



MINNESOTA PUBLIC TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1975 the Minnesota Public Transit Association (MPTA) is the only statewide coalition of transit systems and transit advocates. MPTA speaks out for transit systems and transit riders across the State of Minnesota. MPTA advocates for high-quality transit service that is accessible and available to everyone. Our mission is to support transportation alternatives that improve the quality of life for people in communities large and small, urban, suburban and rural.

2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The MPTA Board of Directors adopted the Legislative Agenda on January 28, 2016.

The efficient movement of people and freight is key to maintaining our economic competitiveness. Minnesota must support a comprehensive, multimodal transportation system that recognizes the importance of transit. Sufficient dedicated, stable and long-term resources for public transit systems throughout the state are needed. MPTA supports comprehensive statewide public transit that considers the proper transit modes for geographic areas to improve access and mobility for all citizens; with an emphasis on expanding bus service.

FUNDING

- Support transit funding that is adequate, stable and predictable.
- Support a level of funding for both Greater Minnesota Transit and Metropolitan Area Transit that builds out the bus systems over the next 15 years.

Lack of sufficient resources has led to many greater Minnesota communities putting in a higher local share than required by statute and inhibiting the expansion bus service in the metropolitan area and in greater Minnesota.

Meeting the Greater Minnesota needs - MPTA

- Supports dedication of the leased vehicle currently in the General Fund being dedicated for transportation purposes with a split of 50% for Greater Minnesota Transit and 50% for the 5 suburban ring counties.
- If Greater Minnesota Transit funding needs are not met through leased vehicle revenue, MPTA supports a more equitable distribution of MVST revenues.

Meeting the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area's needs - MPTA

- Supports suburban transit providers request for \$4.5 million for the suburb to suburb bus demonstration project. *(this is the balance from the 2015 request).*
- Supports a \$2 million general fund appropriation from the general fund for new service mandates, statewide, to meet Olmsted order through competitive grants which require no local match.
- Supports sales tax increase in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to a full one percent *(which is an increase of 3/4% in Hennepin, Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, and Washington; and a 1% increase in Carver and Scott who do not have a tax today).*
- Strongly urges dedication of sales tax funds to grow the bus by 4% a year as well as providing for a 4% growth to suburban transit systems and providing for growth in the areas served by other contracted service providers.
- Opposes any reductions in general fund appropriations to transit unless the funds are backfilled with a new source of revenue.

POLICY

- Encourage the Metropolitan Council to fully exercise the sale of bonds authorized by the legislature.
- Support expansion of the transit taxing district only if there is an increase funding for bus operations.
- Support value capture – tax increment finance for transit related development.
- Create more transparency in funding. Establish separate budget lines for bus operations and rail operations. Goal is to assure necessary funding is made available for all modes of transit; and to assure no loss of bus service while implementing the new rail projects.

GOVERNANCE

- Monitor legislative proposals modifying or creating new governance models for metropolitan area or Greater Minnesota transit planning or service delivery.

FEDERAL

- Provide federal support for supplemental capital needs that are essential to providing Metropolitan Area Transit and Greater Minnesota rural transit service, such as transit facilities, radio communications systems, and upgraded computer systems. Specific projects have been identified above for both Metropolitan Area and Greater Minnesota.