

DATE: March 24, 2011  
TO: Board Members unable to attend March 23 Regular MVTA Board meeting/TWGs  
FROM: MVTA  
RE: Meeting Summary

Here is a meeting summary of the MVTA March 23, 2011 regular meeting of the MVTA Board of Directors. Supplemental materials and meeting hand-outs are posted at [http://www.mvta.com/MVTA\\_Board.html](http://www.mvta.com/MVTA_Board.html).

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Will Branning. A quorum was present.
2. Guests were introduced to the MVTA Board: Jeffrey Spencer, FTA Office of Mobility Innovation; Gwo-Wei Torng, Noblis Corp.; and Kevin Dow, Program Manager, APTA. The group is studying Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) across the country and was visiting the MVTA to learn more about the Driver Assist Project developed with the University of Minnesota. Mr. Spencer told the Board that they are studying all modes of transportation with improving safety being their highest priority – reducing the number and severity of crashes. The group was looking at the research that has been conducted by the U of M and the implementation at MVTA, along with the possibilities for the future. He said they appreciate the good work done by the MVTA and the U of M and look forward to continuing to work together.
3. Item VI – E, Approve Agreement with SRF for 140<sup>th</sup>/147<sup>th</sup> St. was pulled from the agenda. The revised agenda was approved. Item IV – C, BTS/BBG Elevator Agreements was removed from the Consent Agenda by staff and items IV – D, Approve Allocated MVST Agreement with Met Council and IV – F, FTA Certifications and Assurances were pulled from the Consent Agenda for a separate discussion. The remainder of the Consent Agenda was approved.
4. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Gary Hansen to continue the Elevator Maintenance item to a future MVTA Board meeting. Motion carried.
5. Elizabeth Kautz questioned the need for the allocated MVST agreement with the Met Council. It was noted that this is for the discretionary funds above the statutory 21.5 percent. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Wally Lyslo to approve the agreement subject to review and approval of MVTA's Executive Director and Legal Counsel. A summary of the contract amendments will be provided to the Board. Motion carried on a roll-call vote.
6. Elizabeth Kautz expressed concern about the Federal Certifications and Assurances going to the Metropolitan Council, when TAB is the elected body. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Bill Droste delegating authority to the Executive Director to make the certifications and assurances required by the FTA and bind MVTA's compliance. Motion carried.
7. Michael Abegg reviewed language for an interagency agreement with the Met Council for operations and maintenance of the Transit Commuter Information System (TCIS) and Real-Time Sign Systems (RTS), explaining that this has been in negotiation for more than one year. The MVTA made an offer to the Met Council to settle the agreement, but there was no staff response to MVTA prior to the Board meeting. After significant discussion, Motion by Gary Hansen and seconded by Jane Victorey to adopt a resolution approving submission of an agreement based on the terms of the Met Council's document of Feb. 2, 2011 and the MVTA's proposal dated March 14, 2011 (which states that the MVTA bear no cost of the ongoing maintenance and support except for two items clearly defined in the agreement). The Met Council will be asked to respond to this proposed agreement by June 21, 2011. Motion carried on a roll-call vote. A letter will accompany the resolution. Jim Strommen, MVTA legal counsel noted that he has worked with Mike and there have been significant challenges to completing this document.
8. Michael Abegg reviewed information that the Metropolitan Council is changing their oversight process for the AVL and other projects, indicating that they will now charge the time spent administering grants.

A variety of ideas were discussed by the Board regarding how to address the MVTA's concerns, including a suggestion that the issue be raised with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), which is the elected body overseeing use of federal monies. It was noted that there are a number of similar issues that could be raised in such a letter.

9. Others suggested a letter from the MVTA Board Chair to the new Met Council Chair stating that this is a new policy decision with negative financial impact on the MVTA. Board members noted that the Met Council has a certain amount of funding designated for contract administration, and this "smells of double-dipping." Motion by Wally Lyslo and seconded by Bill Droste to approve the resolution rejecting the Council's request to amend the AVL grant agreement (and potentially other agreements) to allow for reimbursement of Council staff costs and Council-approval of the procurement process. In addition, a letter will be drafted from MVTA Board Chair Will Branning to Met Council Chair Susan Haigh regarding the policy change. Motion carried on a roll-call vote.
10. Beverley Miller reviewed the request that the Board approve a "pool" of graphic design consultants for non-Federally funded projects, including THINK Graphic Design, Headwater Creative and Visions. Jane Victorey questioned the inclusion of Visions given that their prices were higher than the others. It was noted that in the interview process, Visions was the top recommendation given their background, experience and approach to the MVTA's needs. Motion by Bill Droste and seconded by Jane Victorey to approve the agreements and issue a work order for THINK Graphic Design to complete schedule production for the period of April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. Motion carried on a roll-call vote.
11. Beverley Miller presented the Title VI Plan before the Board, indicating that as a recipient of federal funds, we are required to have this document. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Clint Hooppaw to approve the Title VI Plan. Gary Hansen suggested some alternative language to the resolution included in the packet and it was provided to Board members at tonight's meeting. Motion by Gary Hansen and seconded by Elizabeth Kautz to accept the amended resolution. Motion carried. Original Motion then carried, adopting the Title VI Plan to be submitted to the Metropolitan Council.
12. Beverley Miller asked the Board to approve our plan for I-35W service using the CMAQ dollars awarded in 2007 for use in 2011 in this corridor. MVTA staff has been working with Met Council staff but have been unable to identify a common vision for the service. Therefore, the MVTA wishes to proceed with our plans and use the federal dollars available for both vehicles and operations to enhance service in the corridor. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Gary Hansen to adopt the MVTA's I-35W transitway service plan and initiate the 2011 CMAQ Grant/matching funds via Met Council. Motion carried.
13. Beverley Miller presented information about Cedar Avenue roles & responsibilities that have been prepared by the Met Council, Dakota County and the MVTA. The Board was not asked to approve anything, but was simply being made aware that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Joint Powers Agreement is forthcoming. It was noted that there was a presentation to the Dakota County Board on March 22 and that the information will be presented at an upcoming Met Council Transportation Committee meeting. Mark Krebsbach, Dakota County Engineer, also commented on the process, indicating it has been cooperative and respectful and that all parties have been working hard toward the end result. He thanked everyone at the MVTA who has been involved in moving this vision forward. Will Branning also thanked Mark, Arlene McCarthy and Beverley for working toward the end result in defining Cedar Avenue Stage 1 Roles and Responsibilities.
14. Beverley Miller reported that there will be a STA Legislative committee meeting on Friday, followed by a meeting with MnDOT Commissioner Tom Sorel. She reported that things are moving quickly in the legislature regarding funding, but at the current moment, it appears that Metro Transit will have a \$60+ million shortfall. Suburban Transit Providers are to be held whole for 2011. She also reported that the Chair of the Transportation Committee has express interest in developing a committee that would meet during the summer to discuss Met Council restructuring, with plans to bring a bill forward in 2012.

15. Michael Abegg reported on the MVTA's AVL procurement, noting that the RFP is on the street and some 11 firms have expressed interest. Proposals are due April 1 and the initial hope was to award the contract at the April Board meeting. He also noted that he would like to reconvene the Special AVL Committee in the near future.
16. Michael Abegg spoke about the Service Investment Strategy (SIS) and the Regional Service Improvement Plan (SIP) and that the Board will be asked to take action at the April meeting regarding MVTA submittals to the regional SIP program.
17. Lois Spear provided an update on the Rosemount Park & Ride, noting that due to environmental issues the MVTA will not meet deadlines set by MnDOT State Aid for advancing the project this year. Kim Lindquist, Community Development Director for the City of Rosemount, requested that engineering work continue on the project so that if an opening occurs, the project could slide into construction this summer. She said much work needs to be done as the City Council has not seen any elevations for the site. Spear noted that the current design elements are at the upper end of the funding available. If construction estimates increase based on a 2012 build, changes may be needed; engineering work, therefore, might be duplicated. It was suggested that MVTA and City of Rosemount staff meet to review what, if anything, can be done to keep the project moving forward.
18. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled for April 27 at 4:30 p.m. at the Burnsville Bus Garage.