

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Board Meeting
October 5, 2005 – 5:00 p.m.
Burnsville Transit Station

Board Members Present:

William Droste, Rosemount
Kevin Lienau, Savage
Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville
Will Branning, Dakota County
Meg Tilley, Eagan
Ruth Grendahl, Apple Valley
Jon Ulrich, Scott County
Margaret Schreiner, At-large

Others Present:

Lois Spear, Finance Officer
Troy Beam, Scott County TWG
Scott Peters, Dakota County
Barb Ross, Best & Flanagan
Wally Lyslo, At-Large Alternate
Michael Abegg, Planner
Beverley Miller, Executive Director
Robin Selvig, Customer Relations Manager
Tom Bright, Facilities Manager
Greg Konat, Dakota County TWG
Samantha Porter, Operations Manager
Tom Knier, Laidlaw Transit
?? Laidlaw Transit

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Droste at 5:02 p.m.

II. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public

III. Approval of Agenda

Barb Ross asked to have C. Joint Powers Agreements Letter added under VII. Staff Reports to the agenda. Motion by Margaret Schreiner and seconded by Ruth Grendahl to approve the agenda with the one addition. Motion carried.

IV. Consent of Agenda

Motion by Margaret Schreiner and seconded by Elizabeth Kautz to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried. Resolutions approved as part of the Consent Agenda are attached to these minutes.

V. New Business

A. Dakota County Transportation Plan

Greg Konat, Physical Development Director for Dakota County was on hand to review the Dakota County Transit Plan Update. He reviewed existing transit service and discussed why the County believes it is important to have a Transit Plan (“the County can’t build its way out of congestion”). He reviewed the regional transit goals. The County’s draft transit vision is to “Integrate transportation modes and provide alternatives that maximize the efficiency of the transportation system. These modes provide safe, timely and efficient connections between communities, activity generators, and employment centers.”

A series of draft transit goals has also been developed, including “link land use, transit, and transportation decisions.” Members of the MVTA Board encouraged the two County representatives to be cognizant of the transit taxing district issue and have some methodology for growth (in conjunction with the MUSA line, rather than population density, as indicated on their map). City staffs in Dakota County were surveyed, with the results included in the presentation. The County’s role was also discussed, and it was made clear that the County does not intend to operate buses – the role will be more of a facilitator and/or advocate role. The MVTA Board was informed that the County will be hiring a “transit manager,” who will be working to implement the transit plan. The “transit manager” will work closely with MVTA’s Executive Director.

B. Bus Procurement

Michael Abegg then addressed the Board regarding the procurement of 10 45’ motorcoaches from Motor Coach Industries (MCI) under the MVTA’s existing contract. Cost per bus is \$420,303, and the Board was asked to approve a “not too exceed” total price of \$4,370,000. Motion by Ruth Grendahl and seconded by Elizabeth Kautz to approve the purchase. Motion carried. Further, it was suggested that Board members contact their legislators and Met Council representatives regarding the hold-up in funding based on the Met Council’s interpretation of the bonding legislation.

VI. Old Business

A. County Road 46/County Road 31 Update

Mr. Konat provided a brief update on the County Road 46/County Road 31 project. The roadway is slated to open in mid-October, and the external work at the transit station should be complete in time for the December service change. The building will likely not be complete until February.

VII. Staff Reports / Update

A. Small Bus Procurement

Michael Abegg also explained that the MVTA is due to purchase small buses, which can be done off the State contract. However, we are between the conclusion of the 2005 contract and before the 2006 contract has been adopted. This item will be back before the Board in December, and should not significantly affect the delivery of the vehicles.

B. Regional Rideshare

Beverly Miller distributed a memo outlining all of the MVTA’s activities with regard to ridesharing, in response to Board member questions.

C. Joint Powers Agreement Letter – Barb Ross

Barb Ross distributed a letter from the League of Minnesota Cities, regarding a federal court decision on potential liability issues in a joint powers environment.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

Ruth Grendahl presented the 2006 Capital Budget. This then became a discussion with regard to the bonds approved in the 2005 legislative session and the interpretation taken by Met Council in releasing the bond funds and the service provided to STA by Messerli & Kramer. With regard to the MVTA capital budget, there are concerns about how some of the needed vehicles will be funded. Motion by Ruth Grendahl and seconded by Margaret Schreiner to adopt the MVTA capital budget. Motion carried.

B. Marketing Committee

Meg Tilley gave a brief Marketing Committee report regarding the opening event at the Eagan Bus Garage. Board members should mark their calendars for Oct. 26 at 3 p.m., prior to the October Board meeting. Dinner will be served at this Board meeting.

C. STA

Comments with regard to the performance of Messerli & Kramer included:

- Receive disclosure information from the lobbyist regarding others being represented
- Have the lobbyist take up the issue regarding the bonding, and make sure that the legislators in the cities represented by the Opt-out communities are aware of how their legislation is being interpreted.
- Have a clear understanding of the expectations of the lobbyist, including attendance at MVTA Board meetings
- Have an understanding of where the MVTA agrees/disagrees with other Opt-out communities on any issue (i.e., should MVTA have its own representation?)
- Beverley and Margaret, who are on the Messerli evaluation committee, need to schedule a meeting with Nancy Tyra-Lukens and Sandy Hewitt, to complete the Messerli review.

D. Personnel Committee

Elizabeth Kautz noted that she had forwarded information to Board members regarding Beverley Miller's review. However, given that Ms. Miller has not yet seen this information, the Board item will be delayed until the next meeting. Ms. Kautz will resend the information so all Board members have it handy. Chair Droste will also schedule a meeting with the Executive Director.

D. Other

Will Branning noted he had an e-mail regarding Tom Baker's proposal at the Burnsville Transit Station. Branning wanted the Board to know it is Dakota County's number one priority to stay at the Burnsville Transit Station.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Ruth Grendahl and seconded by Meg Tilley to adjourn the meeting at 7 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes Prepared By:

Robin Selvig

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled: Oct. 26, 2005, 4:30 p.m. Eagan Bus Garage, 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: _____