



MINNESOTA PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

**MPTA EXECUTIVE BOARD
MEETING
March 25, 2021**

BOARD AGENDA

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

- I. Call to Order – **8:34 A.M.**
- II. Roll Call
Katie Leibel
Margaret Donahoe
LuAnn Bleiler
Sherry Munyon
Brenda Brittin
Tiffany Collins
Ryan Daniel
Ted Nelson
Alan Herrmann
Matt Fyten
- III. Additions or Changes to the Agenda/Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve: Matt Fyten Second: Alan Herrmann
Motion passed.

Old Business

- IV. Approval of February 25, 2021 Minutes (Attachment)
Motion to approve: Tiffany Collins Second: LuAnn Bleiler
Motion passed.

New Business

- V. Legislative Update – **Sherry Munyon**
 - There will be a funding package that comes off the house floor. It will be multi-modal.
 - Rep. Hornstein has heard several pieces of legislation. He is hearing more today and is expected to reveal his bill when we get back from the break. MPTA has made progress on the Volunteer Driver bill that defines a volunteer driver. The bill was heard in the House Transportation Committee and passed. We missed policy deadline in the senate. We're hoping for Rep. Hornstein to include this in his omnibus bill. This is the first year of the biennium so the bill would be live next year, but Sherry and other advocates have been asking "why make volunteer drivers wait a whole year?"
 - There was also a hearing on the bill to provide an income tax subtraction for volunteer driver mileage reimbursement in the Senate but it was not heard in the House.

VI. Advocacy Update – Margaret Donahoe

- We sent out a survey asking about local match and seeing how much systems rely on fares, contracts, local revenue, etc. We also asked about PPE costs going forward.
- A significant amount of federal money has come to Minnesota, and we don't know how that money is going to be spent other than covering the local match.
- We have been reaching out more to the news media regarding transit appreciation day, some videos, press releases, etc. We are going to be doing more to promote transit and how it has been helpful amid the pandemic.
- Tomorrow is the first planning meeting for the MPTA joint conference with Wisconsin. It is going to be a challenge to do a hybrid event with costs on both ends so the budget is going to be a challenge this year. The good news is that OTAT did commit to a \$5,000 sponsorship for the Roadeo and a \$7,500 sponsorship for the conference.
- We need to create additional revenue, and Margaret asked about increasing the fee for Vendor memberships. It is normally \$350. We think more people would be interested in membership amid the joint conference, and we have been providing some great benefits to them with the In Transit and more. There was consensus that increasing the fee to \$400 is a good idea and justifiable. Alan brought up the possibility of memberships with RTCC and other organizations like them. A letter will be sent with information about the upcoming conference and a request for associate membership at \$200 per year.

VII. Program Coordinator Position – Katie Leibel

- Katie discussed the MPTA videos she is showing off as well as progress with the Roadeo committee.
- Alan Herrmann brought up the idea of featuring mobile clinics with Metro Transit in a video to also show off the importance of transit.

VIII. President's Update – Ryan Daniel

- Yesterday there was a meeting with OTAT and representatives from DPS. DPS recognizes 11 centers have openings within 11 to 14 days, and they do notice that others have extended wait times. They are open to the idea of third-party testing, but it would require some type of rule-making change.
- DPS staff and MPTA Board members who are interested will continue to meet and discuss the idea of trainers at one transit system training drivers at another transit system.

IX. Financial Report – LuAnn Bleiler

- LuAnn discussed the financial report. Most systems have paid their dues. Not a lot has happened or changed. We all have the budgets for the Roadeo and the conference.
 - Margaret added that we did follow up with systems that did not pay yet, but if we don't hear from them we might have Board members reach out.
- Motion to Approve financial report: Alan Herrmann Second: Ted Nelson
Motion Passed.

X. MCOTA Update – Tiffany Collins

- The MCOTA meeting was yesterday. It is typically an every-other month meeting. They have multiple work teams. There is a senior leadership meeting coming up. They ask

senior leadership from all departments, but Tiffany was wondering who would represent MPTA in it. It is June 23rd from 1-3 virtually. Ryan will attend with Tiffany.

XI. Events 2021

- Roadeo – July 9-10, St. Cloud
- Transit Conference – October 4-6, Duluth

XII. Next Meeting

April, 29, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

XIII. Other Business

- Ryan asked Margaret to draft a letter regarding the two-year operating agreement, technology and more. Then the MPTA board will look it over and we can send it off to Victoria and her team.
- Sherry urged everyone to send letters to their legislators about the volunteer driver bills, and also mention the omnibus bill.

XIV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.