

MID MON VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
1300 MCKEAN AVE
CHARLEROI, PA 15022
April 23, 2026
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman – 5:00 PM
2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG – Chairman
3. ROLL CALL – Secretary

There being 15 members present at 5:00 PM, there was a quorum.

Members Present:

Bernie Bandini
Mark Boyle
Ed Bryner
Devin DeRienzo
Diann Donaldson
George Eckert
Fred Exley
William Furlong
Timothy Herd
Frank Kennedy
Cathy Martini
Fred Naccarato
Scott Nedrow
Rik Pankiewicz
Nancy Williamson

Members Absent:

John Habel III

California, New Eagle, Fallowfield Township, Fayette City & Coal Center
(awaiting member appointments).

Staff Present:

Ashley Seman
Nancy Basile
Aeriel Dochenetz
Stephanie Lee
Michael Perry

Others Present:

Marc Roncone, MV Transportation
James Brown, MV Transportation
Blane Black, Solicitor

At this time, Mrs. Seman introduced Matthew Bodnar of Michael Baker International, who provided an update on the fare study. He outlined options to simplify the fare structure, address an estimated \$100,000 revenue loss from California University of Pennsylvania, and improve cost recovery. Options

included eliminating Zone 2 fares, increasing fares, and requiring students to pay full fare outside the Vulcan Flyer. A phased fare increase over several years was recommended, with potential to generate approximately \$119,000 annually. He also noted that assumptions will be revisited as the broader fixed-route study progresses.

Discussion followed on fare policy and operations. Questions were raised about free rides, student fares, peer comparisons, and operating costs. Staff noted that about 34% of riders travel for free, largely due to seniors, and that senior ridership is included in state operating assistance calculations through PennDOT funding formulas. It was also confirmed that students currently ride free only on the Vulcan Flyer and pay half fare on other routes. Comparisons were made to other systems such as Freedom Transit and Butler Transit Authority regarding student fare programs. Staff additionally noted the last fare increase occurred in 2018, with the local fare remaining unchanged at that time, and confirmed that both revenue and operating efficiency are being evaluated as part of the broader study.

4. Chairman Eckert inquired if there were additions or corrections to the March 26, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes? Hearing none, Chairman Eckert asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2026, Board Meeting. Mr. Bryner made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Pankiewicz seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. PUBLIC FORUM – None
6. REPORT FROM THE CARRIER – MV Transportation, Inc., Marc Roncone.
 - a. Mr. Roncone reported on Average On-Time Performance for the month of March 2026 as follows: Average On-Time Performance was 94.00% with an average of 94.00% for 2026.
 - b. Mr. Roncone reported on fixed route service for the month of March 2026 as follows: Actual Vehicle Miles were 79,971.00; Revenue Vehicle miles were 66,833.00; Actual Vehicle Hours were 4,642.97; and Revenue Vehicle Hours were 4,098.17.
 - c. Mr. Roncone also reported for March 2026: 1 incident without injury; 0 incidents with injury; 1 accident without injury; and 0 accidents with injury. Mr. Roncone stated that for March 2026 there were 0 security issues; 3 valid complaints; and 0 compliments.
 - d. Mr. Roncone also informed the Board that in March 2026 there were 7 road calls; 11,424.00 miles between road failures; 8 major mechanical failures; and 10 other mechanical failures.
 - e. Mr. Roncone provided an update on maintenance performance in March 2026 stating that there were no overdue class preventative maintenances or individual preventative maintenances.
 - f. See **Attachment I.6** for further details, provided in the agenda packet.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. Chairman Eckert expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Williamson of Allenport and Tim Herd of Speers for the opportunity for Ms. Basile and himself to speak at their respective council meetings. During those meetings, Ms. Basile delivered a presentation on local match and responded to questions from attendees. He also noted that the following week, he and Ms. Basile attended a workshop in Monessen where they provided a similar presentation.
- b. Chairman Eckert announced that the MMVTA received this month's RIN rebate in the amount of \$4,784.07 and reminded attendees that this is a recurring monthly rebate provided through Love's/Trillium as part of the CNG fueling operations.
- c. Chairman Eckert opened discussion on the upcoming MMVTA Reorganizational Meeting, which will take place following the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting in June. He explained that, in accordance with the MMVTA By-Laws, the Board will nominate and elect members to serve on the Executive Committee at that time. Nominations will be accepted, and officers will be elected for the next term. He further noted that Executive Committee positions, including Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary, are filled from among the Board of Directors and carry two-year terms. Members may serve up to two consecutive terms unless otherwise directed by the Board. Board members wishing to submit nominations are encouraged to complete a nomination sheet and submit it at the current meeting, prior to the June Board meeting, or by emailing Mr. Perry directly. Chairman Eckert expressed his appreciation for the Board's participation and encouraged all members to consider serving on the Executive Committee.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a. Mr. DeRienzo reported that the Finance Management Committee was sent a finance report to review the bills contained in the agenda packet under **Attachment I.8.a.**
 - i. Mr. DeRienzo reported that the total bills for April amounted to \$523,359.03 in Operating Expenses.
 - ii. Mr. DeRienzo reported that the Capital Expenditures for the month of April were:
 1. \$2,500.00 payable to Desak's Plumbing & Electric for Bus Facility Valves & Pipes (Federal, State & Local Funds).
 2. \$1,170.00 payable to Don's Signs for Fence Signage (Federal, State & Local Funds).
 3. \$11,890.00 payable to McGrew Construction for Concrete Removal (Federal, State & Local Funds).
 4. \$12,388.29 payable to Michael Baker International for Route Study Project – Payment #11 (Federal & Local Funds).
 5. \$21,749.00 payable to Overhead Door for 50% down on 2 Rolling Doors (Federal, State & Local Funds).

- iii. Mr. DeRienzo made a motion to accept April's Finance Report and approve payment of the same. Mr. Naccarato seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. Mr. DeRienzo stated that the Capital Projects list follows the Finance Report and is found in **Attachment I.8.b** of the agenda packet for review.
 - i. Mrs. Lee updated the Board on the current Capital Projects:
 - 1. Mrs. Lee reported on the Pavement Project at the Donora Facility, stating that McGrew Construction has removed the existing concrete diesel pad and prepared the area for paving. El Grande is scheduled to begin paving in April or early May.
 - 2. Mrs. Lee provided an update on the System-Wide Study, noting that MV Transportation, Mrs. Seman, Ms. Basile, and she participated in a second two-hour workshop with Michael Baker International on April 20, 2026, as part of the ongoing route analysis. During the session, Michael Baker International presented several scenarios, and the MMVTA contributed feedback and corrections. The consulting team is currently working on revised routes that reflect the input provided by the MMVTA.
 - 3. Mrs. Lee provided an update on the Office Equipment and Furniture Project, noting that, as reported last month, PennDOT approved additional repairs at the Transit Center. McGrew Construction has completed sealing the windows, repairing roof drainage, and sealing two counters. The MMVTA is currently awaiting delivery of plexiglass for the Transit Center tower to finalize the remaining repairs.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Finance Management – Scott Nedrow, Committee Chair
 - 1. Mr. Nedrow directed the Board's attention to the FY 2026–2027 Operating and Capital Budgets distributed to each member. He noted that on March 20, 2026, Mrs. Dochenetz circulated draft operating budgets for review, and that the Finance Management Committee met on April 8, 2026, to examine the proposal, which reflects a 3% increase over the previous year. Following thorough discussion, the committee expressed satisfaction with the budget and recommended its approval by the Board this evening. Mr. Nedrow noted that while forecasting is challenging, the budget is a reasonable and responsible working document. He expressed some disagreement with certain assumptions but acknowledged staff's efforts given current constraints. He raised concerns about the sustainability of the revenue model, rising costs, and the significant expense of bus operations. He also

cautioned that future funding may become more difficult and that increasing fares could negatively impact ridership.

- a. Chairman Eckert asked Ms. Basile whether additional revenue would affect the amount collected from municipalities for the Local Match. Ms. Basile responded that the Local Match would remain unchanged, and municipalities would continue to see the required 5% annual increase. Chairman Eckert further inquired whether a renewed contribution from Westmoreland County toward operating expenses would impact the municipalities' Local Match. Ms. Basile confirmed that it would reduce the amount required from the municipalities.
 - b. Mr. Nedrow expressed concern regarding the Authority's advertising revenue structure, noting that approximately \$110,000 is generated annually, with a significant portion paid as commission to an outside vendor. He suggested exploring the possibility of managing advertising in-house, citing concerns about commissions and the use of Authority assets and branding.
 - c. Mr. DeRienzo noted that he has taken time to learn the budgeting process and commended staff for their work in managing the Authority's finances. He emphasized the challenge of operating with most of the funding coming from external sources rather than in-house revenue, making financial decisions difficult. He cautioned that reliance on state funding creates uncertainty and stressed the importance of being mindful and cautious with spending, particularly over the next several years.
 - d. Mr. Furlong shared positive feedback regarding the Authority's service, noting that members of the public have expressed surprise and satisfaction with the quality of transit service. He acknowledged discussions regarding potential fare increases but cautioned that any changes should carefully consider the potential impact on passengers and ridership. Mr. Furlong emphasized the importance of balancing organizational needs with customer impact and using sound judgment in decision-making, noting his long-standing positive experience with the system.
2. Mr. Nedrow made a motion to approve the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority's FY 2026-2027 Operating and Capital Budgets as presented. Mr. Pankiewicz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- b. Human Resources – Cathy Martini, Committee Chair
 - i. Ms. Martini announced that a Human Resources Committee meeting will be held May 5, 2026, at 5:00 PM.
- c. Planning & Steering Committee – Timothy Herd, Committee Chair – No report.
- d. Safety & Security – Ed Bryner, Committee Chair – No report.
- e. By-Laws – William Furlong, Committee Chair – No report.

10. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

- a. Executive Director
 - i. Mrs. Seman provided an update on the NFL Draft, noting that newspaper advertisements for the MMVTA Draft Express service have been placed in the Mon Valley Independent.
 - ii. Mrs. Seman also stated the office celebrated Administrative Professional Day on April 22, 2026.
- b. Marketing
 - i. Mrs. Dochenetz announced that the Cal Commuter & Vulcan Flyer services will be on Summer Break starting on May 9, 2026.
 - ii. Mrs. Dochenetz reported that National Transportation Week will be observed May 11–17, 2026, and noted that MMVTA will distribute promotional items during that week.
 - iii. Mrs. Dochenetz also announced that there will be no bus service and the administrative office will be closed on May 25, 2026, in observance of Memorial Day.
- c. Operations
 - i. Mrs. Lee updated the Board that she and Mrs. Seman attended the three-day PPTA Annual Meeting & Expo, where they engaged with transit leaders and partners. She highlighted discussions with Pennsylvania State Secretaries, PennDOT capital planning updates, Federal transit and legal updates presented by Jill Nagy, as well as valuable sessions and networking opportunities.
- d. Funding Update
 - i. Ms. Basile updated the Board on Community Local Match for the upcoming fiscal year, reporting that, to date, MMVTA has received 14 signed resolutions out of 18 needed and thanked everyone for their assistance and support. Ms. Basile noted the MMVTA is still waiting for signed resolutions from Allenport, Monessen, North Charleroi and Speers. She noted that she has spoken at the Allenport, Monessen and Speers meetings and would be happy to attend North Charleroi’s meetings if needed. Ms. Basile reminded the Board that without receipt of these remaining resolutions, the MMVTA could lose \$811,345.00 in state operating funds for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - ii. Ms. Basile noted that the MMVTA recently received the following revenues: CNG RIN Value Revenue in the amount of \$4,784.00

and additional state operating assistance in the amount of \$260,482.00.

- iii. Ms. Basile updated the Board that she has filed a federal grant for operating funds and expects the award in July 2026. She also noted that she is in the process of developing the state operating grant for this upcoming fiscal year and is due by May 5, 2026.
- iv. Ms. Basile notified the Board that a federal capital grant for 8 buses and a state capital grant for the remainder of the capital projects contained in the capital budget, which was just approved by the Board, will be completed and submitted shortly.

11. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

- a. Mr. Naccarato reminded the Board that the 2025 Statements of Financial Interest are due to the MMVTA prior to May 1, 2026.

12. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Mrs. Seman directed the Board to **Attachment I.12.a** and reported that the resolution regarding the Transit Security Services Contract Extension Option was being removed from consideration. She explained that, following a meeting with PennDOT, the Authority is no longer required to designate dedicated transit security funding, allowing those funds to remain in the budget. She clarified that this change does not affect the ability to contact law enforcement as needed but eliminates the requirement for a contracted security presence on vehicles and routes. Chairman Eckert made the motion to remove from consideration the Resolution Exercising the Transit Security Services Contract Extension Option #1 for 7/1/2026-6/30/2027. Mr. Bryner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mrs. Seman referred to **Attachment I.13.a**, Approval of the MMVTA Resolution Certifying the Local Match for State Operating Financial Assistance FY 2026-2027. She explained that the resolution certifies the need for \$4,590,088 in operating financial assistance for FY 2026–2027 to support projected operating expenses, including asset maintenance costs, and confirms that these funds will be used solely for eligible operating purposes. She further noted that any unspent funds will be retained and used for operating assistance only.
 - i. Chairman Eckert asked what happens if a community, or several, do not pass their Local Match Resolutions. Mrs. Seman explained that the MMVTA would have their State Operating Assistance permanently reduced by \$36.80 per every \$1.00 not collected in Local Match, for example, \$1,000 not collected would result in a permanent reduction of state operating assistance in the amount of \$36,800.00

- ii. Mr. Bandini asked if any municipalities on the Board are currently not paying Local Match. Mrs. Seman stated that Washington Township, Coal Center and Fayette City are not because they do not currently have bus services in their municipalities.
 - iii. Mr. Bandini asked if Local Match funds could be collected through fundraising. Mrs. Basile confirmed that funds collected for Local Match would have to be given to the municipality and then the municipality would contribute the Local Match funds to the MMVTA.
 - iv. Mr. Kennedy asked if municipalities do not pay Local Match, would the other communities have to make up the Local Match difference the next fiscal year. Ms. Basile confirmed that the amount not collected would be distributed among the participating municipalities causing an increase in their Local Match contribution.
 - v. Mr. Pankiewicz made the motion to approve the MMVTA Resolution Certifying the Local Match for State Operating Financial Assistance FY 2026-2027. Mr. Bryer seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. Mrs. Seman referred to **Attachment I.13.b**, Approval of the MMVTA Public Transit Capital Application resolution to File and Certify Local Match FY 2026-2027. She explained that the resolution certifies the requested amount of \$1,646,374.00 for FY 2026-2027 to help pay for projected capital costs, excluding asset maintenance, and that the funds will only be used for this purpose and are ineligible to be used for operating costs. Further, Mrs. Seman explained this certifies that in FY 2026-2027 that local cash matching funds of no less than \$54,867.00 will be provided to match the requested amount of state discretionary trust funds. Mr. Furlong made the motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Herd seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - c. Member Community Updates – None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chairman Eckert asked if there were any further business to discuss? There being none, Chairman Eckert asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Martini made the motion. Vice Chairman Donaldson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

REMINDER:

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026, AT 5:00 PM

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS APPRECIATED!