

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **MMVTA proposes route and fare changes**

The Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority (MMVTA) initiated the "Transit Enhancement Model (TEM) - Thinking Outside the BUS" earlier this year to address improvements and changes to the Mon Valley's transit system. Last week the MMVTA Board of Directors unanimously voted to release the proposed changes for public comment.

"The wheels of change are truly in motion here at the MMVTA. MMVTA is poised to make significant system wide changes, possibly the single largest route restructuring since the Authority was created," said MMVTA Executive Director Valerie Kissell.

"However, before any changes are officially made we want our riders, supporters and communities to have a chance to review the proposed changes and to let us know how they may be affected."

The overall goals are to improve services, increase efficiency, ridership and revenue and create a friendlier system to use.

"The proposal also addresses our operational changes created by the recent move of our bus maintenance garage to Donora. MMVTA's new facility in Donora will allow us to improve our maintenance programs for our vehicles and provide a more centralized location for vehicle dispatching."

The TEM proposal includes changes to all current bus routes and fares. Under the proposal new route names and services will be created.

MMVTA's commuter service to Downtown Pittsburgh from the Valley will begin service in Donora instead of Charleroi and travel via Donora, Monessen and then Charleroi. After leaving Charleroi, all commuter service will travel Route 88 past the entrance of Mon Valley Hospital to Monongahela to current routing.

"New services we are proposing include the EXpress service that is slated to operate weekdays with limited stops in the Valley and utilize Toll 43 to

access Downtown which will speed up commute times,” said MMVTA Chairman of the Board Dr. Harry Miale.

“Plus we propose to use the vehicles providing service on express to and from Downtown to also provide reverse service from Downtown Pittsburgh and the Large Park and Ride Lot to California University directly via Toll 43.”

Weekday services via Toll 43 to and from Pittsburgh and Cal U are commuter service changes that are proposed under the TEM. However, local Mon Valley services are also slated for an overhaul.

“Routes operating in the direct vicinity of the 21 Middle Monongahela River Valley communities belonging to the Authority will all begin with the word Valley. Each route will have a corresponding number, shape and other distinguishing graphic to indicate what type of service it provides,” said Kissell.

The four Valley routes include some services that are currently not in place. Service modification include direct access to the shopping plazas in Belle Vernon from New Eagle, Monongahela, California via communities along Route 88 and seven day a week service to and from the additional communities along with the existing scheduled locations.

“MMVTA and the study team are recommending the consolidation of the Red and Blue Lines into one route that would provide access from Charleroi and Donora to both the Giant Eagle along 88 and the Mon Valley Hospital. Plus, slight routing modification to the route that serves the direct Cal U and California Area.”

Under the proposal a fare zone merger and simplification is to be considered. A three zone commuter fare zone, with one flat rate for travel to Pittsburgh and Westmoreland Community College main campus from any portion of the Valley is being considered. In addition to a fare zone reduction, the MMVTA intends to create multi ride bus fare media available at sales locations throughout the area.

The public **comment period will run thru June 23, 2010**. All feedback will be presented to the MMVTA Board of Directors at the **June 24, 2010 Board Meeting** for consideration and approval. Recommendations approved by the Board of Directors will be in effect on or about August 1, 2010.

To provide feedback or to learn more about the proposed changes visit [www.MMVTA.com](http://www.MMVTA.com), look for special publication on both the bus and in the community or call 724-489-0880.

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