

Faribault-Martin County Joint Transit Board – Executive Committee
Blue Earth Transit Facility
113 S. Nicollet Street
Blue Earth, MN 56013
Friday, April 10, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Board Chair Greg Young. Joint Transit Board Executive Committee members present in person were: Faribault County Commissioners Young and Anderson 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 Rabbe, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Monahan produced an Unpaid Bills report totaling \$32,999.51 and noted that most of the bills have arrived but a few have yet to come. He discussed that the VISA bill had the hotel bill from the trip to Washington DC in March which will be getting reimbursed from a scholarship from Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) which is a national transit training institution. MnDOT has funds available to use for training and Monahan used his annual allotment on a request for this trip. There was also discussion about fuel costs increasing in the past month. The fuel, even though purchased through each County now, is still being sold at a higher cost and it is a noticeably higher amount. There was discussion about a few of the other bills.

Motion made by Commissioner Rabbe, 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 noted that with all of the credit card expenses with the Washington trip and the payment for last month not reaching VISA before other staff were at their training in St. Cloud, the VISA card had reached its limit and that he had to put the staff's hotel rooms on his personal card and then on his expense report. He noted this is not terrible but definitely not ideal. He didn't know how often it could happen again but he requested he is allowed to request with VISA that the limit be increased from \$4,000 to \$6,000 for the Transit Board. The consensus of the group was for Monahan to make that request.

Monahan produced a Bank Statement for the Transit Board. It showed that as of March 31, 2026 the Transit Board had \$246,712.72 for a bank balance. He noted that March again had no major expenses and the only funding deposits from the State was the first reimbursement from the 2024 Technology grant for the hardware purchases totaling almost \$3,500 in reimbursements. There was some brief discussion on some of the other transactions.

Discussion turned to the 2025 Operations Contract closeout. Monahan produced a matrix that showed a month-by-month expenditure for each budgeted line item. He reported that for the year

94 percent of the budgeted amount was utilized. The budget was underspent primarily due to insurance coverages that were not elected by some full-time staff. Monahan also reported another summary of all the line-item adjustments he had to make on a monthly basis to have a line item be a positive amount. Some line items were lower than anticipated due to various reasons, such as needing to reduce the overall budget for the application or due to the Blue Earth Facility not being considered for the 2025 budget when it was created in June of 2024. Each month has a summary of which line item had funds subtracted from it and which line item had funds added to have a positive amount for submission. There was discussion about the table and the process of line-item amendments. There was no action needed this was for information only.

Discussion turned to the year-to-date report on the 2026 budget expenditures. Monahan produced a table that showed line-item expenditures for the year to date for 2026 through February which is the last month reported in full and accepted by MnDOT. Through February is 17 percent of the year so he highlighted any line item that had an expenditure that was greater than 17 percent of the annual budget and there was an explanation. Many personnel line items were at 19 percent which was expected because there were three payrolls run in January rather than the usual two per month. Insurance was at 100 percent which was expected as the annual premium is paid in January. In addition, he explained a minor line-item adjustment within Insurance having under budgeted the Workers Compensation premium but having excess funds available in Property premiums so funds were moved from there to make each line item a positive balance at the time of submission. There was brief discussion but no action needed on this.

Discussion turned to Old Business and a discussion on the 2026 Replacement Vehicle purchases. Monahan presented a draft order form he had developed with North Central Bus for two buses. Each bus was a Microbird model with 14 seats including 2 wheelchair spaces. The bus would have a front wheelchair lift and most of the options from previous years. Monahan discussed a few potential new options included due to the cost coming in well below the budgeted amount of \$197,000 each. Monahan noted that he had added all the options that would be needed and some other desired options drivers had noted and with funds still available it was decided to see about painting the vehicles to for system identity and community spirit. Commissioner Young also noted that he visited with the vendor with Monahan when he came to Fairmont and that the bus was able to be built on a Chevrolet chassis along with a Ford chassis which is something that has not been available for quite some time. Monahan noted he would likely lead towards keeping the Ford chassis for consistency at this time especially since Chevy has been out of the rural transit business for so long. Monahan noted that the orders were due to MnDOT by April 15th so the Full Board would not be able to approve the proposed order.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Rabbe to approve the draft order as presented by Monahan. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion turned to New Business and Monahan giving a brief overview of the draft results from the MnDOT Funding Formula Project that will show what the projected funding for the system will be in 2027 based on the size, performance, and expenditures of 2025 and recent years. Monahan showed some draft presentation slides MnDOT had provided him and explained that for the recent past MnDOT had awarded funding based on previous years awards plus an inflationary

percentage, usually 3 to 5 percent based on what they had available. What they were finding was that many systems were not able to utilize their awarded amounts while other systems were not being funded what they were needing to operate therefore either reducing service or having the local partners shoulder 100 percent of anything over the award. The new formula helps address that by taking into account not what a system was awarded but rather what they spent along with a number of other factors including performance and need. Monahan explained that for the past few years we had only been able to utilize about 95 percent of our awarded amount due to various reasons. However, we had very good performance and we have a high transit need. The end result is that the 2027 budget will be the same as the 2026 awarded budget but will be 12 percent increase over the 2025 expenses. There was brief discussion about this and Monahan said he will report the results to the Full Board when the findings are final and the budget and application is being set likely in June.

Discussion turned the Minnesota Transportation Alliance’s Washington DC Fly In coming up in September. Monahan noted that as the Vice President of the Minnesota Public Transit Association he is highly encouraged to attend an event like this. In addition, after the successful Fly In for CTAA in March, to be able to follow up with visits so soon would be really beneficial and start building better relationships at the national level. He also noted that while he did budget for National Conference attendance, he did receive a scholarship that will cover most of the CTAA trip in March and that MPTA will cover the airfare and hotel for this Washington trip at a minimum.

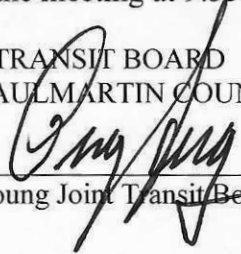
A motion was made by Commissioner Rabbe, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to give the Transit Director permission to attend the MN Transportation Alliance Washington DC Fly In in September. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion turned to the Ridership Report. Monahan shared that March had a nice rebound from February and especially from March of 2025 but he noted there may have been weather issues last year. He presented a route-by-route monthly chart for the year and discussed some trends and characteristics for each route. There was brief discussion regarding the ridership report results.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Friday May 8th 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.

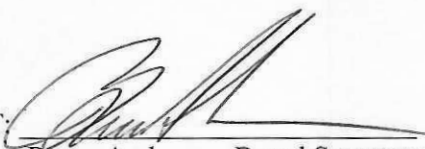
With no further business to wit the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

JOINT TRANSIT BOARD
FARIBAULMARTIN COUNTIES



Greg Young Joint Transit Board Chair

ATTEST:


Bruce Anderson, Board Secretary