



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 12:30 p.m.
Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho**

Board Members of the Mountain Rides Transportation Authority met in a Regular Meeting in the Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho.

PRESENT: Vice-chair David Patrie (Blaine County), Michael David (Ketchum), Joe Miczulski (Bellevue), Susan McBryant (Hailey) and Jane Conard (Sun Valley)

ABSENT: Chair Mark Gilbert (Sun Valley), Secretary Steve Wolper (At-Large) and Kristin Derrig (Ketchum)

ALSO PRESENT: Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller
Mountain Rides Business Manager Wendy Crosby
Mountain Rides Operations Manager Jim Finch
Mountain Rides Maintenance Manager Ben Varner
Support Specialist Kim MacPherson
Peter Jensen, *Idaho Mountain Express*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice - Chairman Dave Patrie called to order the meeting of Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 12:34pm and took roll and determined that a quorum was present.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER THOUGHTS

There were none.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (including questions from Press)

Peter Jensen from the *Idaho Mountain Express* was present.

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Action item:

Action on update to Financial Policy 101: Procurement

Jason Miller stated the need for this came out of moving the south valley facility forward regarding issuing payments for already approved contracts. Wendy Crosby stated the change made to the procurement policy was the change order policy addendum. **Susan McBryant moved to approve the amendments to Financial Policy 101: Procurement as presented. Joe Miczulski seconded.** Susan McBryant stated that the Finance & Performance committee reviewed this policy and is in support of moving this forward. **The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Action item:*Action on request by City of Ketchum for edits to Joint Powers Agreement update*

Jason Miller stated that the Joint Powers agreement expires in October and we need to renew it for another 4 years. The agreement came to the City of Ketchum first but has been making it around to all the partners. The City of Hailey has approved it and possibly Blaine County. The City of Ketchum has a few concerns when they reviewed it and the consensus was to ask Mountain Rides if they would consider a few issues. The issues being a withdrawal date change from April 1st to 6 months. The second issue is the concern that the City of Ketchum is not being represented equitably when it comes to their funding which represents about half the funding Mountain Rides receives. The result of that concern would be a consideration for their voting shares like the airport board or adding a 3rd seat on the board or making the at-large seat influenced by the City of Ketchum.

Michael David said the first issue came as a staff request to better coincide with the budget process. In regards to the second issue which was brought up by council member Baird Gourlay, it was for Mountain Rides to discuss. Michael stated the board works well together now but what about the future? He hesitates tying it to funding. Ketchum funds Mountain Rides the most but they also have the most LOT coming in. Joe Miczulski would be concerned if we went the way of the airport board. Jane Conard would be concerned it would delay the re-authorizing the JPA. Susan McBryant has concerns tying the representation to the funding received. It should not be our board but elected representatives of our partners to review it. She said she is not comfortable with changing the language at this point because it has been reviewed by some of our partners already. Dave Patrie shares the other board members concerns as well. Dave asked if the city of Ketchum has been underrepresented and Michael David doesn't think it has been a problem. Mountain Rides staff recommendation is to proceed as is.

Susan McBryant moved that the board take no action with regard to edits that were presented by the City of Ketchum and to present the JPA has been previously drafted. Jane Conard seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Discussion item:*Update on Mountain Rides' FY2016 budget development and impacts of flat or declining local funding on transit service*

Jason Miller gave a big picture of where we are at this point. We don't have final numbers from anyone yet. The City of Ketchum has indicated that funding will stay same as current. Sun Valley will increase funding which is the first time since FY09. Blaine County is less positive so it is uncertain at this point. It's a year of many competing needs. The City of Hailey is maintaining but not increasing. City of Bellevue is unknown at this point. We can't continue to do what we are doing with the same amount of funds and can't continue to operate the same amount of service with flat funding. Federal funding is solidified but we rely on local funding to match to those federal dollars. Every dollar of local funding can turn into \$2 or \$3 total for service. This means that there could be service cuts. In the case of the City of Hailey implementing a fare to the Hailey route would help to maintain that service. There is an impact if service is funding is flat. Jim Finch stated that we do have a plan to take steps back if there are funding reductions for instance, taking back midday service on the Hailey route. Blaine County is a significant reduction which could mean 2 round trips out of 5 round trips on the weekend service. Jim

thinks users should pay and doesn't really like free service. Jason Miller stated that the demographic is very transit dependent and has had a ton of growth year after year, our fastest growing route. The bigger context, especially Hailey and Valley route, is that demand is outpacing our ability to deliver service. Our only tool is to implement fairs. Instituting fares could mean a significant drop in ridership especially on the weekend which is transit dependent riders. Valley and Hailey route are for commuters to get to the rich cities. Jim is saying that the weekend reduction to save \$21,000 would be 2 round trips out of 7. Michael David pointed to the "One Less Car" motto and we need to sell that to the county and cities which would be better for the community and the environment. Susan McBryant suggested adding a higher fare for the weekends but to do it in dollars and not cents. When you look at where your tax dollars are going Susan stated that you can "see" the bus. It's visible, attractive, efficient, well run and well organized. She thinks we should take a flat fee of \$1 increase and making sure the funding partner understands this. Susan McBryant believes that the City of Hailey can find \$7000 after their budget meeting. Michael David agrees about the tangible aspects of the bus system and the matching aspect of the funding is very important. Decreasing ridership is the opposite of what we want to happen. We would like to see the momentum keep going with our ridership up and hope the cities can find the money. Joe Miczulski hopes we can do anything in our power not to decrease service especially on the Valley route. He thinks it's critical to both the cities and the workforce to be able to have dependable service and anything we can do to maintain or increase the service. Dave Patrie wants to make sure our funding partners know exactly what level funding means. Level funding is actually a decrease in funding because our costs are rising and are not sustainable. Decrease in funding will mean service reductions. Valley route is very valuable and gives the most benefit to all of our funding partners. For every dollar cut is more than a dollar cut. Jason Miller said if there are changes to service that we need to let our riders know right away.

d. Discussion item:

Report on south valley facility construction progress including change orders issued to date

Wendy Crosby is tracking the numbers very carefully. We will have a monthly report for the board at our regular meetings. Next month we will have more photos. Wendy said we are proceeding with the expectation that we are getting the money from ITD.

5. Committee Reports

Planning & Marketing committee reports for July from Steve Wolper.

Due to the fact there was not a quorum for this committee present, this item will be moved to the August meeting for approval.

Finance & Performance committee reports for July. **Joe Miczulski moved to approve the minutes for June. Susan McBryant seconded and the motion passed.**

6. Staff reports

a. Dashboard performance reports for May 2015

b. Operations report – Jim Finch; We are working with the City of Ketchum to get the Limelight hotel workers from River run parking lot to the site. The construction company has approached us for parking for about 100 employees and we will work with them but nothing is free. There are a lot of factors involved like River Run parking lot is owned by Sun Valley Company and we will find a way to work with them. Those are things that Mountain Rides

does and we are very good at them. Another challenge is the increased afternoon traffic jams. Ridership is up but Vanpool is down. We are down to 2 vans at Webb instead of 5 which is a result of financial support and not demand. Webb has some challenges making it work. We lost an internal champion at Webb, Steve Mills, who is no longer there. The temporary bus stop in front of Coldwell Banker is a challenge. Ben is working with the city on a more permanent situation.

c. Maintenance report – Ben Varner; IC buses are coming out of warranty at the end of 2015; we had to put a \$4000 part in one of them. We got a free engine for Bus 26 with about 6 months to go (about \$30,000 savings) in Twin Falls. We are fully staffed in the Maintenance dept. Carlos is getting caught up with commuter vans. Repainting of south valley shelters is happening now. Ben has his CDL now with thanks to Jim’s dept. Buses new standard is to be in Allen & Co shape.

d. Marketing and Outreach report

e. Bike-Ped report – Jason Miller; Regarding the Bike-Ped plan; ITD is changing the footprint of travel lanes going to Galena. There will now be a climb lane from Galena lodge to the summit.

f. Business Manager report

g. Executive Director report – Jason Miller thanked his staff working so hard through these last few months. Our drivers continue to perform outstandingly day in and day out. We are approaching 2 years of no at fault accidents. Jane Conard thanked Jason for making time for the council members with the City of Sun Valley.

7. Consent Calendar items

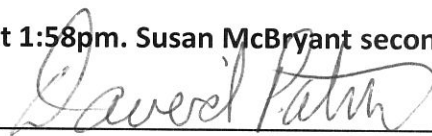
a. Approve minutes for June 17th regular board meeting. **Susan McBryant moved to approve the June 17th minutes with changes as discussed. Joe Miczulski seconded. Motions carried unanimously.**

b. Receive & File financials May 2015

Susan McBryant moved to receive and file the financials. Joe Miczulski seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Michael David moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:58pm. Susan McBryant seconded and the motion carried unanimously.



Vice -Chairman David Patrie