

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting
June 22, 2005 – 4:30 p.m.
Burnsville Transit Station

Board Members Present:

William Droste, Rosemount
Bryan Tucker, Savage
Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville
Will Branning, Dakota County
Meg Tilley, Eagan
Ruth Grendahl, Apple Valley
Margaret Schreiner, At Large
Jon Ulrich, Scott County

Others Present:

Lois Spear, Finance Officer
Robin Selvig, Customer Relations Manager
Barb Ross, Best & Flanagan
Tom Bright, Facilities Manager
Wally Lyslo, At Large Alternate
Dave Zech, Dakota County
Tom Knier, Laidlaw Transit
Connie Massengale, Schmitt & Sons

I. Call to Order

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

II. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Meg Tilley and seconded by Ruth Grendahl to approve the agenda, with the addition of item VI. B., Resolution of Support for STP Application regarding TH 13. Motion carried. Items A and C of the Consent Agenda were approved.
Motion carried.

IV. Consent Agenda

Item B was pulled from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Margaret Schreiner and seconded by Meg Tilley to approve the remaining portion of the Consent Agenda. Motion carried. Resolutions approved as part of the Consent Agenda are attached to these minutes.

Consent Agenda Item B (Scott County Study) was pulled for two reasons: Margaret Schreiner had questions regarding the language in the resolution not being consistent with the background memo regarding the possibility of other cities joining the MVTA. It was explained that there were no long-term recommendations presented in the study, but discussions with the MVTA were expected to be an outcome. Michael Abegg had also requested that the item be pulled because the City of Prior Lake had not yet adopted the study due to technical problems at their Council meeting. The item was continued to a future meeting, after Prior Lake has taken formal action on the study.

V. Old Business

A. County Road 46/County Road 31 Park & Ride

Dave Zech of Dakota County talked about the bid-opening for the Transit Station. He stated they were opened on June 8. Six bids were received and Ebert was the low-bidder. The award of the contract is expected to take place at the July 12 meeting of the County Board (it was scheduled for June 21, but DBE requirements were not met). This will

delay the project and a new construction timetable will need to be developed. The low bid was about \$250,000 below the engineering estimate and will be awarded for \$1,389,000.

Zech also noted that he began working on a draft agreement between the MVTA and Dakota County for the facility. It is in the attorney's office at the County. Barb Ross has had several conversations regarding the agreement, and the biggest initial question is the structure of the agreement: does MVTA want to own or lease the facility? Land ownership remains complicated. The property holding the bulk of the Transit Station will continue to be owned by the City of Apple Valley, but Dakota County has a long-term easement on the property. Dakota County's biggest question regards what happens to the facility should the MVTA cease to exist. It was noted that typically these projects, if constructed using federal funds, revert to regional use under an agreement with the Met Council (as part of the grant agreement for the funds). Ross was given direction that the MVTA always prefers to own the facility.

Margaret Schreiner questioned the "list of issues" to be presented. Dave Zech indicated that a meeting needs to be rescheduled between Dakota County, City of Apple Valley and MVTA to flush out these issues, and Barb Ross noted that the issues would be different depending on the whether the MVTA owns or leases. Zech said the meeting would be scheduled soon, and Barb Ross would be invited to the meeting.

B. Apple Valley Weekend Service

Michael Abegg updated the Board regarding the review of weekend bus service in Apple Valley. He noted that the demographic review has been completed. This data indicates that Apple Valley may be challenged to support weekend service. However, because of a key destination in the Minnesota Zoo, that may make it more attractive than some other, similar cities. For now, however, the staff recommendation is to continue to develop plans for weekend service, but delay implementation at least until December 2005 or until there is a resolution regarding funding and budget issues. Motion by Ruth Grendahl and seconded by Meg Tilley to approve the staff recommendation. Motion carried.

VI. New Business

A. Eagan Bus Garage Opening

Beverly Miller requested Board input regarding an opening celebration for the Eagan Bus Garage. She said the project should be substantially complete on August 29 and Schmitt & Sons would be moving in on Sept. 9. The Board indicated interest in such an event, but not an overly elaborate event. The efficiencies of the new facility should be featured. All of the partners should be invited. There was a suggestion that the Board invite the Adelman's and other area neighbors. Robin Selvig will coordinate a meeting of the Marketing Committee to plan this event. Marketing Committee members are Meg Tilley and Margaret Schreiner. Others are welcome to join the group, if interested.

B. Resolution of Support for Scott County

Jon Ulrich asked for support on a resolution regarding improvements planned on Trunk Highway 13 for which Burnsville, Savage, Scott and Dakota Counties are seeking funding via an STP application. Michael Abegg noted that the MVTA does use this intersection, but only minimally due to the delays associated with the current traffic light.

The Board approved the resolution of support. Motion by Margaret Schreiner and seconded by Ruth Grendahl to adopt the resolution. Motion carried.

VII. Committee Reports

A. STA

Margaret Schreiner gave the STA report regarding a conference call between the parties last week. Issues focused on what to do were regarding transportation issues during the special session. She noted that Mary Liz Holberg appears to be assuming the leadership role for both the Transportation Finance and Transportation Policy committees. A letter was sent to the leadership on Friday regarding STA's position. It was noted that Dan McElroy's name should be added to the distribution list of such correspondence. Messerli is also seeking a list of items to focus on in the next session, and working groups will be established. Ruth Grendahl also had a letter addressed to Commissioner Will Branning from Sen. Chris Gerlach, Rep. Mary Liz Holberg, and Rep. Lloyd Cybart regarding expansion of the Apple Valley Transit Station as part of Phase I implementation of the Cedar Avenue Transit Corridor project.

B. Finance Committee

Ruth Grendahl gave the Finance Committee report. She indicated that there is an electrical vendor on the State purchasing agreement that the MVTA will use in the future. She commented that staff did a good job of follow-up on this item and expressed her thanks.

With regard to the COP, there will be no long-term or short-term financing issued for either the bus garage or the five buses. MVTA, with assistance from the Met Council and the juggling of NTD funds, will be able to cash-flow these items. However, the MVTA was also asked to cash-flow the vehicles that were to replace the 10 artics operated by Metro Transit, until mid-2007. Lois Spear ran a variety of scenarios, and none were able to accommodate that request. Therefore, because the Met Council has limits on the amount of bonding that can be issued, the MVTA will need to renegotiate its agreement with Metro Transit to extend beyond June 2006 given that the vehicles will not be available. By second or early third quarter 2006, the MVTA will need to be identifying potential service cuts, based on conservative MVET projections. Chair Bill Droste indicated that the PR issues are "huge" and the MVTA needs to be careful about introducing a new facility early in 2006 (160th & Pilot Knob site), and then preparing to cut service several months later.

C. Strategic Planning Committee

Given that Elizabeth Kautz was no longer at the meeting, the approval of the Strategic Plan was continued to the next meeting. Margaret Schreiner also has some questions that she will forward to Mayor Kautz for her review and comment. Will Branning noted that he believes this plan is a model for transit agencies and he commended the work done by Staff and the Committee on the Plan.

VIII. Staff Reports / Update

A. Biodiesel

Michael Abegg briefly reviewed the memo included in the packet regarding biodiesel fuel and Hennepin County's process for biodiesel contracts. Jon Ulrich asked if the

MVTA could purchase off the Metro Transit fuel contract. Michael Abegg indicated that he believes Metro Transit does get a favorable rate, but that it has been difficult to work with Metro Transit's purchasing department.

B. Go-To Card

Michael Abegg also reported on the status of the Go-To card. He stated that the system would not be up and running by July 1. He stated that the MVTA has worked hard testing vehicles and equipment to ensure that we are moving the process along as best we can. He indicated it is a good system, if it can be made to work. In the meantime, we are still waiting.

C. CMAQ Applications

Beverley Miller informed the Board that she has had several meetings regarding what projects should be submitted for CMAQ funding, but that she is having difficulty understanding the timing and if, in fact, these projects even need applications for funding completed, given the funding already obtained for the Cedar Corridor. Will Branning noted that to date, there is \$10 million from the State of Minnesota and \$1 million in Federal money. He said they are awaiting an additional \$5 million in federal dollars, and that the Met Council has indicated the project should receive an additional \$5 million in state bonding dollars during the next session. He suggested that Beverley Miller take the lead on the transit facilities, and that a request be made of the County to start spending some of these dollars for the Cedar Grove and Apple Valley Transit Stations, as well as any other facilities in the corridor. The Board directed staff to begin preparing a scoping study to then become an implementation plan for the Cedar Corridor. The Cedar Group is slated to meet June 29, and a special Board meeting will be set for July 6 or 7 to review the CMAQ submittals and information available after the Cedar Group meeting.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes Prepared By: Robin L. Selvig

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled: July 27, 2005, 4:30 p.m. Burnsville Transit Station, Second Floor Conference Room

All regularly Scheduled Board Meetings will be held on the **FOURTH** Wednesday of the month at the posted time at the Burnsville Transit Station Second Floor Conference Room unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____