

CITY OF APPLE VALLEY
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-136

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MINNESOTA SUBURBAN TRANSIT PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, a robust regional transit system is essential to the economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and quality of life for communities throughout the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, the Minnesota Legislature passed legislation allowing suburban communities to opt-out of Metropolitan Transit Commission service area (Minn. Stat. § 473.388) enabling eligible cities to assume control of local transit services if they could demonstrate the ability to provide equal or better service; and

WHEREAS, this provision was a response to growing concern that suburban communities were underrepresented in regional decision making and underserved by the centralized system, despite paying into regional transit funding through the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax, property taxes, and other sources; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) was formally established in 1990 as one of the original suburban transit providers including the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Rosemount, and Savage operating service in 1991, with Prior Lake and Shakopee joining in 2014; and

WHEREAS, MVTA is governed by a Joint Powers Agreement among its member cities enabling locally driven transit development and investment; and

WHEREAS, suburban providers have successfully delivered efficient and responsive transit services that reflect the unique needs of their respective communities, including express bus routes, local service, on-demand microtransit service, and special event services; and

WHEREAS, the system, while locally governed, remains integrated into the broader regional transit planning framework, with Metropolitan Council coordination to facilitate cohesive mobility options for all metropolitan residents; and

WHEREAS, the continued ability of cities to support and manage their own transit systems under the statute is vital to ensuring that transit solutions evolve to meet changing demographics, land use patterns, and local priorities in suburban areas; and

WHEREAS, the Apple Valley City Council has recognized MVTA as the City's preferred transit provider; and

WHEREAS, recent policy discussions regarding funding allocation, legislative reforms, and centralized governance structures have raised concerns about the potential weakening of suburban transit authority and flexibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Apple Valley, Dakota County, Minnesota, that it:

1. Reaffirms its support for the continuation and strengthening of the suburban transit framework as a critical tool for ensuring service responsiveness in public transportation;
2. Urges the Minnesota Legislature and the Metropolitan Council to uphold the principles of local control embedded in Minn. Stat. § 473.388 and to ensure that MVTA retains sufficient funding streams, statutory authority, and operational independence;
3. Encourages ongoing collaboration between suburban transit providers and the Metropolitan Council, recognizing that effective regional transit outcomes depend on a balanced approach to governance, resource allocation, and service planning;
4. Commits to a continued active partnership with MVTA to support future service expansion, rider experience improvements, and transportation planning aligned with local priorities.

ADOPTED this 25th day of September, 2025.



Clint Hooppaw, Mayor

ATTEST:



Christina Scipioni, City Clerk