

Faribault-Martin County Joint Transit Board – Executive Committee
Prairieland Facility
801 E 5th Street N
Truman, MN 56088
Friday, March 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Board Chair Greg Young. Joint Transit Board Executive Committee members present in person were: Faribault County Commissioners Young and Martin County Commissioners Bleess and Rabbe. Also present was Faribault County Commissioner Groskreutz attending for Commissioner Anderson, and 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 Rabbe, seconded by Commissioner Bleess to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Monahan produced an Unpaid Bills report totaling \$46,089.50 and noted that since this meeting is so late in the month, most of the bills have arrived but a few have yet to come. He reported that all of the bills that were projects pending completion were now finished and so those bills would be paid, specifically the repairs to the garage doors in Fairmont. There was discussion about a few of the bills including the purchase of some office furniture to use in Blue Earth for staff meetings and how fuel prices will be monitored in the coming months.

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 February 27, 2026 the Transit Board had \$368,375.43 for a bank balance. He noted that February had no major expenses or funding deposits from the State or Federal shares of the funding. There were two payrolls run and the total debits for the month was just over \$115,000 which is the average estimated cost to run the system. There was some brief discussion on some of the other transactions.

Discussion turned to Old Business and a discussion on the 2026 Capital Facility projects. Monahan produced Funding Notification Letter from MnDOT noting that two projects have been selected for funding for 2026. As expected, the Blue Earth Transit Facility Acquisition and Renovation project for \$375,000 was selected but with some maneuvering the 2027 application for the Fairmont Roof Replacement project for \$328,000 was added to this project. The grand total for both projects is \$703,000 available with a 20 percent local match, meaning the Transit Board needs to be able to fund up to \$140,600 of the total. There was discussion about the progress of the Fairmont Roof project and how Martin County is also progressing on their roof replacement. There is a hope for reduced cost with potential to coordinate along with Martin Counties

preliminary numbers. Monahan also produced an email from MnDOT stating that there is a Notice to Proceed for the purchase of the two 2026 vehicles. These vehicles are \$197,000 each with a 10 percent local share. The funds for these will not be needed until they arrive which will not be until 2027 most likely. Monahan noted that there will be a quick turnaround in the need to place an order and there was discussion about having some commissioners meet a bus sales vendor with him.

Discussion turned to a Legislative Meetings update. Monahan noted he had recently had meetings with elected officials in both St. Paul and Washington DC to discuss rural transit needs. He shared how his one-page summary was well received and that in Washington he shared the story of Kiester becoming a “food desert” with the recent loss of their town’s grocery store and how vital rural transit is for many of those residents now to be able to get to healthy foods in grocery stores now at least 15 miles away. He shared stories about relatable towns in other area for Representatives in Washington such as Rockville and Floodwood Minnesota along with the White Earth Reservation which Senator Smith is involved in Native American affairs. He said the stories and data from the one-pager were very effective in both St. Paul and Washington and that he will be sending follow up emails which is the standard procedure following these type visits. He noted that the consistent conversations with the legislators, especially those that aren’t as familiar with rural transit, will be invaluable for future funding needs.

Discussion turned to New Business and Personnel Actions. Monahan discussed a current staffing issue dealing with potential long-term leave and the possible first use of Minnesota Paid Leave. There was discussion about how to handle the situation and if any policies needed to be updated.

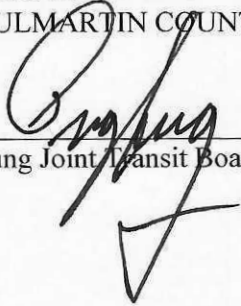
Discussion turned to Service Planning. Monahan produced a matrix of route-by-route ridership for 2025 which then calculated from that the fare revenue generated from the Demand Response Routes which are \$4 per trip, the Deviated Route Routes which are \$2 per trip, the Shuttle Route which is \$3 per trip, and the Evening and Saturday Routes which are \$3 per trip. Based on the calculations Monahan then produced a model showing what revenue would look like with a 2 percent increase in ridership and a \$1 per route type increase. There was discussion about the impact including would that increase in cost affect the ability to achieve the increase in ridership. Monahan noted that the model will be able to be used to study different scenarios to see if a rate increase may be warranted for the system. He also shared similar fare rates from comparable systems in the area so that any potential increase could be gauged against their rates as well. There was no action taken at this time, just discussion and a directive to keep analyzing potential viable scenarios to see how much more revenue could be attained through fares to reduce the amount needed from the Counties for operations in the future.

Discussion turned to the Ridership Report. Monahan shared that February and January were very similar, in fact the four Faribault County routes had the exact amount from month to month. He noted that each of the four routes had different totals each month but the sum of all four were the same. He noted that weather has affected operations on a few days and that there is still an effort to find ongoing consistent ridership partners in the area to achieve growing ridership.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Friday April 10th at 9:00 am in Fairmont at the Fairmont Transit Facility. The next Full Board meeting will be on Tuesday April 28th at 9:00 am in Blue Earth at a location to be determined still.

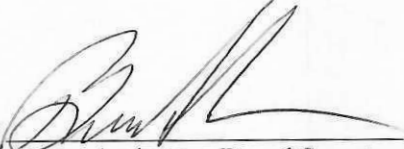
With no further business to wit the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

JOINT TRANSIT BOARD
FARIBAULMARTIN COUNTIES



Greg Young Joint Transit Board Chair

ATTEST:



Bruce Anderson, Board Secretary