

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Board Meeting
September 25, 2019 – 4:30 p.m.
Burnsville Bus Garage

Board Members Present:

William Droste, Rosemount
Bob Coughlen, Savage
Tom Lovelace, Apple Valley
for Clint Hooppaw
Jon Ulrich, Scott County
Dan Kealey, Burnsville
Kevin Burkart, Prior Lake

Others Present:

Luther Wynder, MVTA
Tania Wink, MVTA
Richard Crawford, MVTA
Heidi Scholl, MVTA
Jen Lehman, MVTA
Steve LaFrance, MVTA
Bill Forbord, Schmitt and Sons
Connie Massengale, Schmitt and Sons
Troy Beam, Scott County
Chris Marshall
Jim Strommen, legal counsel

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Agenda

Chair William Droste noted that a DCTC update was added under Board and Staff Reports as item VIII. E.

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.

IV. Consent Agenda

A Motion by Jon Ulrich and seconded by Dan Kealey to approve the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Lovelace – Aye	Coughlen – Aye	Burkart – Aye
Kealey – Aye	Ulrich – Aye	Droste – Aye

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

None.

VII. Committee Reports

A. STA Update

Luther Wynder, MVTA Executive Director, gave a recap of the September Suburban Transit Association meeting. He said STA representatives met with Met Council representatives with the goal of better aligning agendas. Wynder said the STA plans for the STA chair and the Met Council chair to have a meeting prior to the next legislative session with a goal of ensuring the needs of suburban providers are understood.

VIII. Board and Staff Reports

A. Apple Valley Transit Station (AVTS) Modernization Project

Steve LaFrance, MVTA Facilities Manager, provided an update on the Apple Valley Transit Modernization. LaFrance said the transit station expansion project has entered its fourth month and while there have been some weather delays, workers have focused on interior projects to save time. The project ending date is still to be determined.

Change orders on the project have been minimal and the city of Apple Valley has been on site to monitor work.

LaFrance said additional pedestrian crossing signs have been added to facilitate pedestrian traffic flow and there continues to be ample temporary parking to accommodate customers even with the University of Minnesota back in session.

B. MVTA Connect/TransLoc Update

Jen Lehman, MVTA Planning Manager, provided an update on MVTA Connect ride on demand service. MVTA partnered with TransLoc on a micro transit pilot in Savage and western Burnsville. The service began on June 3, 2019, with regular hours of service between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. The service provides connections to higher frequency local and express services at Burnsville Transit Station and Burnsville Center.

Lehman said there were 605 rides completed in the first 60 days. As part of next steps to grow ridership, MVTA has reduced the MVTA Connect fare from \$4 to \$3, expanded the service area in western Burnsville to include Burnsville High School and Burnsville City Hall, and will allow riders to use transfer tickets to ride MVTA Connect.

TransLoc has also conducted a survey with customers who have downloaded the TransLoc app to help identify additional ridership trends.

Richard Crawford, Public Information Manager, noted that a MVTA Connect flyer will be included with the September Savage utility bill, and both Burnsville High School and the city of Burnsville are assisting with outreach information on the MVTA Connect service.

C. State Fair Update

Richard Crawford, MVTA Public Information Manager, provided an update on 2019 State Fair ridership. MVTA set a record in 2019 with 97,291 rides – up 11 percent from the previous record in 2017. There were 15 daily ridership records, including records for total ridership on the first Thursday, first Friday, first Tuesday and second Friday of the fair.

There were also record sales of online tickets and this was the first year MVTA used its Ride MVTA app to sell tickets.

In 2019, MVTA had six additional buses in State Fair service, which helped improving pacing during peak travel times to the fair. Good weather during the fair also contributed to record overall State Fair attendance.

D. Regional Solicitation

Jen Lehman, MVTA Planning Manager, provided an update on the Regional Solicitation process. She said the Public review of the Solicitation Application package is expected to occur through Nov. 6 with the Transportation Advisory Board expected to approve the application in December.

Lehman said there is still some shifting between proposed options in the package, including whether \$25 million should be set aside for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects. Lehman said the best source of information would be the Metropolitan Council's Regional Solicitation website.

Lehman indicated letters will be drafted in October regarding the Solicitation Package to ensure MVTA and suburban providers' viewpoints are represented.

Commissioner Ulrich agreed that it would be a good idea for cities, counties and the Suburban Transit Association to submit letters regarding the Solicitation Application.

E. DCTC Update

Luther Wynder, MVTA Executive Director, provided an update on Route 420 service to Dakota County Technical College, which began with Dakota County financial support in August 2018. The service was established as a two-year pilot program.

At the Dakota County Board meeting on Sept. 24, county commissioners tabled a decision until December on whether to terminate county funding support for service to DCTC.

MVTA sent a letter to the Dakota County Board reviewing ridership and discussing potential termination dates for the service. The letter indicated that MVTA could potentially take on additional funding of the DCTC service should the county contribute to the purchase of a bus as envisioned at the start of the pilot.

MVTA is disappointed that early termination of the pilot is being considered, the letter noted, but remains committed to improving transit services along the County Road 42 corridor.

Board and Staff Reports

1. Commissioners were invited to the MVTA Roadeo scheduled at the Eagan Bus Garage on Saturday. Local winners of the Roadeo will advance to the State Roadeo competition next summer in Rochester.
2. Commissioners were also invited to the MPTA annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 9, where MVTA is expected to receive the Transit System of the Year award.

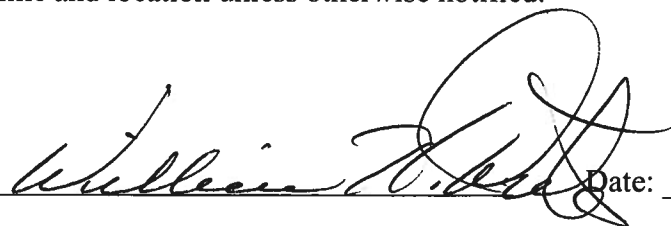
X. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Droste and seconded by Kealey to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. The motion passed unanimously

Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford

**Next Regular Meeting Scheduled Wednesday, Oct. 30, 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: 10/30/2019