expansion is planned in Lakeville.

## IX. Adjournment

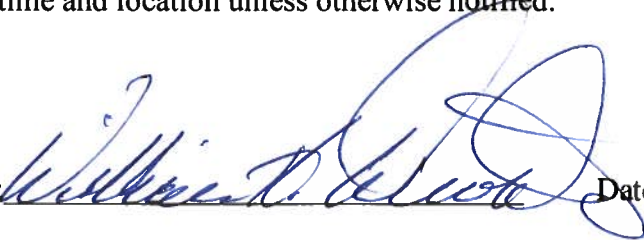
A Motion was made by Droste and seconded by Hansen to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously

**Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford**

**Next Regular Meeting Scheduled Wednesday, Dec. 4, 4:30 p.m., at Burnsville Bus Garage, 11550 Rupp Drive, Burnsville, MN.**

All regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held on the **FOURTH** Wednesday of the month at the posted time and location unless otherwise notified.

Approved by:



Date:

Dec. 4, 2019