

Faribault-Martin County Joint Transit Board – Executive Committee  
Fairmont Transit Facility  
1023 N Dewey Street Fairmont, MN 56031  
Friday, January 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair Greg Young. Joint Transit Board Executive Committee members present in person were: Faribault County Commissioners Groskreutz and Young and Martin County Commissioners Bleess and Rabbe. Also present was Jeremy Monahan, Transit Director of Faribault – Martin County Transit Board.

Board Chair asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none. Motion made by Commissioner Groskreutz, seconded by Commissioner Bleess to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting started with Commissioner Groskreutz reporting that he will be stepping down from the Executive Committee and Commissioner Anderson will be replacing him. There will be a formal action taken at the February Full Board meeting. Monahan thanked Commissioner Groskreutz for his 10 plus years on the Faribault – Martin County Transit Board which followed many years of transit work for Faribault County before the Joint Powers Board merger.

Monahan produced an Unpaid Bills report totaling \$94,017.43 and noted that a few bills have not yet arrived in the mail. He reported that a large portion of the bills, \$37,878 to Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust was for the Property and Workers Compensation Insurance for 2026 in its entirety. He also noted that there were yearly payments for Alpha Wireless for radio tower access and to Martin County for Benefits Management. Lastly there were a few projects completed at the end of December on the Fairmont Transit Facility to utilize some of the remaining funds in the 2025 Operations Grant. There was brief discussion about some of bills.

Motion made by Commissioner Groskreutz, seconded by Commissioner Bleess to approve payment of the Unpaid Bills as presented and to approve giving the Transit Director authority to continue to pay other regular and recurring bills at the discretion of the Transit Director upon receipt. Motion passed unanimously.

Monahan produced a Bank Statement for the Transit Board. It showed that as of December 31, 2025 the Transit Board had \$394,550.20 for a bank balance. He discussed a few noteworthy transactions and noted that the second run payroll on December 19<sup>th</sup> paid out the Employee Safe and Sick Time to any part-time staff that had hours remaining in their bank which caused a larger payroll and tax and PERA payments. The ESST banks for part-time staff was then recharged for 2026 with 48 hours per policy. There was some discussion on some of the other transactions.

Monahan produced a copy of the 2025 Operations Contract Expenditures through November Report that he brought to the December Full Board meeting. He reminded them that it showed at that time that there had been just over \$1.371 million expended in 2025 of the \$1.623 million budgeted. This left approximately \$252,000 remaining. Then he had a draft Activity Detail for December 2025 with expenses totaling just over \$127,000. Figuring of the \$94,000 unpaid bills

there would be approximately \$50 - \$60k applied to 2025 totaling \$180,000 spent in December leaving about \$70,000 unspent in 2025 which would need to be repaid at the completion of the 2025 contract audit. All of these number are preliminary but the main point was that expenses are coming in under budget for the year.

Discussion turned to a brief discussion on local revenue. Monahan reminded the Executive Committee that MnDOT has committed to 10 percent local share for the next two years only and after that is likely to return to the statutory allowed 15 percent. Should that happen, more revenue will need to be generated one way or another either through increased fares or local partner contributions or a combination of both. Monahan just wanted to keep this topic in discussions moving forward as ideas are generated and options are explored.

Discussion turned to Old Business and a discussion on the 2026 Capital Applications. Monahan noted that he had received unofficial notice that the Large Capital applications for the Fire Alarm and Suppression System and the Concrete Replacement and Landscaping were approved for 2026. The Facility application for the roof is still being worked on as different funding sources to pay for the project are explored. There are options being investigated that could eliminate the local obligation which would be ideal.

Discussion turned to a brief discussion regarding the appeals committee hearing for a suspended rider in Faribault County. There were questions regarding the individuals on the committee, where and when the hearing will take place, and who is organizing it. MnDOT had recently inquired about the progress of the appeal hearing and Monahan noted he will reply to them.

Discussion turned to New Business and the potential for an Eastern Faribault County Facility. Monahan noted that there have been infrequent discussions recently about the possibility of having another garage in Eastern Faribault County, likely in Easton or Wells but perhaps Kiester. The purpose being to reduce the mileage needed to serve these communities and to make it more attractive to have individuals that reside in that part of the county work for the transit system. Currently anybody living there would have to drive about 30 miles to get to the Blue Earth Transit Facility just to start work. Monahan noted that if there is any desire to do either a new structure or a purchase and refurbishment it will take time to get funding so the sooner research is started the better. There was discussion and viewing aerial and street view photos of possible sites. Commissioner Groskreutz noted he will connect with a couple local people who may be able to assist and they will contact Monahan.

Discussion turned to recent upgrades to the Fairmont Transit Facility. Monahan noted that with the end of the year and some available funds there were a few outstanding projects that were completed. Notably were repairs and replacement of garage doors and door panels and some garage heating needs. Also, there was an addition of two new security cameras on the north end of the Fairmont Transit Facility. One camera was on the exterior and allowed for complete coverage of the front apron now when combined with the south exterior camera. The other new camera was in the interior on the north side of the garage. This allows for much more of the garage floor to be seen along with the wash bay. They contribute greatly to better security for the Transit Facility. Monahan then reviewed the views from all nine cameras from both Fairmont which has six and Blue Earth which has three.

Discussion turned to the Ridership Report. Monahan showed the table with the monthly ridership for the year which totaled 50,292 riders. This was a 2 percent decrease from 2024 and is most likely due to the 10.5 percent decrease in Faribault County. The routes in Faribault County have been increasing exponentially the last few years and there had to be a correction at some point. Providing well over 13,000 rides is still an accomplishment when 10 years ago 9,000 rides in a year was not even achievable. With lower preschoolers likely being the cause there was hope as it was noted that the school district is meeting soon to discuss a projected steep increase in enrollment. Martin County routes were very steady through the year with a 1.1 percent increase overall providing almost 37,000 rides. There was discussion about the ridership and the presentation charts.

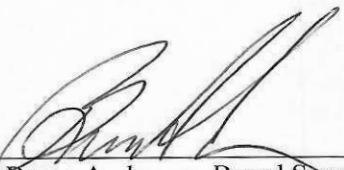
Discussion turned to the proposed 2026 Executive Committee and Full Board meeting schedule. It is planned that the Executive Committee will meet on the first Friday after the first Tuesday each month. For 2026 there does not seem to be any conflicts, like holidays, at the on-set, but the schedule is subject to change. All meetings are scheduled to be held in the Fairmont Transit Facility unless otherwise noted. The Full Board will meet in even months only and on the fourth Tuesday. The locations will rotate between Fairmont at the Transit Facility and Blue Earth likely at Human Services until the Blue Earth Transit Facility is completed. The meeting in February is planned to be in Fairmont. All meetings are planned to begin at 9:00 a.m.

With no further business to wit the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

JOINT TRANSIT BOARD  
FARIBAULMARTIN COUNTIES

  
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Greg Young Joint Transit Board Chair

ATTEST:

  
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Bruce Anderson, Board Secretary