

DATE: October 9, 2015
TO: Board Members unable to attend September 30 Regular MVTA Board meeting/TWGs
FROM: MVTA
RE: Meeting Summary

Here is a meeting summary of the MVTA September 30, 2015 regular meeting of the MVTA Board of Directors. Supplemental materials and meeting hand-outs are posted under 2015 Board Meeting Packets at <http://www.mvta.com/about/meetings-materials/>.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Clint Hooppaw. A quorum was present.
2. Jen Lehmann introduced MVTA's new planner to the Board: Aaron Bartling. He joined MVTA on Sept. 28 and is becoming familiar with the service area. He previously worked for the MPO in Des Moines, IA. The Board welcomed Aaron.
3. Motion by Gary Hansen and seconded by Jon Ulrich to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Mike McGuire and seconded by Jane Victorey to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.
5. Robin Selvig introduced Peter Leatherman, who guided the MVTA Board through a report on the recently conducted (May/June) Potential Rider survey. Leatherman reviewed the survey methodology and noted that most calls had to be conducted in the evening, based on commuter schedules. He said 10 percent of the call lasted more than 45 minutes and about 45 percent of the calls were via cell phone. Appointments were typically scheduled. He noted that there were two groups interviewed – 400 randomly selected individuals from the MVTA cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Prior Lake, Rosemount, Savage and Shakopee and 250 randomly selected individuals from cities/townships adjacent to the MVTA service area (Coates, Empire Township, Elko New Market, Farmington, Hastings, Inver Grove Heights, Jordan, Lakeville and New Prague)
6. The results were whittled to “potential” transit riders based on answers to several key questions: 1) They had ridden public transportation in the past, 2) would consider using public transportation in the future, 3) indicated a preference to receive information about public transportation and 4) were “much more likely” to use public transportation if one of nine amenities (such as guaranteed ride home or free wi-fi) were offered. Those with longer commutes express most interest in considering use of transit.
7. Many expressed interest in using public transportation to travel to special events such as the Minnesota State Fair, athletic events (Twins, Vikings) or other special events in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Potential riders from the MVTA service area expressed interest in using public transportation during traditional commuting hours. Non-riders from the collar cities expressed interest in using public transportation more on evenings and weekends.
8. Board members asked if there was comparative data and Robin noted this was the first significant Potential Rider study completed by the MVTA. She indicated she would conduct some analysis with the Metro Transit Potential Rider report to see where there are similarities and differences, as the MT study includes the entire metro area. It was also suggested that this information be available as the Board consider strategic priorities at an upcoming planning meeting. Motion by Mike McGuire and seconded by Gary Hansen to accept the report. Motion carried.
9. Robin Selvig reported on the contracts associated with the \$1.79 million FTA grant received to equip 11 additional buses with the Driver Assist Technology. In addition to the contract with MTS

Systems, there are contracts with the evaluation team of Athey Creek and University of South Florida/NBRTI. There is also an agreement still being completed for bringing the existing 10 buses to the same level of technology as the 11 new buses. Motion by Gary Hansen and seconded by Chris Gerlach to approve the agreements subject to legal counsel and executive director approval. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.

10. Jane Kansier asked the Board to authorize release of a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant to complete a Job Classification and Compensation Study for the MVTA. Staff would like to have the consultant named at the December Board meeting and have the study conducted first quarter 2016. Motion by Jane Victorey and seconded by Jon Ulrich to approve release of the RFP to hire a consultant for a Job Classification and Compensation Study for MVTA. Motion carried.

11. Lois Spear turned the meeting over to Nick Bishop to present the 2016 Operating Budget and the 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Plan.

The Preliminary 2016 budget was presented to the Board with recommended approval by the Finance Committee. The preliminary budget consists of revenues of \$27,981,435 and expenditures of \$28,218,098 and use of fund balance of \$452,322. An updated budget will be presented to the Finance Committee in October and will be presented to the Board for final approval in December. Motion by Jane Victorey and seconded by Gary Hansen to approve the 2016 Preliminary budget. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.

Nick then briefly reviewed the preliminary 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which the Finance Committee also recommended for approval. The plan for this period totals \$76,053,482 with \$19 million of appropriations for 2016. The final CIP will be back before the Board in December. Motion by Jane Victorey and seconded by Gary Hansen to approve the preliminary CIP. Motion carried on a unanimous roll-call vote.

12. Jen Lehmann and Jane Kansier provided an update on the STA Demonstration Project, noting that the STA approved the recommended service plan. Service will include 18 one-way trips per weekday, serving Marschall Road Transit Station (Shakopee), SouthWest Station (Eden Prairie), Hopkins Crossroads, Station 73 (Plymouth) and Maple Grove Station. There will also be service to the Golden Triangle area of Eden Prairie.

The focus will be service on peak commute hours, and will provide 30-minute service. Riders will receive a one-seat ride from between Station 73 in Plymouth and Shakopee, with a second bus transporting riders between Station 73 and Maple Grove. A marketing plan is currently being developed and will include contact with employers along the corridor.

STA is expected to approve the final logistics at its meeting in October and service will be rolled-out in early 2016.

13. Jen Lehmann and Christina Morrison provided an update on the Orange Line. Jen recapped the last discussion with the MVTA Board in December 2014. She then updated the Board on the Burnsville Southern Terminus Study that took place in early 2015, reviewed the Burnsville Transit Station and Travelers Trail concepts and a “hybrid” concept.
14. Christina Morrison of Metro Transit discussed the next steps on the Southern Terminus Decision such that Orange Line engineering could begin in the fourth quarter of 2015 and 60 percent design could be completed by third quarter 2016. Revenue service would begin in fourth quarter 2019.

15. Christina also reviewed the Phase II extension concept and when this should be considered. She indicated the mayor of Burnsville is very supportive. Christina also thanked Jen Lehmann and Jane Kansier for their efforts regarding the Orange Line.
16. Robin Selvig and Glenn Boden reported on a passenger survey regarding the use of low-floor buses. A survey was distributed on buses on Routes 420/442, 421 and 426 on Sept. 22. Customers provided a definite preference for the low-floor buses based on safety, faster/easier boarding, more room inside the bus and overall comfort.
17. Glenn Boden reviewed industry trends, indicating that all regular transit buses are now low-floor vehicles. He stated that given smaller buses serve populations with larger numbers of seniors or mobility-challenged individuals; it only makes sense to use low-floor buses for these vehicles, as well. Recent data indicates a slight improvement in miles/gallon with the low-floor buses, they have a longer life expectancy (seven vs. five years), HVAC systems are more efficient, and the quality of customer ride is greater than the traditional small bus with a lift.
18. Jeff Freeman updated the MVTA Board regarding the status of the Mall of America Transit Station Renovation and Expansion. He reported that an RFP for Design was issued in July and design is expected to begin in November. Construction bids will be due in May 2016 and construction will be complete by November 2017 (prior to the Super Bowl in 2018).
19. Overall project goals include: Improve efficiency of bus operations, Simplify access for transit vehicles, Provide clear and convenient pedestrian access, Improve station amenities, its aesthetic appeal, and visitor experience and Increase the exterior visibility and presence of the station. Funding is still being sought for the \$25 million project, but some \$14 million has been secured.
20. Motion by Mike McGuire and seconded by Chris Gerlach to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: FOURTH Wednesday, October 26 at 4:30 p.m. at the Burnsville Bus Garage, 11550 Rupp Drive, Burnsville.