



MINNESOTA PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

**MPTA EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING
January 28, 2021**

BOARD AGENDA

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

I. Call to Order – 8:32 a.m. Ryan Daniel

II. Roll Call

Margaret Donahoe
Katie Leibel
Brenda Brittin
Mike Klauda
Joanne Brackey
LuAnn Bleiler
Ryan Daniel
Nick Lemmer
Sherry Munyon
Daryn Toso
Cathleen Amick
Tiffany Collins
Alan Herrmann
Ted Nelson

III. Additions or Changes to the Agenda/Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve- Daryn Toso Second: Nick Lemmer
Motion passed.

Old Business

IV. Approval of December 17, 2020 Minutes (Attachment)

Motion to approve- LuAnn Bleiler Second: Tiffany Collins
Motion passed.

New Business

V. Legislative Update – Sherry Munyon

- It's been busy for MPTA already. Tiffany testified at a House Transportation Committee hearing. The Transportation Alliance hosted a webinar for freshmen legislators that MPTA participated in.
- A lot of time has been going into the volunteer driver initiative. Sherry is working on behalf of MPTA with the volunteer driver coalition.

- The coalition is putting together a comprehensive list of organizations that use volunteer drivers.
- We have a new chief author of the volunteer driver bill.
- MPTA may be sending out a call to action in the next few weeks to send letters to the Minnesota Congressional delegation after they get the letter from the coalition.
- The governor's budget came out. There was no new money for transit. There was a new initiative from the office of transit that would transfer money out of the transit assistance fund into the department's administrative fund.
- Potential bills of interest:
 - First two bills: Volunteer driver bills
 - Second Bill: An Initiative from Senator Marty and the Roseville Area and a Duluth legislator to create a statewide transit fare. MnDOT must mandate that Greater Minnesota Systems charge no more than \$.25. The concern is: if fares can't be a part of your local match, it might be hard to make up that revenue.
- MPTA Board members and staff met as usual with staff from the Office of Transit. The meeting focused on responses to information requests from the MPTA Board. Katie will post December minutes on the MPTA website, and start posting more and more minutes on the site as they are approved.
- A draft letter of support for volunteer drivers was provided to Board members.
- Legislative Agenda: This just focuses on policy and funding that we have been working on for the past few years. There was discussion about policy and funding ideas including working with OTAT and managing the funding gap.
- Approval of 2021 legislative agenda
Motion to approve agenda with an amendment to remove MnDOT reference from funding gap.
Motion Passed.

VI. Advocacy Update – **Margaret Donahoe**

- There are a number of things we are working on to promote transit and why transit systems are important. We are going to be putting on some regional transportation forums, and we would like so representation of local transit systems. Margaret will be reaching out to folks about that.
- We will be doing more to reach out to local news media, making the one-pagers about systems really important. It's still important to have a funding need number for your system from the five-year plans, so look into not just high and medium priority needs, but also a dollar amount for them.
- Lisa Raduenz has been hired by OTAT to update five-year plans. We may want to invite her to the next MPTA board meeting.
- We're working on putting together videos and using social media to promote what transit systems have been doing with the pandemic. Make sure to send along stories, testimonials, videos, etc. They will be helpful especially when talking to legislators. They are looking at across the board cuts in all general fund budgets, so this information would be important to minimize those cuts.
- We want everyone to keep promoting transit systems and transit service as there are many questioning whether or not people will go back to transit in the future.

VII. Program Coordinator Position – **Katie Leibel**

- Katie discussed planning efforts for the Roadeo at the Kelly Inn. She showed one of the videos she has been working on that was also played for the House Transportation Committee.

VIII. President's Update – **Ryan Daniel**

- We have a vacancy in Vice President for the MPTA board. Luther Wynder will be the interim acting VP, but if you are interested, please reach out to Ryan and Margaret via email.

IX. Financial Report – **LuAnn Bleiler**

- The financials haven't changed much. MPTA ended the year with more expenses than revenue due to the lack of a Rodeo this year less funding from the conference. We can't keep losing money so we may need to find other ways to make more money.
Motion to pass the financial report: Nick Lemmer Second: Tiffany Collins
Motion Passed.

X. MCOTA Update – **Tiffany Collins**

- The agenda was very full, there was a lot of good information. They decided to table the discussion about the brochure. They are working to get some input from our group. Tiffany will share that. They are planning another leadership meeting in the summertime with all of the heads of all of the different departments.
- Alan Herrmann asked if we should look at some sort of Associate membership for the RTCCs with MPTA to be a financial piece for us and engage them with us.

XI. Events 2021

- Rodeo – St. Cloud
- Transit Conference – Duluth

XII. Next Meeting

February 25 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

XIII. Other Business

None.

XIV. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.