

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 20, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting conducted via video conference

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Luther Wynder, MVTA
Richard Crawford, MVTA
Heidi Scholl, MVTA
Tyre Fant, MVTA
Ben Picone, MVTA
Aaron Bartling, MVTA
Grace Vriezen, MVTA
Vicky Loehrer, MVTA
Mandy Flum, MVTA
Samantha Porter, MVTA
Dan Rudiger, MVTA
Cody Kruse, MVTA
Jason DeMoe, MVTA
Dawn McGuire, MVTA
Alyssa Olson, Shakopee
Victoria Pena, Schmitt and Sons
Ben Reber, Legal counsel

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 Jay Whiting and seconded by Kevin Burkart to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

Item G. -- Approval of Eagan Bus Garage Security Fence – was pulled from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion. A motion by Gary Hansen and seconded by Burkart to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye
Hansen – Aye

Burkart – Aye
Kealey – Aye

Ulrich – Aye
Block – Aye

Whiting – Aye

Whiting asked for additional information on the cost of the Eagan Bus Garage Security Fence, and details were provided by Director of Administration, Heidi Scholl,

and Chief Operating Officer, Samantha Porter. A motion by Whiting and seconded by Hansen to approve Item G on the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye
Hansen – Aye

Burkart – Aye
Kealey – Aye

Ulrich – Aye
Block – Aye

Whiting – Aye

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

A. Buses and Bus Facilities 2021 Grant Program

Luther Wynder, Chief Executive Officer, provided an overview of MVTA grant requests in the Federal Transit Administration’s 2021 solicitation for Buses and Bus Facilities Grant Program.

MVTA plans to submit three grant applications:

1. Apple Valley Transit Station Modernization: Funding would be used to update security, customer information technology, customer amenities, and develop a designated operator training lot. Customer amenities improvements would consist of real-time information signage, expanded public Wi-Fi access, and mobile phone charging stations within the station and on the platform.

- Total Project \$1.2M (requested federal funds \$960K, local match funds \$240K)

2. Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization – Phase III: Funding would support a north apron expansion, maintenance areas mechanical features and add-on state-of-good repair and expansion options that available funding has not been able to support to date. An award of the total requested amount would also allow MVTA to implement energy efficiency improvements, electrification initiatives to procure electric vehicles, technology enhancements in a variety of areas, and develop a workforce center on location.

- Total Project \$6.2M (requested federal funds \$4.96M, local match funds \$1.24M)

3. Customer Facilities Enhancements: Funding would support an overarching initiative to enhance MVTA customer facilities and ensure we are serving our communities with a safe, accessible, and reliable public transportation experience. Safety measures include adding emergency phones to facilities and implementing a contactless fare payment option via the mobile app. Accessibility restrictions would be addressed by adding ADA compliant elevators to the Eagan and Burnsville Transit Station parking ramps, as well as Ticket Vending Machines (TVMs) to five transit stations and park and ride locations throughout the service area. Finally, investing in the rehabilitation and improvement of signage at facilities, bus stops, and flag stop locations as well as updating the system through which electronic destination signs are managed on buses are all critical components in MVTA’s ability to provide a reliable experience for customers.

- Total Project \$3.25M (requested federal funds \$2.6M, local match funds \$650K)

The Grant Program close date is November 19, 2021; however, MVTA's subrecipient status requires grant applications to be submitted to Metropolitan Council by November 5, 2021. MVTA's 20% local match has been identified within the operating budget.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Suburban Transit Association

Wynder provided a recap of the October 18 Suburban Transit Association meeting. Wynder said Motor Vehicle Sales Tax performance remains strong and has been beneficial for public transportation. The bulk of the meeting pertained to STA priorities and the upcoming legislative agenda. Commissioner Burkart said that STA doesn't plan on including a proposed governance change from the Met Council to the Minnesota Department of Transportation in the coming session.

Commissioner Dan Kealey suggested it would be worthwhile to invite Metropolitan Council representatives to attend STA meetings on a periodic basis.

VIII. Board and Staff Report/Updates

A. Q3 Ridership Report

MVTA Transit Planner, Ben Picone provided an update on third-quarter ridership. Picone stated ridership is trending in the right direction and noted that total ridership continues to grow month-over-month coming out of the pandemic.

Picone noted that service to the University of Minnesota has been driving growth on express routes.

Planning Manager, Aaron Bartling, said MVTA Connect ridership continues to set records every month and service was extended to 9 p.m. on September 18 and Connect service was extended to Eagan on October 18.

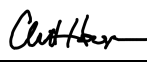
MVTA's September 18 service change added more options for riders going to/from work.

IX. Adjourn

A motion was made by Kealey and seconded by Hansen to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford

Next Board of Commissioners Meeting is Wednesday, December 15, 4:30 p.m., to be hosted via video conference. All scheduled Board of Commissioners Meetings will be held at the posted time and location unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: 

Date: 12/15/21