

**MID MON VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
1300 MCKEAN AVE  
CHARLEROI, PA 15022  
April 25, 2024  
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Directly prior to the Call to Order, the following Board Member was sworn-in by Mayor Timothy Herd to begin his term of office: Daniel Komacek (Fallowfield Township).

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman – 6:00 PM
2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG – Chairman
3. ROLL CALL – Secretary

There being 13 members present at 6:00 PM, there was a quorum.

**Members Present**

Mark Boyle  
Ed Bryner  
Chris Carroll  
Devin DeRienzo  
Diann Donaldson  
George Eckert  
William Furlong  
John Habel III  
Timothy Herd  
Daniel Komacek  
Cathy Martini  
Fred Naccarato  
Scott Nedrow

**Members Absent:**

Bernie Bandini  
Fred Exley  
Frank Kennedy  
Rik Pankiewicz

California, Fayette City & Coal Center (awaiting member appointments).  
Allenport (awaiting member swearing-in).

**Staff Present:**

Ashley Seman  
Nancy Basile  
Aeriel Dochenetz  
Stephanie Lee  
Michael Perry

**Others Present:**

Marc Roncone, MV Transportation  
Clifford Opfer, MV Transportation

4. Chairman Eckert inquired if there were additions or corrections to the March 28, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes? Hearing none, Chairman Eckert asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 28, 2024, Board Meeting. Mr. Bryner

made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC FORUM – None

6. REPORT FROM THE CARRIER

- a. Mr. Roncone reported on Average On-Time Performance for the month of February 2024 and March 2024 as follows: Average On-Time Performance was 95.36% in February and 95.21% in March. Mr. Roncone stated the goal for On-Time Performance is 93% and the definition of On-Time Performance as being no more than one (1) minute early and no more than ten (10) minutes behind schedule.
  - i. Mr. Roncone reported that On-Time performance increased 1.47% in February and 3.53% in March compared to the previous year.
- b. Mr. Roncone reported on fixed route service for the month of February 2024 and March 2024 as follows: Actual Vehicle Miles were 81,223 in February and 76,077 in March; Revenue Vehicle miles were 68,034 in February and 63,077 in March; Actual Vehicle Hours were 4,822.44 in February and 4,733.34 in March; and the Revenue Vehicle Hours were 4,260.77 in February and 4,188.90 in March.
- c. Mr. Roncone also reported there was 1 incident without injury in February and 2 in March; 0 incidents with injury in February and 1 in March; 0 accidents with or without injury in February and March. Mr. Roncone stated that there were 0 security issues in February and March; 0 valid complaints in February and 3 in March; and 0 compliments in February and March.
  - i. Mr. Roncone advised the board that all employees will be attending mandatory customer service training in May.
- d. Mr. Roncone also informed the Board that there were 5 road calls in February and 2 in March; 16,245 miles between road failures in February and 38,039 in March; 6 major mechanical failures in February and 7 in March; and 12 other mechanical failures in February and 6 in March.
- e. Mr. Roncone advised the board that MV Transportation has installed Mobileye on all buses. Mr. Roncone explained that Mobileye is an advanced driver assistance system that integrates collision avoidance technology such as: Pedestrian & Cyclist Collision Warning, Headway Monitoring & Warning, Forward Collision Warning, Lane Departure Warning, and a Speed Limit Indicator.
  - i. Vice-Chairman Donaldson inquired whether Mr. Roncone receives reports from Mobileye. Mr. Roncone clarified that the Mobileye system does not generate reports on the frequency of alerts triggered, as its purpose is not punitive but rather to enhance service delivery and serve as a coaching tool.
  - ii. Mr. Herd inquired about whether the new system includes emergency braking or similar features. Mr. Roncone clarified that

Mobileye is not integrated into the bus system itself but functions as an alert system for the operator.

- iii. Chairman Eckert inquired about how many transit agencies in Pennsylvania are using Mobileye or something similar. Mr. Roncone mentioned that, to his knowledge, the MMVTA and Butler Transit Authority are the only two agencies utilizing Mobileye. However, he noted that it is currently a widely discussed topic among transit agencies.
- f. Mr. Roncone congratulated drivers Danny Rice and Ernest Brackins for winning the Katherine McClary Safe Operator of the Year and the Katherine McClary Safe Operator of the Quarter Awards, respectively.
- g. Mr. Roncone discussed recent events hosted at the garage, which included a Super Bowl Safety Event featuring games and prizes, as well as Transit Driver Appreciation Day. Mr. Roncone also expressed gratitude to Chairman Eckert for visiting the garage and supporting Transit Driver Appreciation Day.
  - i. Vice-Chairman Donaldson shared a compliment she received from a wheelchair-bound client, praising her drivers as consistently outstanding.
  - ii. Mr. Roncone shared year-to-date employee anniversaries.
- h. See **Attachment I.6** for further details, provided in the agenda packet.

#### 7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. Chairman Eckert welcomed the newest MMVTA Board Member, Daniel Komacek, who will be representing Fallowfield Township.
- b. Chairman Eckert reminded the Board that Local Match is needed from the community of Elco.
- c. Chairman Eckert offered an update concerning the tenants leasing the property at 1300 Lincoln Avenue, Van Beck Electrical Supply Company.

#### 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 \$524,275.05 which includes \$446,686.23 in Operating Expenses and \$77,588.82 in COVID Expenses.
  - ii. Mr. DeRienzo reported that the Capital Expenditures for the month of April were:
    - 1. \$2,835.50 payable to McGrew Construction for Bus Facility Concrete Repair – ½ down (Federal, State & Local Funds).
  - iii. Mr. DeRienzo made a motion to accept April's Finance Report and approve payment of the same. Mr. Furlong 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 current capital projects:
  - 1. The RFQ for the pavement project of California's Park & Ride Bus Lane was released on April 15, 2024.
  - 2. Mrs. Lee stated the Repair, Seal Coating and Line Painting of Park & Ride Lots that Arnold Sealcoating is completing will begin mid-May, weather permitting, and it will be done on the weekends to minimize impact on riders. Riders will be notified prior to the closure.
  - 3. Two bids were received for the Power Washing of the Bus Wash: one from Premier Power Cleaning for \$3,300.00 and one from McGrew Construction for \$9,260.00. The project has been awarded to Premier Power Cleaning.
    - a. Mr. Carroll inquired about the reason for the price discrepancy. Mrs. Lee explained that McGrew Construction would be renting equipment, whereas Premier Power Cleaning already owns the equipment.
  - 4. Two bids were received for the Storage Facility Flooring Repair: one from McGrew Construction for \$5,670.00 and one from Swede Construction for \$22,300.00. The project has been awarded to McGrew Construction.
    - a. Vice-Chairman Donaldson inquired about the reason for the significant price discrepancy in the received bids, while Mr. Carroll questioned whether a scope review had been conducted prior to awarding the project. Mrs. Lee explained that a scope review was conducted and the work needing to be done is repairing the flooring and metal plates so that they are flush with the ground for safety reasons. Mrs. Lee explained that McGrew Construction's bid was based on a quick fix with concrete repair work and using existing plates whereas Swede Construction's bid was based on more of a permanent fix using newly welded transition plates for the repair.
      - i. Mr. Carroll asked about warranties for the work and the duration of the quick fix. Ms. Basile clarified that no warranties apply since it's a small project aimed at swiftly addressing safety concerns. Mrs. Seman outlined that the larger capital project, slated for completion in the next 5-8 years, will provide a permanent solution. Mr. Roncone noted that the previous fix endured for nearly a decade.
  - 5. An award was made to Harshman CE Group, LLC. for the Speers-Drawing and Construction Estimate for \$5,000.00. The project was completed on April 18, 2024, and the final conceptual site plan was presented to the Board.

6. An award was made to Moody Associates for the Speers Environmental Assessment (NEPA) for \$5,600.00.
- c. Mr. DeRienzo informed the Board that the Operating and Capital Budgets for FY 2024-2025, that began on July 1<sup>st</sup>, are contained in **Attachment I.8.c** for review. Mr. DeRienzo further mentioned that the Finance Committee received and reviewed the budgets and is providing them to the Board for approval. Mr. DeRienzo then advised the Board that the Staff is available to answer any questions they may have.
  - i. At this time, Mr. DeRienzo made the motion to approve the Operating and Capital Budgets for FY 2024-2025. Mr. Naccarato seconded the motion.
    1. The Vice-Chairman requested a roll call vote as she was unclear about the approval being sought. Ms. Basile asked Vice-Chairman Donaldson if she received the extended Operating and Capital Budget breakdowns sent to the committee. Vice-Chairman Donaldson confirmed the receipt of the extended breakdowns.
      - a. Mr. Carroll inquired about the deadline for budgets. Ms. Basile replied that they are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Carroll proposed delaying the approval to allow members more time for reviewing the budgets.
        - i. Mr. Naccarato and Mr. DeRienzo withdrew their motions for approval. Chairman Eckert informed the board that the approval would be revisited at a future meeting.
          1. Vice-Chairman Donaldson requested a Finance Management Committee meeting before presenting the budgets for approval. Vice-Chairman Donaldson emphasized that COVID funds are ending soon and urged the Board to consider tightening the budget.
          2. Chairman Eckert inquired with Ms. Basile about the expiration date of the COVID funds. Ms. Basile responded that they are expected to expire around September.
            - a. Chairman Eckert informed the Board that state funds would offset the loss of COVID funds if the Senate Bill passes. Mrs. Seman elaborated, explaining that Senate Bill 654, sponsored by Senator Bartolotta, recently passed the House, proposing an

increase in funding for public transit over the next 5 years.

## 9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Human Resources – Fred Exley, HR Committee Chair
  - i. Mrs. Seman advised the Board that the next Human Resources Committee meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024.
    - 1. Chairman Eckert and Vice-Chairman Donaldson encouraged Board members to attend the meeting.
- b. Steering Committee – Vacant, Committee Chair
  - i. Mr. Herd stated that the Steering Committee met on April 16, 2024, at 5:30 PM. The meeting opened and a discussion began regarding any impacts from the loss of COVID funds.
    - 1. Mrs. Seman updated those in attendance regarding Senate Bill 654 which was recently passed in the House:
      - a. The bill will provide a designated transit fund for the next 5 years.
      - b. MMVTA would be receiving over \$900,000.00 per year.
      - c. Mrs. Seman has been meeting with other agencies and sending letters to legislators urging support for the bill. She is also developing a letter that can be submitted by communities.
    - 2. Mrs. Basile updated everyone on the status of Operating and Capital Funds.
  - ii. Mr. Herd stated that AI technology was discussed during the meeting and that Mrs. Seman handed out information and spoke on an AI-powered anti-collision system called Mobileye:
    - 1. Mrs. Seman stated that Mobileye improves driver performance and safety, at no cost to the Authority, MV Transportation has installed this technology on all MMVTA's buses.
    - 2. Mrs. Seman noted the technology and data is available to access from the AVAIL system.
  - iii. Mr. Herd advised the Board that the Committee also discussed:
    - 1. If there is a need for dinners at meetings and gifts at Christmas, and the potential cost savings.
    - 2. The status of tenants, Van Beck Electrical Supply, at which no eviction has yet occurred.
    - 3. Mr. Nedrow questioned the potential to invest funds short-term as a method to increase revenue. Ms. Basile explained some fund restrictions and stated that she will investigate investing further.
      - a. Mr. Nedrow strongly suggested to the Board to invest funds.
    - 4. How the staff is addressing Cyber Security.

- iv. Prior to the closing of the meeting, Mr. Exley noted that the Human Resources Committee will be meeting in May regarding staff evaluations.
- v. Mr. Herd noted that the next Steering Committee meeting will be in August or September. The meeting ended at 7:02 PM.
- c. Safety & Security – Ed Bryner, Chairperson
  - i. Mr. Bryner advised the Board that seal coating and line painting of the Park & Rides will begin in May.
- d. By-Laws – Vacant, Committee Chair – No report.
- e. Capital/Construction – Chris Carroll, Chairperson – No report.

## 10. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

- a. Executive Director
  - i. Mrs. Seman stated the Act 44 Performance Review (PennDOT) has been postponed to June 5, 2024, and that PennDOT is requesting to speak to Board Members. Mrs. Seman advised that there will be more details to come.
  - ii. Mrs. Seman stated that the FTA Triennial Review has been scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. Mrs. Seman updated the Board that Mrs. Lee and herself will be traveling to Palm Tran, a public transit agency located in Florida, the week of April 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss:
    - 1. Palm Trans' latest electronic farebox in which the MMVTA will be releasing a request for proposals soon.
    - 2. The challenges with bilingual riders.
    - 3. AVAIL technologies and electronic signage which the MMVTA and Palm Tran have in common.
- b. Marketing
  - i. Mrs. Dochenetz updated the Board that Cal Commuter and Vulcan Flyer services will end on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for Summer Break.
  - ii. Mrs. Dochenetz stated that the MMVTA will celebrate National Transportation Week from May 13<sup>th</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - iii. Mrs. Dochenetz stated that there will be no bus service and administrative offices will be closed on May 27<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.
- c. Operations
  - i. Mrs. Lee provided the Board the following Operations updates:
    - 1. Mrs. Lee stated that Mrs. Seman and herself attended the PPTA Conference from April 9<sup>th</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup>.
      - a. During the Planning Meeting at PPTA, PROWAG (Building a Better Bus Stop – ADA Requirements) was discussed again and the final appendix will be released at the end of October. The final appendix will be a guide to help transit agencies understand the new regulations.

- i. Mrs. Lee stated that with PROWAG, the Speers Intermodal Transit Hub Project will require the addition of a sidewalk and platform. Mrs. Lee reached out to the construction and design team to advise them of the change.
  - b. During the Operations Meeting at PPTA, Mrs. Lee spoke about and supplied pamphlets regarding Mobileye, which many other agencies were interested in.
  - c. Mrs. Lee also attended a meeting regarding “See Something, Say Something” which was hosted by TSA. TSA offers in-person training for de-escalation, counterterrorism, and many other topics. Mrs. Lee stated she is looking into the trainings sessions to see which would be beneficial for the MMVTA.
2. Mrs. Lee updated the Board that the Penn Highlands Survey was released on April 17<sup>th</sup>, and that 17 responses have been received. The survey will remain out for at least 3 more weeks.

#### 11. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

- a. Mr. Naccarato read a letter regarding Fallowfield Townships’ appointment of Daniel Komacek to the MMVTA Board of Directors.

#### 12. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Chairman Eckert inquired whether Student Activities at PennWest University could assist in finding a Board member for California Borough. Mrs. Seman and Ms. Basile clarified that specific criteria must be fulfilled, including residency or business ownership within the represented community.

#### 13. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Mrs. Seman brought forward the Audit Contract Extension (option #1 of 2) as shown in **Attachment I.13.a.** to the Board for approval. Mr. Bryner made the motion. Mr. Carroll seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Mrs. Seman brought forward the Resolution Certifying Local Match for 24-25 State Operating Assistance as shown in **Attachment I.13.b.** Mrs. Martini made the motion. Mr. Carroll seconded. Motion carried.
- c. Mrs. Seman brought forward the Resolution Certifying Match & Submission of Bus & Bus Facilities Grant Application for Funds for Speers Intermodal Transit Hub as shown in **Attachment I.13.c.** Mr. Bryner made the motion. Mr. Herd seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Member Community Updates
  - i. Chairman Eckert informed the Board that Main Street in Monongahela will have limited access to southbound traffic only on



May 4th from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Northbound traffic will be rerouted to Chess Street.

- ii. Mr. Carroll notified the Board of the Mutt March scheduled for May 4th in Monongahela, running from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The event will feature a \$5 registration fee and prizes for the best costumes. Additionally, Mr. Carroll mentioned a Rescue Animal Event set to take place at Chess Park on the same day.
- iii. Vice-Chairman Donaldson informed the Board that N. Belle Vernon has installed new emergency alarms and highlighted a recent increase in incidents of trash theft.
- iv. Mr. Carroll alerted the Board to a recent surge in shoplifting incidents in the vicinity.

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chairman Eckert asked if there were any further business to discuss? There being none, Chairman Eckert adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.

### **REMINDER:**

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

**THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024, AT 6:00 PM**

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS APPRECIATED!