



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
Wednesday, July 19, 2017, 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:** Chair Jane Reister Conard (Sun Valley), Secretary Joe Miczulski (Bellevue), David Patrie (Blaine County), Grant Gager (Ketchum), Becki Keefer (Hailey), Joyce Fabre (Sun Valley)

**NOT PRESENT:** Vice-chair Kristin Derrig (Ketchum) and Tory Canfield (at-large)

**ALSO** Mountain Rides Maintenance Manager Ben Varner

**PRESENT:** Mountain Rides Business Manager Tucker Van Law  
Mountain Rides Operations Manager Mike Knudson  
Mountain Rides Support Specialist Kim MacPherson  
Mountain Rides Bicycle Pedestrian Program Coordinator Michael David  
Peter Jensen *Idaho Mountain Express*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Jane Conard called to order the meeting of Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at 12:31pm. Joe Miczulski took roll and determined that a quorum was present.

**2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER THOUGHTS**

Joyce Fabre met with the Mayor of Sun Valley, Peter Hendricks, the day before and has some thoughts to share.

Becki Keefer and Ben Varner attended the Hailey city council meeting. The City of Hailey is not meeting our full request, about \$5500 short of what we requested.

Dave Patrie attended the Blaine County commissioners meeting and they seem in favor of funding our full request.

Jane Conard commented that semantics can be important and our funding partners refer to Mountain Rides as "external contracts." Jane Conard thinks it is important to note that this is a public service, and the *Idaho Mountain Express* also noted this in an editorial previously, and has asked that the budget category be changed for Sun Valley. She requested to change it to public service contract instead of external.

Joe Miczulski attended the Bellevue city council meeting with Jason Miller and they incorporated our funding request into their budget. Joe also informed the city council that his term expires in October and he is retiring and they will need to look for some to replace him to represent Bellevue.

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

**4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a. Action item:**

*Action to approve Request for Qualifications for legal services*

Jane Conard introduced the item.

Dave Patrie suggested a change to item h. which refers to compensation. Dave Patrie believes that is not appropriate and Idaho legislature changed its rules for RFQ. He suggested eliminating compensation from this RFQ and add the 10% to the key individuals section.

RFQ is a selection of qualifications only and doesn't include compensation rates.

**Becki Keefer made a motion to approve the release of RFQ 2017-Legal Services-001 with proposed edits and changes to eliminate h. compensation and add the 10% to the key individuals section. Dave Patrie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Action item:**

*Action to approve resolution to update Mountain West bank signers for all accounts*

Jane Conard said this was discussed in the Finance & performance meeting. The list of signers has been updated.

**Joyce Fabre made a motion to approve the Resolution to update authorization of signing authority at Mountain West Bank and Check Signing Policy 103. Becki Keefer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**c. Action item:**

*Action to approve Lytle signs contract*

Ben Varner said this is the project we have been working on for the last couple years. This is for 60 signs. This does not include the solar lights.

Ben suggested adding "contingent on FTA funding with Sept 1<sup>st</sup> being the latest."

Joyce Fabre asked if the signs have been run by the City of Sun Valley.

The first wave of bus signs will be installed in Ketchum.

Ben will look into whether the WOW student art was approved by the City of Sun Valley.

The solar lights are still being shopped currently.

Ben is confident that we will come in under the original quoted price of \$900 per sign.

**Dave Patrie made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract for bus signs with Lytle signs in an amount not to exceed \$37,500 for the FY17 Bus Stop Improvement project contingent upon FTA funding. Joe Miczulski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**d. Action item:**

*Action to approve disposal of a vanpool van*

Ben Varner said this is one of the vanpool vans that was replaced in May. This was bought with local money and ITD has signed off on this.

**Joe Miczulski made a motion to approve the surplussing of MRTA Van #30. Joyce Fabre seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**e. Discussion item:**

*Discuss survey questions and format for FY2018 service planning*

This item was discussed at the Planning & Marketing committee.

Kim MacPherson passed out a current version of the survey with questions geared towards the general public and funding partners so we can target specific groups.

We will use an online survey as we did in the past.

Becki Keefer wants to ask about electric buses.

Joyce Fabre would like to have big picture questions about public transportation in the valley.

Grant Gager suggested asking more questions about the person filling out the survey.

We will take this back to the Planning & Marketing committee.

**f. Discussion item:**

*Discuss service options and requests for FY2018 service plan*

Kim MacPherson started the discussion with some of the options discussed at the committee level: extended Galena service, bronze route serving dollar, white clouds/clubhouse, downtown jitney service, extra blue route night service year round and airport service.

Joyce Fabre spoke about requests from funding partners. Mountain Rides needs to do a better job of convincing the partners what we want and what is needed.

City of Sun Valley thinks we do not need to run airport service. They want the Red Route kept for the winter. They don't want empty buses in the middle of the day. Sun Valley is requesting not wasting money on empty buses in the middle of the day. For Blue Route they want the buses to run until after the bars close year round.

Jane Conard asked about what time the bars close. The consensus was about 2:00am.

Joyce Fabre also said City of Sun Valley will not grant our full funding request unless we add some of these requests.

They also would like the Gold route reinstated and she let them know it will not run unless someone funds it.

Ben Varner wants to clarify the points: In the winter, are the Red Route midday trips necessary? And do they want Blue Route late night service year round?

Dave Patrie said Commissioner McCleary would like service to the Meadows area improved and increase Valley route service on weekends and would like less of a gap in the morning southbound trips. Commissioner Schoen is not fully supportive of the airport service.

For extended Galena service Dave Patrie would like only to see it happen unless it is fully funded by BCRD as they are a taxing authority.

Service to Dollar Mountain on the Silver route is well used by lots of families and ski instructors. It would have a significant impact if the Silver Route didn't go to Dollar Mountain.

Grant Gager thinks that the Blue Route suggestion is right on point to run the late night service year round and start summer service one week earlier. Bus service costs money and funding partners need to fully fund Mountain Rides if they want their requests filled.

Jane Conard said the whole area needs to support public transportation system. Grant Gager said all routes are the strength of the system. He thinks the airport route supports the rest of the system.

Michael David said we need a formal request process for service so we know where the requests come from.

Joe Miczulski said the airport service came from a strategic planning meeting many years ago.

Kim MacPherson stated that the airport ground transportation summit will be on August 10<sup>th</sup> with a location TBD with one meeting in Ketchum. Several board members suggested inviting property management companies. Kim also mentioned that we have stated that "Mountain Rides does not have to be the provider of this service" but that we are starting the discussion

to find out what the need is in the valley.

Dave Patrie said there is “bar time” and the staff is anxious to get people out of the bars and get home. If last call is at 1:30am they are getting people out of the bars by 2am.

Michael David mentioned the challenge of staffing the late buses.

**g. Discussion item:**

*Discuss FY2018 budget priorities, including FY2018 draft payscale*

Ben Varner said that the six priorities are where the 7.5% funding increases will go. The priorities are as follows:

1. \$15,000 to winter and summer only drivers (\$1.50 average increase in starting wage)
2. \$20,000 to increase in medical costs
3. \$45,000 to ongoing performance raises for full-time and seasonal full-time employees
4. \$30,000 for increased internal support functions
5. \$40,000 to increase in service across routes
6. \$5,500 to increasing payscale ranges (multiplier to the payscale chart affects incoming and topped out employees only)
7. TOTAL = \$155,500

Joyce Fabre and the board agreed that giving competitive wages to staff is top priority even if it means service cuts.

Ben Varner said Jason Miller said the 7.5% is mission critical and if we don't get that wage increases are top priority vs increase in service.

Dave Patrie suggested assigning these six priorities as a board.

Becki Keefer suggested dropping #5 to #6.

Fund everything else and then whatever we have left over, we can add service.

Grant Gager was asking about #4 and is that another position or person?

Sun Valley will be \$10,000 short and Hailey is flat with no 7.5% increase. All totaled we will be short \$15,000.

The group discussed the difference between employees getting a raise and seeing their benefit deductions go up.

Becki Keefer said from her experience: never stand between an employee and their paycheck. Performance raises = positive performance. Employees like being recognized with a raise. Employees want to keep their net paycheck the same.

After discussion the group decided to change the order of the priorities in order to express preference for payroll increase versus service increases:

1. \$15,000 to winter and summer only drivers (\$1.50 average increase in starting wage)
2. \$45,000 to ongoing performance raises for full-time and seasonal full-time employees
3. \$20,000 to increase in medical costs
4. \$30,000 for increased internal support functions
5. \$5,500 to increasing payscale ranges (multiplier to the payscale chart, affects incoming and topped out employees only)
6. \$40,000 to increase in service across routes (Possibly the most available will be \$25,000 subject to final budgets negotiations)
7. TOTAL = \$155,500

**6. Committee Reports**

Planning & Marketing committee reports for July

**Committee members received and filed the minutes for Planning & Marketing for July due to not having a quorum present.**

Finance & Performance committee reports for July

**Committee members approved the minutes for Finance & Performance for July.**

**7. Staff reports**

a. Dashboard performance reports for May 2017

b. Operations report – Mike Knudson said we are on pace to go above 500,000 riders this year. Joyce Fabre asked about ridership for certain times of day and City of Sun Valley wants to know ridership for the middle of the day on Red Route.

c. Marketing and Outreach report

d. Bike-Ped report – Michael David said we had 13 bikes in the rental pool and we are lending bikes to organizations to use. He put 2 bikes at the Meadows and added one at the construction site at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

e. Maintenance report – Ben said it was a busy summer and is running smoothly.

f. Business Manager report

**8. Consent Calendar items**

a. Approve minutes for June 21<sup>st</sup> regular board meeting

b. Receive & File May 2017 financials and bills paid

**Dave Patrie moved to approve the consent calendar with the addition of Mayor Jonas' last name to the minutes. Becki Keefer seconded. The motion passed.**

**9. Adjournment**

**Joyce Fabre moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:09pm. Dave Patrie seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

  
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Chair Jane Reister Conard