

Mountain RIDES

RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, May 15, 2013, 12:00 noon
Sun Valley City Hall Council Chambers, 81 Elkhorn Road, Sun Valley, 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 Sun Valley City Hall Council Chambers, Sun Valley, Idaho.

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

ABSENT: Board member Peter Everett.

ALSO Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller

PRESENT: Mountain Rides Operations Manager Jim Finch
Administrative Support Coordinator Kim MacPherson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Susan McBryant called to order the meeting of Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 12:00 noon.

2. Comments from the Chair and Board Member thoughts

Board Member Sarah Michael reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, election day. The election included a two-year tax levy to raise funds to repave the bike path.

Board Member Nils Ribi said ITD Transportation Division Performance is using their 5-1-1 site to develop grant and program areas, including public transit. The website says that ITD has been working extensively to improve the monitoring of performance and usage of public transit throughout Idaho. The ITD website includes Mountain Rides routes and schedules, but Ribi suggested staff work with ITD to fix the map.

Board members commended staff on their efforts to streamline the meeting documents and the new format.

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

No public comment at this time.

4. Action items and discussion items

a. Action Item : Approve Ketchum Transportation Center updated conceptual layout and project plan

The Mountain Rides Board approved a location for the Ketchum Transportation Center in March. Staff developed a conceptual layout to give Ketchum for their P&Z process. If Ketchum approves the concept and location, Mountain Rides will begin to work with City departments and adjacent landowners before finalizing the design. At this point, everything seems to be workable. Staff needs to calculate the number of parking spaces lost. Sun Valley Road is a state highway that will require ITD review. Emergency turning radii will need to be evaluated.

As soon as possible, Mountain Rides should get a rendering of the concept to show the community. Board Members would like to see a "critical path" report that shows points where the Board can review design and cost.

The \$78,000 local match will come from Ketchum, the Ketchum Urban Renewal Agency, and Mountain Rides Capital Account.

Board Member Sarah Michael moved to approve the Ketchum Transportation Center concept layout and project plan, and forward to the City of Ketchum. Motion seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski. In discussion, Board Member Ribi suggested the Board address concept issues mentioned earlier before it goes to Ketchum. Executive Director Miller said there would probably be a RFQ process for the shelters. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Action Item: Approve award of East Fork bus turnout construction to Lloyd Construction

Executive Director Miller said pathways and project cost exceed budget by \$6,000. The shortfall is available from the Buildings Upgrade budget in the Facilities fund, which is \$5,000 under budget; and \$1,703 can come from the Fund balance.

Chairman McBryant supported the East Fork project, but not until cost is in line with the budget and funds are available. She said she would prefer to put money on better-used routes.

Board Member Sarah Michael moved to approve award of East Fork bus turnout construction to Lloyd Construction, with proposed changes. Motion seconded by Board Member Steve Wolper. Board Member Michael said the stop is not safe and is a deterrent to bus ridership. She wasn't sure the bus stop should be there if it is not improved. Board Member Ribí said federal funding cuts are real, and the first priority should be maintenance of the bus fleet to provide public transit. The \$51,600 East Fork project would use \$38,000 in federal funding, which can only be used for this project and otherwise will be forfeited. The total cost to Mountain Rides is \$13,959. Most of the cost is for pull-out, curbing and ADA-required amenities. Board Member Wolper said the two parking lots at East Fork are filled when there are events in the north valley and this is the best opportunity to potentially improve bus ridership. The bus stop at East Fork would be a bus presence to people who drive up and down the highway. Operations Manager Jim Finch said people do use the stop in good weather. If a safe stop and shelter are provided, people will use it.

Board Member Mark Gilbert asked if the lack of a bus replacement plan was hindering financial decisions such as the East Fork turnout construction. Staff said Maintenance and Facilities Manager Rod Domke has the data necessary to enable the Finance and Performance Committee to formulate a bus replacement plan.

Board Member Miczulski said he supported the project, but struggled with financing it based on fiscal responsibility and his representation of the City of Bellevue.

Motion failed with three in favor and four opposed.

Chairman McBryant asked staff to investigate if dedicated federal funding can be reallocated to other active projects.

Board Member Steve Wolper moved to amend the agenda to consider rebidding the East Fork project, which has just been presented to the Board. Motion seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski. In discussion, Board Member Michael asked Board members who opposed the bid award to Lloyd Construction if they would support the project if a bidder is found who would do the project within budget. Commissioners all said they would support the project if it were under bid. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Board Member Steve Wolper moved that Mountain Rides put the East Fork project out for rebid and direct staff to notify any appropriate bidders. Motion seconded by Board Member Sarah Michael, and passed unanimously.

c. Action Item: Approve Valley Route fares and bulk pass partnerships for next 6 months

Mountain Rides has some very successful bulk pass partnerships, and wants to encourage them. Staff suggested 11-40 passes should be 25% off, and 41+ should be 35% off. The revenue loss would be \$2,300 if the numbers stayed flat.

Mountain Rides negotiated a two-year price with the School District and student ridership remains high.

Board Member Sarah Michael moved to approve Valley Route fares and bulk pass partnerships for the next six months. Motion seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski, and passed unanimously.

d. Discussion Item: MRTA FY2014 budget development update

Executive Director Miller said federal funding is now pretty well set, and a little more than projected, at about \$890,000. FY2013 expenses are anticipated in the low \$900,000. Federal funding will be fairly flat for the next couple years. After that, federal funding is unknown until a new funding bill is passed and a state policy is set on how state and district money is allocated. ITD's Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) asked the District Coordination Council (DCC) to make a recommendation for funding allocation. Miller is going to meet with DCC members to explain that Mountain Rides serves Twin Falls and neighboring counties as well as Blaine County; and may consider becoming the one regional system.

Mountain Rides has made a couple presentations to local funding partners. Chairman McBryant suggested next year's budget process start a little earlier if possible, so the budget presentations can be better tailored to each partner.

Board Member Ribí said funding requests are based on covering existing service costs, and should therefore include a cost allocation for the whole system. Board Member Gilbert said all partners underfund except the City of Ketchum. Staff can do a report showing the service costs of routes that are pertinent to each funding partner.

Executive Director Miller said a \$3,000 request would be made to the City of Bellevue.

e. Discussion Item: Midyear strategic planning workshop

Executive Director Miller and several Board members have requested a midyear strategic planning workshop, perhaps limited to half a dozen topics. Board members settled on June 27 as a good possibility.

5. Executive Session

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

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Board Member Mark Gilbert moved to delegate authority to the Mountain Rides Executive Director to negotiate a lease extension of the existing bus maintenance facility for an additional term not to exceed two years, and a lease rate not to exceed \$2,000 per month, with the lease document subject to review by Mountain Rides legal counsel and such changes, if any, approved by the Executive Director based on legal counsel's review and recommendation. Motion seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski, and passed unanimously.

6. Committee reports

a. Planning and Marketing Committee report from Chair Steve Wolper

Board Member Ribí noted the Committee had a good discussion on bus capacity. The maximum capacity, including standees, for Valley route is 50; and Hailey route is 40.

Committee members approved minutes for May, with one abstained.

b. Finance and Performance Committee report from Chair Mark Gilbert

Board Member Gilbert said staff is close to getting the Performance dashboard on the agenda.

Committee members approved minutes for May.

7. Staff reports

Chairman McBryant appreciated the format of the staff reports.

Board Member Ribí suggested ITD use its reader boards to encourage people to ride Mountain Rides to shorten travel delays while Highway 75 is under construction.

- a. Operations report with April 2013 ridership** – Operations Manager Finch said Mountain Rides purchased two 15-passenger vans from Sun Valley Company.
- b. Maintenance report** – Board Members expressed concern about Mountain Rides' aging fleet and the employees necessary to maintain the buses.
- c. Marketing and Outreach report** – Board Member Ribí suggested half-marathon participants be encouraged to take the bus to and from the marathon.
- d. Business Manager report** – Executive Director Miller explained that the federal grant year is April 1-March 31, so Mountain Rides' fiscal year spans two grant periods. Grant funds for 2013 were available April 1, but agreements haven't been executed at FTA in Seattle, so Mountain Rides is spending reserve money until reimbursements are received. Board Member Gilbert noted the importance of the contingency fund.
- e. Executive Director report** – Executive Director Miller commended Kim MacPherson for a great job on the updated website. The website will soon allow Board members to access all Mountain Rides documents.

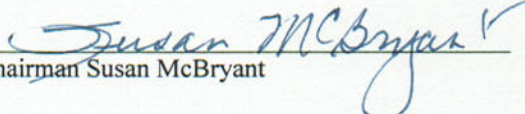
8. Consent Calendar items

- a. Approve minutes – April 4th special board meeting, April 17th regular board meeting**
- b. No financials or bills paid to file this month due to change in Finance and Performance approval process**

Board Member Sarah Michael moved to approve the Consent Calendar of May 15, 2013 as presented, seconded by Board Member Nils Ribí. Motion passed unanimously, except Board Member Mark Gilbert who wasn't present at the meeting.

9. Adjournment

With no other business to come before the Board, Board Member Joe Miczulski moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m., seconded by Board Member Nils Ribí. Motion passed unanimously.


Chairman Susan McBryant