

# Mountain RIDES

RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING  
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 12:00 p.m.  
Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho

Board Members of the Mountain Rides Transportation Authority of the Cities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum and Sun Valley, and Blaine County, State of Idaho, met in a Regular Meeting in the Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Susan McBryant, Vice-Chairman Mark Gilbert, Secretary Steve Wolper.  
Board Members Michael David, Peter Everett (by phone), Sarah Michael, Joe Miczulski,  
and Nils Ribi.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller  
Mountain Rides Operations Manager Jim Finch  
Mountain Rides Maintenance and Facilities Manager Rod Domke  
Administrative Support Coordinator Kim MacPherson

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Susan McBryant called to order the meeting of Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 12:00 noon.

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**2. Comments from the Chair and Board Member thoughts**

Mountain Rides Chairman Susan McBryant and Interim Director/Business Manager/Treasurer Wendy Crosby attended the District Coordination Council (DCC) meeting. The DCC is reviewing funds available from the federal government in order to make a recommendation to ITD on how to allocate the funds.

Chairman McBryant recently presented the Mountain Rides regular update to the Sun Valley City Council. Board Member Nils Ribi commended Chairman McBryant on her presentation.

**Board Member Sarah Michael moved to add Blaine County Recreation District's Tax Levy Ballot as Action Item 4.g. on today's agenda. The tax levy ballot was approved by the Mountain Rides Planning and Marketing Committee after this meeting agenda was distributed. Motion seconded by Board Member Steve Wolper, and passed unanimously.**

**Chairman Susan McBryant moved to add a BikeShare Member Agreement for consideration as Action Item 4.h. on today's agenda. The Agreement was just received and needs Board review prior to launch of the BikeShare program. Motion seconded by Board Member Michael David, and passed unanimously.**

Board Member Mark Gilbert arrived at this time.

**3. Public comment period for items not on the Agenda (including questions from the press)**

- Matt Bauer, on behalf of his 12-year-old daughter, a Wood River Middle School student, said he had moved his two children from Woodside Elementary to Hailey Elementary. His children would have to miss 15 minutes of school each day in order to ride the school bus home, but Mountain Rides' schedule was perfect and the kids could ride free. A couple months ago, his daughter said Middle School kids were told they should ride the Hailey circulator. But his daughter decided to wait for the Valley bus, which was less crowded and rowdy. Bauer said that Mountain Rides accepted funds from the School District to transport school kids, and they should be treated like any other paying customer.

Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller said the School District contributes to Mountain Rides because so many kids prefer to ride Mountain Rides over the school buses. Northbound and southbound buses leaving the Middle School when the kids get out of school have capacity issues, so Mountain Rides added an additional bus. Some kids only ride the bus for a couple blocks from the Middle School to downtown Hailey, so the southbound Hailey circulator supplements the service. Since the circulator stops at the south end of Woodside, drivers ask the students to give Bellevue kids priority on the Valley Route so they can get all the way home.

Board Member Gilbert said the Finance and Marketing Committee would discuss the issue and notify Mr. Bauer with the results of their discussion.

Board Member Steve Wolper disclosed that he had discussed the issue with Mr. Bauer. He said the Board should ask why kids would rather ride the Mountain Rides bus than the School bus.

Mr. Bauer said there is also apparently an issue with behavior on the bus. He suggested the buses have cameras; and the driver should simply stop the bus and evict an unruly student.

**4. Action items and discussion items**

**a. Action Item: Approve Committee Job Descriptions**

**Board Member Peter Everett moved to approve the Committee Job Descriptions. Motion seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski, and passed unanimously.**

**b. Action Item: Approve FY2013 Budget Revisions and Allocation of FY2012 Excess Operating Funds to MRTA Operating Fund**

The MRTA Board has discussed the transfer of excess operating funds in a couple previous meetings. Finance and Performance Committee Chairman Mark Gilbert said the budget is up-to-date and he has reviewed it with staff. The committee wanted to leave excess funds in the budget to provide flexibility due to the number of unknowns in FY2013.

Board Member Ribi asked questions about the budget and made some suggestions on minor revisions.

Board Member Ribi questioned the transfer of \$157,000 out of the Contingency Fund to buy a south county facility, considering federal funding cuts and unknown local funding levels. He suggested the Board approve the FY2013 Budget except for the changes to the Contingency Fund and Facilities Fund. Board Member Gilbert said the transfer makes the money available, but does not commit MRTA to purchase a south facility.

Board Member Gilbert asked if the Facilities Fund will need to be adjusted based on a decision on the East Fork facility. Executive Director Miller said this decision would be addressed later in the meeting in Executive Session.

**Board Member Nils Ribi moved to approve the Mountain Rides Transportation Authority Revised Operating Budget for FY2013, as presented; the revised Mountain Rides Capital Equipment Budget for FY2013, as presented; and the revised Workforce Housing Fund for FY2013, as presented. Motion seconded by Board Member Mark Gilbert. Motion passed unanimously.**

**c. Action Item: Proposed Summer Service changes**

These changes are due to a budget shortfall due to the south valley facility not moving to a less expensive facility.

Board Member Michael said the Planning and Marketing Committee recommended the service cuts based on the projection that MRTA would be in an operating deficit; but the current budget has an operating surplus for the remainder of FY2013. Board Member Gilbert said the surplus comes from funds transferred into the operating budget from Capital Accounts, which are meant to be used for a South Facility. The main Contingency Fund, which provides cash flow, is now minimal.

**Board Member Mark Gilbert moved to approve the recommendation of the Planning and Marketing Committee for service reductions, Items 1, 3 and 5. Motion seconded by Board Member Peter Everett.** In discussion, Board Member Ribi said the added Item 8 Symphony Run was included in the contract with the City of Sun Valley. Mountain Rides Operations Manager Jim Finch said the adjustment to Option 2 was to minimize impacts on existing riders. Board Member Michael said service levels would probably have to be cut next fiscal year, but she didn't feel the FY2013 budget warranted budget cuts which would impact built-up ridership at this time. Board Member Gilbert said the sooner service was reduced, the less it would have to be cut next fiscal year. **Motion passed with Board Members Sarah Michael and Michael David opposed.**

**d. Discussion Item: Federal Funding for FY2014**

Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller said the District's recommendations would go to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee the following week.

**Board Member Michael moved to ask the MRTA Board to reconsider its service cuts until their next Board meeting and see if funding partners can make up the difference. Motion seconded by Board Member Michael David.** In discussion, Executive Director Miller said ITD funds may be available to cover some of the funding gap. More information will be available by the May Board meeting. **Board Member Sarah Michael withdrew her motion.** Summer service changes will be on the next Board meeting's agenda.

**e. Discussion Item: Preliminary FY2014 Budget Concepts and Process**

Executive Director Miller is looking for guidance to prepare the Mountain Rides FY2014 budget request to Blaine County next week. Board Member Michael said MRTA should ask the County for at least \$30,000 more; and all MRTA Board members have to ask their jurisdictions for more money.

Board members will schedule time to discuss the MRTA budget with Executive Director Miller.

**f. Action Item: Approve award for bid of East Fork pathway and bus turnout construction**

MRTA's project budget is \$48,000. The bid to do the budgeted project is about \$67,000, including installation of shelters.

Operations Manager Finch said only about five people currently use the stop on daily average. The stop is very substandard, and could potentially be eliminated without the improvements. Executive Director Miller said the project was designed to meet ADA requirements and use federal money. He can approach FTA for additional money for the project. Since there's only one bid, Mountain Rides can negotiate with the bidder and project engineer.

Board Member Wolper said it was an important stop to keep. It had good visibility, and more people would probably use it if it weren't right on the highway.

**g. Blaine County Recreation District's May 2013 Tax Levy ballot**

Board Member Michael said bike-ped is part of Mountain Ride's mission statement. She asked the MRTA Board to support the Rec District's ballot for a two-year tax levy to repave and reconstruct the Wood River Trail.

**Board Member Sarah Michael moved that Mountain Rides support the Blaine County Recreation District's May 21<sup>st</sup> Ballot Measure to establish a two-year tax levy for the purpose of repaving and reconstructing the Wood River Trail. Motion seconded by Board Member Peter Everett.** In discussion, Board Member Ribí recused himself from voting since the City of Sun Valley had not taken a stand on the tax levy ballot. **Motion passed with Sun Valley appointed Board Members Nils Ribí and Mark Gilbert abstained.**

**h. BikeShare Agreement**

BikeShare needs the Board's approval of the Member Agreement, subject to MRTA's attorney review, to begin signing trial memberships in late April and May. Three businesses are already interested in sponsoring bikes.

**Board Member Michael moved to authorize the chairman to sign the BikeShare Agreement for BikeShare members, subject to legal review and revisions. Motion seconded by Board Member Gilbert. Motion carried unanimously.**

Bikes are now available outside the Hailey Library. Allen & Company may be interested in providing a start for the BikeShare program in the north valley.

**5. Committee reports**

**a. Planning and Marketing Committee report from Chair Steve Wolper  
Committee members approve minutes for April.**

Board Member Ribí made a revision to the minutes. Planning and Marketing Committee members approved the minutes of the meeting, as amended.

**b. Finance and Performance Committee report from Chair Mark Gilbert  
Committee members approve minutes for April.**

Finance and Performance Committee members approved the minutes of the meeting.

**6. Staff reports**

**a. Transit report from Operations with March 2013 ridership**

Operations Manager Jim Finch said March ridership was soft. When the mobile onboard Rangers were updated the end of March, MRTA lost 10 days worth of data, so staff researched past data and submitted their best ridership estimate. There was a significant drop in ridership on the Gold and Red routes.

The only accident last winter was an ADA accident which occurred in January in Hailey and was brought before you at February's Board meeting. This accident has resulted in a claim about improper use of the wheelchair lift.

**b. Maintenance report**

Maintenance and Facilities Manager Rod Domke said the wayfinding signs are now on the Hailey shelters. Weather has hampered getting the signs installed on shelters in Ketchum and Sun Valley. VanPool is growing and a new van has been purchased.

**c. Bike-Ped report**

Administrative Support Coordinator Kim MacPherson said volunteers were needed for Bike to Work Day. The Bike Swap is the same day.

**d. Business Manager**

No report.

**e. Executive Director report**

No additional report.

**7. Consent Calendar items**

**a. Approve minutes – March regular board meeting, March special Board meetings**

**b. Receive and file March 2013 Financials**

**c. Receive and file March 2013 Bills Paid**

The signature line on the March 11 and March 16 meetings needs to be changed. Minor revisions were made to the March 20 minutes.

**Board Member Joe Miczulski moved to approve the Consent Calendar for April 17, 2013, seconded by Board Member Steve Wolper. Motion carried with seven in favor and Board Member Mark Gilbert abstained since he was not present at the meeting.**

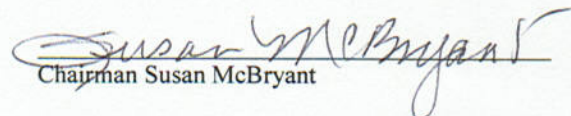
Board Member Michael David left the meeting at this time.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board Member Nils Ribi moved to go into Executive Session to discuss acquisition of real estate, pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 1(c) and pending litigation, pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 1(f), at 1:45pm, seconded by Board Member Sarah Michael. Roll call: Chairman Susan McBryant yes, Board Members Mark Gilbert yes, Steve Wolper yes, Peter Everett yes, Sarah Michael yes, Joe Miczulski yes, and Nils Ribi yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to come before the Board, Mark Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 p.m., seconded by Joe Miczulski. Motion passed unanimously.

  
Chairman Susan McBryant

cc: Commissioner Angenie McCleary, Blaine County  
Susan E. Robertson, Sun Valley City Administrator  
Gary Marks, Ketchum City Administrator  
Sandy Cady, Ketchum City Clerk  
Heather Dawson, Hailey City Administrator  
Mary Cone, Hailey City Clerk  
Dee Barton, Bellevue City Clerk  
Tess Cenarrusa, Carey City Clerk  
Randall Patterson, Carey Mayor