

## **MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION**

**6:30 P.M**

**November 21, 2023**

**Mayors Conference Room  
Maple Grove Government Center**

- A. Call to Order** - The transit commission chair will call the meeting to order.
- B. Approval of Minutes** - The commission will review and consider adoption of the meeting minutes from April 11, 2023 per Exhibit A.
- C. Ridership Report** - The 2023 ridership report per Exhibit B will be reviewed. The most recent daily reports will be provided and reviewed at the meeting.
- D. Express Bus Service Updates** - The Transit Administrator will update the Commission on topics related to the Express service including:
- Reverse Commuter service plan changes for December 4, 2023 per Exhibit C.
  - Future service changes and adjustments per driver availability and ridership demand.
- E. MY RIDE Service Updates** - The Transit Administrator will update the Commission on topics related to the MY RIDE service including:
- Service expansion goals and potential joint study with Plymouth Metrolink
  - New vehicle procurement update
  - GoTo card readers on vehicles
- F. Miscellaneous Updates** - The Transit Administrator will review upcoming projects, events and issues from for 2023, including:
- Five-Year Inspection for transit stations.
  - Memo to city council on transit updates per Exhibit D
  - 2024 transit budget and CIP
  - MN Public Transit Award per Exhibit E
- G. Commissioner Reports** - The commission members will present their individual reports, questions, or comments.
- H. Transit Commissioner Recruitment**
- MY RIDE representative
- I. Other Business** - Other transit business items not on the agenda will be considered for discussion.
- J. Adjournment** - A motion for adjournment will be considered.

## **Exhibit A**

### **Meeting Minutes**

# \*\*\* MEETING MINUTES \*\*\*

## MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION

**April 11, 2023**

**Mayors Conference Room**

**Maple Grove Government Center**

**Members Present:** Teri Anderson, Claudia Hames Newman, Yolanda Brantley, and Mary St. Marie.

**Members Absent:** none

**Also Present:** Justin Templin, City Attorney, Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator - City of Maple Grove

- K. Call to Order** - The transit commission chair Teri Anderson called the will meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- L. Oath of Office** - Transit commission members Claudia Hames Newman, Yolanda Brantley, and Mary St. Marie up for reappointment took the oath of office for a term to expire December 31, 2024.
- M. Approval of Minutes** - A motion and second was offered and the commission adopted the meeting minutes from December 6, 2022.
- N. Data, Ethics, and Open Meeting Law Training** - City Attorney Justin Templin provided training on public data, ethics, and open meeting topics that relate to the commission members.
- O. Ridership Report** - Transit Administrator Mike Opatz reviewed the 2022 ridership report and the March 2023 daily express ridership report.
- P. Express Bus Service Updates** - Opatz updated the Commission on the new express bus service garage at Metro Transit. Opatz also stated that there likely would not be any significant express bus service changes or adjustments in the near future.
- Q. MY RIDE Service Updates** – Opatz updated the Commission on the MY RIDE contracted bus service provider change due to an ownership sale. Opatz noted efforts to buy additional MY RIDE buses and service expansion goals to include all of Plymouth and extended service hours.
- R. Miscellaneous Updates** – Opatz reviewed the following upcoming items:
- Drain pipe replacements project at the Transit Station
  - Five-Year Inspection reports for transit stations
  - Highway 169 corridor study
  - Blue Line Extension light rail
- S. Commissioner Reports** - The commission members presented their individual reports, questions, or comments. Teri Anderson stated a garbage can is needed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Hennepin bus shelter. Mary St. Marie stated that the TVs are too loud at the Transit Station.
- T. Other Business** - No other transit business items not on the agenda was considered for discussion.
- U. Adjournment** - Adjournment was approved at 7:52 PM.

## Exhibit B

### Ridership Summary

<b>Maple Grove Transit - Ridership at a Glance</b>											
2023 RIDERSHIP	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	TOTAL
Route 781	7,854	7,641	9,865	8,853	10,044	9,262	8,436	9,869	8,769	9,914	90,507
Route 784	1,434	1,244	1,563	1,431	1,598	1,598	1,426	1,927	1,546	1,923	15,690
Route 785	2,085	1,946	3,014	2,362	2,645	2,645	2,593	3,530	2,986	3,203	27,009
Route 789	1,573	2,023	1,917	1,964	755	755	628	662	2,471	2,788	15,536
Dial-A-Ride	3,048	2,831	3,194	2,980	3,497	3,577	3,260	3,659	3,090	3,304	32,440
<b>Total Rides</b>	<b>15,994</b>	<b>15,685</b>	<b>19,553</b>	<b>17,590</b>	<b>18,539</b>	<b>17,837</b>	<b>16,343</b>	<b>19,647</b>	<b>18,862</b>	<b>21,132</b>	<b>181,182</b>
Service Days	26	24	27	25	26	26	26	27	25	25	257
Average Daily Rides	615	654	724	704	713	686	629	728	754	754	696
YTD Comparison	2022	2023	Pct. Change								
January	8,865	15,994	80.42%								
February	11,935	15,685	31.42%								
March	16,374	19,553	19.41%								
April	20,335	17,590	-13.50%								
May	15,344	18,539	20.82%								
June	16,018	17,837	11.36%								
July	13,902	16,343	17.56%								
August	15,934	19,647	23.30%								
September	17,944	18,862	5.12%								
October	17,801	21,132	18.71%								
November	16,547		-100.00%								
December	13,626		-100.00%								
<b>Total</b>	<b>184,625</b>	<b>181,182</b>	<b>-1.86%</b>								

**Note: daily ridership spreadsheet to be provided at the meeting.**

## Exhibit C December 4, 2023 Service Change

**781** Monday – Friday only

### South to Downtown Minneapolis

		Maple Grove		Downtown Minneapolis (drop-off times*)		
		Maple Grove Transit Station		4th Street & Hennepin Ave	Marquette Ave & 8th St	Marquette Ave & 10th St
		Arrive	Depart			
		<b>A</b>				
<b>AM</b>	1	5:02	5:05	5:25	5:29	5:31
	2	5:21	5:24	5:44	5:48	5:50
	3	5:51	5:54	6:14	6:18	6:20
	4	6:19	6:22	6:43	6:48	6:50
	5	6:34	6:37	6:58	7:03	7:05
	6	6:49	6:52	7:13	7:18	7:20
	7	6:59	7:02	7:23	7:28	7:30
	8	7:09	7:12	7:33	7:38	7:40
	9	7:18	7:21	7:43	7:48	7:50
	10	7:28	7:31	7:53	7:58	8:00
	11	7:38	7:41	8:03	8:08	8:10
	12	7:53	7:56	8:18	8:23	8:25
	13	8:08	8:11	8:33	8:38	8:40
	14	8:18	8:21	8:43	8:48	8:50
	15	8:38	8:41	9:03	9:08	9:10
<b>PM</b>	16	11:24	11:26	11:48	11:52	11:54
	RC	4:58	5:00	5:22	5:26	5:28
	RC	5:41	5:43	6:05	6:09	6:11

RC = Reverse Commute trips



### North to Maple Grove

		Downtown Minneapolis (pick-up times)			Maple Grove
		2nd Ave & 10th St	2nd Ave & 6th St	3rd St & Hennepin Ave	Maple Grove Transit Station
					<b>A</b>
<b>AM</b>	RC	5:50	5:53	5:57	6:15
	RC	8:10	8:13	8:17	8:35
<b>PM</b>	1	12:16	12:19	12:23	12:41
	2	2:16	2:19	2:23	2:41
	3	2:45	2:48	2:52	3:11
	4	3:14	3:18	3:22	3:45
	5	3:39	3:43	3:47	4:10
	6	3:56	4:00	4:04	4:27
	7	4:05	4:09	4:13	4:36
	8	4:15	4:19	4:24	4:47
	9	4:30	4:34	4:39	5:02
	10	4:35	4:39	4:44	5:07
	11	4:40	4:44	4:49	5:12
	12	5:05	5:09	5:14	5:37
	13	5:10	5:14	5:19	5:42
	14	5:35	5:38	5:42	6:05
15	6:06	6:09	6:13	6:33	
16	781P*	6:36	6:39	6:43	7:03



\* 781P trips continue to Parkway Station arriving at 12:51 PM and 7:13 PM

RC = Reverse Commute trips

Shaded times indicate rush-hour fares

Effective December 4, 2023

## Exhibit D

To: Mayor Steffenson and City Councilmembers  
From: Mike Opatz, Administration Department  
Date: September 7, 2023  
Subject: **Maple Grove Transit updates**

**REQUESTED ACTION:** None, advisory only.

The following are summary updates on several key areas related to Maple Grove Transit:

### Legislative

The final 2023 omnibus transportation bill included funding for the suburban transit providers to purchase micro transit vehicles. The Maple Grove share was \$200,000 and the procurement process is underway for the city to buy vans for the MY RIDE service.

The bill also included a regional metro-area sales tax of .75 percent. The funds are allocated as follows:

1. Five percent for active transportation as determined by the Transportation Advisory Board
2. 95 percent to Metropolitan Council for:
  - a. Improvements to regular bus routes
  - b. Improvements to transit safety
  - c. Maintenance to bus accessibility
  - d. Transit shelter replacement and improvements
  - e. Planning and project development for expansion of Arterial Bus Rapid Transit lines
  - f. Operations of Arterial Bus Rapid Transit
  - g. Planning for Bus Rapid Transit
  - h. Zero emissions bus procurement
  - i. Demand response microtransit services by the Met Council
  - j. Funding for microtransit services for suburban providers
  - k. Funding for wage adjustments for the Met Council.

The new transit sales tax is effective October 1 and is expected to provide around \$440 million per year. The Metropolitan Council is still evaluating the bill's language and application. As a result, it is unclear yet what level of funding suburban transit providers will receive in new sales tax funding related to the above categories.

### Financial

The transit program is in strong financial health. The transit Motor Vehicle Sale Tax funding amount for Maple Grove was \$410,194 in May 2023, which was a record high. Through August 2023, we are up almost ten percent over last year at this time. I estimate the total 2023 funding will be around \$4.5 million.

### Ridership

In the table below, the 2023 ridership figures are annual estimates based on actual ridership through June and then projected for the rest of the year:

<b>Ridership</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>'23 vs '22</b>	<b>'23 vs '19</b>
EXPRESS	775,077	192,828	74,494	144,885	175,000	21%	-77.42%
MY RIDE	35,797	19,850	24,303	35,322	40,000	13%	11.74%
<b>TOTAL</b>	810,874	212,678	98,797	180,207	215,000	19%	-73.49%

- The MY RIDE is performing stronger than pre-pandemic as it will likely exceed 40,000 rides in 2023, which would be a 13 percent increase over last year and almost a 12 percent increase over pre-pandemic.
- Express ridership is likely to be about a 21 percent increase over last year, but well below of pre-pandemic performance. However, the Route 789 service to the U of M is back to normal ridership levels.
- More and more employers are requiring at least three days in the office as of September 1, so hopefully it translates into more express ridership.

### **Express Service**

We are currently operating four express routes with 30 round trips compared to seven express routes with 52 round trips prior to the pandemic, which is about a 42 percent reduction in trips. Three express routes and park-and-ride lots are still suspended.

Effective December 4, two reverse commute express trips in the AM and two in the PM will be offered. The goal here is to again help with work force transportation trips as workers look to make first-mile / last-mile connections.

### **MY RIDE Service**

The demand for micro-transit MY RIDE service continues to grow. The challenges with acquiring new driver labor and vehicles are slowly improving. As the situation allows, the goal is to expand service hours from 6 PM to 8 PM. Also, the goal expanding the service area to all Crystal, New Hope, Robbinsdale, and Plymouth will likely have to be done on an incremental basis. Expanding the service hours and area will help our employers meet labor needs.

Please let me know if you have any questions at 763-494-6005 or [mopatz@maplegrovern.gov](mailto:mopatz@maplegrovern.gov). Thank you.

cc: Heidi Nelson, City Administrator

## Exhibit E



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

### Maple Grove's transit administrator recognized by the Minnesota Public Transit Association

MAPLE GROVE, MN. (November 7, 2023)

Mike Opatz, transit administrator for the City of Maple Grove, was recently honored at the Minnesota Public Transit Association (MPTA) annual conference. Mike was recognized with a Distinguished Career Award. This award is presented to individuals who, by length of service and cumulative contributions of innovation; leadership; or advocacy, have significantly improved public transit in Minnesota.

Mike has been with the City of Maple Grove for almost 30 years and has led Maple Grove Transit through significant growth. His dedicated efforts support transit needs, not only to Maple Grove residents, but also those in the northwest suburbs.

Some of Mike's many achievements include:

- Attaining ridership levels well into the millions for the Express commuter service to/from Minneapolis.
- Developing the Maple Grove Transit Station and the Parkway Station.
- Implementing the My Ride program, a local advance reservation, shared ride, curb-to-curb service available to the general public.
- Developing innovative ways to provide transit service in a post-pandemic world, including creating a mobility hub at the Maple Grove Transit Station.
- Expanding local transit services for residents to travel to other cities in the northwest area as well as to CROSS Services, the local food shelf serving Maple Grove.
- Working with business partners to provide additional services for transit customers, including electric vehicle charging stations and access to car repair services.
- Leading the Transit Commission -- a group made up of Maple Grove Transit users to address transit issues and assess future needs.

Maple Grove Transit was established in June 1990. Since its inception, the program has provided nearly 17 million rides. The annual operating budget is \$5.73 million, and the primary funding source is the State of Minnesota's motor vehicle sales tax revenue. Maple Grove Transit offers Express service -- commuter trips to and from Minneapolis -- as well as My Ride -- a local, shared ride curb-to-curb service.

The mission of the Minnesota Public Transit Association is to advocate for public transit systems in providing mobility for all Minnesotans through training, research, and communication. The organization was established in 1975 and has worked successfully to increase transit funding in order to expand and improve transit service through the state.





