

**MICHIGAN PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2010  
MPTA OFFICES  
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN**

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Board Members Present:	Sylvester Payne, STARS, President Debbie Alexander, CATA, Vice President Ed Benning, MTA Flint Larry Alpert, SATA Richard Collins, Ludington Rochelle Cotey, ALTRAN (via phone) Maureen Daugherty, Roscommon Jennifer Kalczuk, The Rapid Chuck Moser, EUPTA Bill Schomisch, Kalamazoo Carol Wegher, Lapeer Richard Werner, Battle Creek Transit Ed Bergeron, Bergeron Marketing
Board Members Absent:	Jim Fetzer, SMART Dawn Gabay, AATA Lovevett Williams, DDOT
Others Present:	Clark Harder, MPTA Bill Zaagman, GCSI (via phone) Joe DeKoning, MPTA (via phone)

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**1.0 Call To Order**

The May 13, 2010 board meeting was called to order at 10:11 am.

**2.0 Approval of Agenda**

The following items were added to Item 6.1: Approval of Kalkaska Area Transit as a MPTA member; Approval of Spheros North America as an associate member.

Bill Schomisch moved to approve the amended agenda, supported by Maureen Daugherty. Motion passed unanimously.

**3.0 Approval of Minutes**

Bill Schomisch moved approval of the April 8, 2010 minutes, supported by Dick Collins. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4.0 Treasurer's Report**

##### **4.1 April Income Statement and Balance Sheet**

Cindy Zolkowski reported Net Income through April 30, 2010 of \$161,480 and Retained Earnings of \$286,837. Chuck Moser moved acceptance of the Income Statement and Balance Sheet, supported by Carol Wegher. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **5.0 Action Items**

##### **5.1 Executive Committee to research free MPTA membership for 5310 and non-affiliated properties**

See presidents report

##### **5.2 Legislative Committee to review House Joint resolutions HH and OO**

The Legislative Committee reviewed House Joint Resolutions HH and OO and did not make a recommendation for or against them. This item should be removed from future agendas.

##### **5.3 Rochelle Cotey to research whether CTAA has a survey of industry wage/benefits**

Rochelle provided Clark with a link to a website, but Rochelle doesn't believe it provides members the information they need. A survey of wage and benefits is still needed.

##### **5.4 Clark Harder/Bill Zaagman to research possible asset management bill circulating in the Legislature**

Bill Zaagman reported that a House bill was introduced by Representative Ball over a year ago. The bill remains in committee to be used when/if the Senate considers a gas tax increase. There will be no movement on this bill for the foreseeable future. This item can be removed from the agenda.

#### **6.0 New Business**

##### **6.1 Approval of new associate members: North Coast Strategies and Spheros North America and new transit member Kalkaska Transit**

Rich Werner moved to approve North Coast Strategies and Spheros North America and MPTA Associate Members, supported by Dick Collins. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill Schomisch move to approve Kalkaska Transit as a MPTA Transit Member, supported by Dick Collins. Motion passed unanimously.

## 6.2 Bank credit card resolution

Cindy Zolkowski presented the board with a resolution authorizing Cindy to act as MPTA's agent in business matters dealing with the Chase bank account and credit card. Larry Alpert moved to approve the resolution, supported by Chuck Moser. Motion passed unanimously.

## 7.0 Governmental Consultant Services Inc. Report

Bill Zaagman reported via conference phone. Below is his written report:

*As I reported in April, the House Appropriations Committee reported **House Bill 5889**—the Transportation budget—along party lines, but passage in the House has been stymied over the DRIC issue. Six weeks later, the House has yet to take the bill up as the DRIC saga—once again—has taken center stage in the negotiations. One of the key pieces of moving the DRIC issue forward is passage of **House Bill 4961**, introduced by Rep. Lee Gonzales. The bill was reported from committee along party lines and has sat on the House floor for a few weeks. The bill amends the powers currently held by the State Transportation Commission to, among other things, permit the body to provide for public transportation facilities, to authorize creation of certain authorities and to authorize public-private agreements. However, as with everything the DRIC touches, this bill is mired in bridge politics and endless workgroup discussions.*

*As you may recall, the budget remains essentially unchanged from the Governor's executive recommendation with the following exceptions of interest to MPTA:*

- *The House substitute does not recognize economic or cost allocation increases for Interdepartmental grants for collection, enforcement, and other state agency support service.*
- *The House substitute adds § 399 which is a \$100 "placeholder" appropriation from the TEDF for the start-up of a regional transit authority created under House Bill 5731.*
- *At MPTA's request, the House substitute restores § 722 which requires that sufficient funds be used as a match for job access reverse commute grants to local transit agencies.*
- *The House substitute restores § 734 which requires MDOT to continue to work with local transit agencies to be sure they meet certain performance measures.*
- *At MPTA's request, the House substitute restores § 740 which requires the Department to report on the encumbered and unencumbered balances of the CTF by March 1 of each year.*
- *In an interesting move, the House substitute also adds various supplemental appropriations totaling \$620 million (\$400 million from federal revenue) contingent upon enacting House Bills 5768 and 5769, which increase gasoline and diesel motor fuel taxes. If these bills are enacted, the House proposes to make the following supplemental appropriations:*
  - *\$22 million to the Comprehensive Transportation Fund;*
  - *\$78 million to the State Trunkline Fund;*
  - *\$78 million to county road commissions;*
  - *\$44 million to cities, villages, and townships;*
  - *\$400 million in federal revenue for the State Trunkline Federal Aid and Road and Bridge Construction Program;*

*The House Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs Committee chaired by Rep. Marie Donigan (D-Royal Oak) held a series of hearings on **House Bills 5731-5733** back in March. However, a vote on those bills has not yet been*

*introduced. The bills create a regional transportation authority in the southeast Michigan counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe and Washtenaw and any other local governments or consortiums. The Senate has introduced similar bills, but no hearings have yet to occur.*

*As I reported last month, a 12-bill bi-partisan, bi-cameral package of legislation was introduced prior to the Spring Recess. The bills simply amend various Acts to include “transit-oriented development” and “transit-oriented facilities” in the list of purposes for which various tax capture and bonding Authorities may expend funds. **House Bills 5977-5979, House Bills 5988-5989 and House Bill 5998** amend the following acts: the Historical Neighborhood Tax Increment Finance Act; the “Intermunicipality” studies Act; the Hospital Finance Authority Act; the Transportation Economic Development Fund Act; the Local Development Financing Act; and, the Economic Development Corporations Act. The Senate Bills, **SBs 1233-1238**, amend the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Act; the Corridor Improvement Authority Act; the Building Authorities Act; the Commercial Redevelopment Act; the Public Health Code; and, the Tax Increment Finance Authority Act.*

*The MPTA Legislative Committee reviewed the bills and proposed a slightly modified definition of “transit-oriented development” to incorporate that TODs can be both public and private investments. The joint hearing scheduled for this week was cancelled.*

*It appears that the Legislative Leaders are now publicly confirming what they have been privately saying for months—no gas tax vote before the elections. This was confirmed the day of the Drive MI rally at the Capitol when Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop told reporters that a gas tax vote was “not on our timeline” before the election. House Speaker Andy Dillon would only say that he is focused on the public school retirement proposal, not road funding.*

On May 12, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed a substitute to SB 1164 calling for significant cuts to the CTF programs in order to match federal aid for road and bridge programs in FY2011.

This action pits transit needs against road interests. Some of the cuts also hurt road maintenance. It would result in additional loss of federal money on the transit side. It also calls for cuts to MDOT Passenger Transportation Department staffing.

Clark sent an urgent email to MPTA members asking them to immediately contact their legislators asking them to oppose SB 1164.

Clark also sent a letter to all senators decrying this action. He is also asking the Let’s Get Moving Coalition to make phone calls.

## **8.0 Executive Director’s Report**

Below is Clark’s written report. Clark asked members to watch their emails for updates on SB 1164.

### **DRIVE MI CAPITOL RALLY HAS GOOD TURNOUT**

*Well over 200 people showed on Tuesday, May 4 for the Drive MI rally in the State Capitol Rotunda to encourage legislators to move on gas tax funding proposals. There appeared to be about 10 transit system employees in*

attendance and I want to thank each of you who were able to make it into Lansing for the event. I know it is always difficult to get away from your daily tasks to devote a half-day or more to another trip into Lansing. However, the importance of showing that we stand united with the road lobby for more gas tax revenue cannot be discounted. I would hope we can continue to turn out as many as possible for these kinds of events in the future, and perhaps grow our numbers as well. The best part is that the transit message was prominently articulated during the speaker's portion of the rally and the press coverage was very good. The bad news is that Senate Republican leader Mike Bishop immediately announced that there will be no review of gas tax legislation until at least after the November election. Nevertheless we must keep up the pressure.

#### **DON'T FORGET THE LET'S GET MOVING TRANSIT DAY ON MAY 25**

The Let's Get Moving (LGM) Coalition – that's OUR public transit coalition that MPTA co-created several years ago - has also planned a May event at the Capitol to rally our advocate friends for public transit investment. The LGM event will be held on Tuesday, May 25 beginning in the morning. Further information will be forthcoming this week in a separate e-mail that all MPTA members will receive. If you were unable to make it to Lansing for the May 4 event, please keep the May 25 date in mind. This rally day has been done very successfully for about 6 years and though the focus of the LGM Lansing day has historically been on our disability partners, it is always good to show our support by having some transit agency representatives on hand.

#### **STATUS UPDATE: 2011 STATE BUDGET LEGISLATION**

Nothing new to report on the 2011 budget in the House. It remains on the House floor pending further action. The Senate, meanwhile, has begun hearings on the budget; it is likely that there will be no further action until the Senate moves its own version, then the House will move its version and a Conference Committee will then debate the two bills and produce a final budget. Don't expect to see final action until late June or early July at the earliest.

#### **MICHIGAN TRANSIT POOL ANNUAL MEETING**

I was pleased to once again this year represent the MPTA at the Michigan Transit Pool's annual dinner on April 22 in Lansing. My thanks to Bob Niemi, Executive Director of the Pool and Joe DeKoning for the invitation to join them. The Transit Pool performs a great service on the insurance side for many of our own MPTA members, as well as other transit systems throughout the state. It is always good to see the members who attend.

#### **COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS INVITES TRANSIT INPUT**

I reported on this last month and, to update you, this organization held a workday on May 4 in East Lansing. They asked me to give them a presentation on public transportation history/funding/regulations in Michigan and to bring along some rural managers who could talk about efforts in outstate areas where they have particular difficulty in dealing with transportation for the homeless. I want to thank Dick Collins of Ludington MTA and Carol Wegher of Greater Lapeer for joining me for this presentation and providing very informative and valuable information to the Coalition. They were very appreciative and, I believe, came away with a much better understanding of how public transportation works, and how we can be of assistance to them in their mission. Equally important, though, we were able to provide them with ideas on how they may be more supportive of us in the future too.

### **MDOT SYSTEM CONDITION MEASUREMENT PROJECT COMPLETED**

*The special project spearheaded by Hoon-Yung Hopgood over the past year has been completed, and Hoon's contract with MDOT and MPTA is ending this week. The Corradino Group has finished their work and provided the Final Report. You will, undoubtedly, hear more about this from MDOT in the coming months as the project recommendations are implemented. If you are interested in reading the Final Report, I have a limited number of copies available. Thanks to Hoon and to Andy Brush, the internal MDOT project manager. By the way, as Hoon now leaves his work done here in the MPTA office, he will be hitting the campaign trail to run for his State Senate district in the metro Detroit region. It would be a great asset for transit to have Hoon's transit knowledge and expertise in the state legislature, and I encourage you to consider a donation to his campaign as you look at any candidates you might be supporting this summer.*

### **STARS CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEWLY REMODELED FACILITY**

*On Monday, April 19 I was joined by MPTA Vice President Debbie Alexander and our Director of Administrative Services Cindy Zolkowski in attending the grand reopening of the remodeled Administration Facility of STARS in Saginaw. Congratulations to MPTA President and STARS GM Sylvester Payne on completion of a wonderful project that revitalizes an older facility and makes STARS a much lovelier and more functional operation. Other board members and MPTA members were able to attend and it is always good to see such support from our members to celebrate another's successes.*

### **MPTA TVMS AND ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING ON TRACK**

*I wish to commend Joe DeKoning who has been spearheading the day-to-day planning for the Transit Vehicle Maintenance Seminar. I think a great program has once again been put together and this should be another beneficial conference for our transit system maintenance personnel. Kudos also to the MPTA Maintenance Committee members for their work overseeing the preparations; registration materials are available on the MPTA website. Joe has also joined with me, Cindy and Janet Holoweiko of MDOT in heading up the planning activities for our Annual Meeting in August at Shanty Creek. I'm excited by the agenda that is being formulated. Watch for the full details and registration materials coming later this month!*

## **9.0 President's Report**

President Payne thanked those who attended STARS open house. The support is appreciated.

President Payne welcomed Rich Werner to the board.

The Executive Committee met prior to this board meeting.

Re: Item 5.1, the committee believes that, due to the uncertain economic conditions, it would be unwise to recommend free memberships for 5310 and non-affiliated properties. No action will be taken and this item should be removed from future agendas.

President Payne noted that the lease for the MPTA office expires this year. Clark is in negotiations with the property manager and will bring a contract to the full board for approval.

The Executive Director's contract will be completed next month. It does not have to come before the board.

The Executive Committee wants all board members to have copies of all MPTA policies.

The Executive Committee will be looking at the salary structures of the Executive Director and Director of Administrative Services. Wages were frozen when the FY2010 budget was approved; however, the board directed that they be reviewed mid-year.

## 10.0 Communications

None.

## 11.0 Committee Reports

### Administrative Committee

Ed Benning stated that a meeting will be scheduled to discuss bylaws.

### Legislative Committee

Below are the minutes from the May Legislative Committee meeting:

1. *There was discussion about the status of HB 4965- and HB 4966 & discussions between Rep. Pam Byrnes and MPTA delegation of President Payne, Executive Director Clark Harder and Legislative Committee Chair Peter Varga. The delegation had expressed to Rep. Byrnes concerns that MPTA members had with the bills as written. In the dialogue there appeared to be general agreement some main points. The MPTA delegation drafted a counter proposal back to Rep Byrnes and we still have not heard what the response will be. Furthermore it appears unlikely at this time that these bills will actually move forward since a new bill would have to incorporate the elements of both bills. The legislative Committee felt that at this time **no action was necessary** other than monitoring these bills or any potential new bill that incorporates these ideas.*
2. *The Committee also discussed House Bills 5211 and 5212 as well as reviewed House Fiscal Agency analyses of these two bills. Both these bills would have no fiscal impact on the state. House Bill 5212 may have an impact on local communities due to the administrative effort required. The first bill amends the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act by requiring Site Plan reviews to include the proximity to adequate public transportation as part of the land use or activity. House Bill 5212 amends the Michigan planning enabling act to include public transportation agencies, facilities or systems as part of the Master Plan process. **The general sentiment was that these bills would benefit transit but that there is no mandate of enforcement to include public transit considerations in these bills.***
3. *The Committee discussed House Bills 5171, 5977-79, and 5998 as well as Senate Bills 1233 -1238. These bills would mostly amend various acts that allow for transit increment financing to include the terms*

*Transit Oriented Development and transit oriented facilities and give it equal treatment to road improvement projects for consideration. There was significant discussion regarding the definition of the definition for Transit oriented Development and transit oriented facilities. It was suggested that more appropriate definitions would be found in the CATA Guidebook and, the Grand Rapids City Master Plan. Joe Manzella was asked to draft a definition. The suggested definition would be: **That TOD or Transit Oriented facilities would consist of a public or private development that is:***

**(a) within ½ mile of a transit station, transit facility, or along a transit route, and**  
**(b) is designed to promote the use of transit or passenger rail.**

4. *The Committee also briefly discussed Resolutions HH and OO. House Joint Resolution HH seeks to amend the constitution to enforce that budget bills are presented by the legislature by July 1 of each year or legislators would forfeit part of their salaries. House Joint resolution OO would modify the constitution to allow for extended term limits. Both these resolutions appear dead in the water and The Committee decided to just **monitor the Resolutions HH and OO.***

*The Committee has not set another date for another meeting until such a time as it appears any of the TF2 bills or any public transportation related bills are actually moving through either the House or the Senate. Meanwhile the MPTA delegation on House Bills 5965- and 5966 would still await response from Representative Byrnes on the draft counter proposal.*

Representative Donigan and Senator Allen agreed to the requested language changes in Item 3.

#### **Communications Committee**

Jennifer Kalczuk reported that the committee is meeting after the board meeting to discuss the Rossman Group contract.

#### **Maintenance Committee**

The committee continues to work on the Vehicle Maintenance Seminar and the training needs survey.

#### **Training Committee**

The committee is pursuing a training manual developed out of North Dakota State University. MDOT will help with the funding.

#### **Purchasing/Procurement Committee**

Clark reported that the committee met but only has three members. Clark is asking for greater participation. They are discussing input into the House-appointed special committee which is reviewing state procurement contracts.

#### **Rural Operators Committee**

No report.



### **Local Training Coordinator**

Joe reported that the program for the annual meeting is progressing.

## **12.0 Old Business**

### **12.1 Election of Secretary/Treasurer to complete FY2010 term**

Clark reported that two board members, Chuck Moser and Richard Werner, submitted self-nominations to complete the open term of Secretary/Treasurer. The board makes the final decision.

Both candidates discussed their qualifications. Rich added that, though he is not withdrawing his nomination, he understands if the board prefers a veteran member for the position.

Larry Alpert nominated Chuck Moser to complete the open term of Secretary/Treasurer, supported by Debbie Alexander. Motion passed unanimously.

## **13.0 Member Comment**

President Payne thanked the Nominating Committee for the work they did in April to recommend a replacement for the open board seat.

Board members requested a list of Let's Get Moving members. Clark will email the board.

Board members suggested a health care breakout session at annual meeting which would cover the topic from both an organizational and passenger perspective. Debbie Alexander can suggest a consultant. Clark stated that we may not have room on the agenda this year and it may be too soon to understand the new legislation.

Rich Werner asked members to send him advice on how to achieve the mandated spare ratio. Battle Creek may lose JARC funding if they don't get it in line.

## **14.0 Adjournment**

Dick Collins moved to adjourn, supported by Rich Werner. The May 13, 2010 board meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Zolkowski

## **Action Items**

- 1.0 Status of Wage and Benefit Survey
- 2.0 Review of staff salaries
- 3.0 MPTA office lease
- 4.0 Distribution of MPTA policies to board members