



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
Wednesday, October 18, 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), Vice-chair Kristin Derrig (Ketchum), Secretary Joe Miczulski (Bellevue), David Patrie (Blaine County), Grant Gager (Ketchum), Becki Keefer (Hailey), Joyce Fabre (Sun Valley) and Tory Canfield (at-large)

**ALSO** Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller

**PRESENT:** Mountain Rides Business Manager Tucker Van Law  
Mountain Rides Maintenance Manager Ben Varner  
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, October 18, 2017 at 12:32pm. Secretary Joe Miczulski took roll and determined that a quorum was present.

Jane Conard asked for a motion to move the agenda.

**Becki Keefer made a motion to move item 4 before item 2. Joe Miczulski seconded and the motion carried.**

**4. Presentation:** Ribbon cutting of new 35' New Flyer bus #201 (ribbon cutting occurred outside of city hall)

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

Jane Conard welcomed everyone back to the meeting after the ribbon cutting. Jane Conard made a minor change in the agenda. She said we do want to encourage comments about items on the agenda. Jane thanked staff for organizing the ribbon cutting for our new bus #201. Jim Lake spoke and he is a full time resident of Twin Creeks. He is very disappointed that they are losing bus service in the summer.

Al Stevenson spoke next and he is a resident of Twin Creeks. He thanked Mountain Rides for their hard work and praised Mountain as a great service in the community. He is also disappointed that the Red Route is being cut. He said the current summer service is poor design. He would like to see Mountain Rides start with a blank slate and reconfigure it to an evening route. This impacts real estate values as well; it affects the values when you take it away and also when you add service. He thinks at the end of the day that Elkhorn residents should have bus service.

Joyce Fabre stated that this is a difficult position that the board is in. As board members we look at budget constraints and ridership numbers. She will continue to advocate for more service on the Red Route.

Grant Gager gave his commitment to the Red Route riders that the board will try to find service for the Elkhorn neighborhoods.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (including questions from Press)**  
There were none.

**5. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a. Action item:**

*Action to approve Mountain Rides' FY2018 Transportation Service Plan, defining all routes and service levels for Nov 2017 – Nov 2018*

Jane Conard recognized Jason Miller to make a presentation of the upcoming service plan. Jason Miller gave updates about all routes:

For Blue route; spring and fall seasons will be extended until 10pm. The Blue Route will be extended to Morning Star for service in the spring and fall.

Demand Response for the Meadows will stay the same.

For the Red Route we are adding an hour and a half for each day for the upcoming winter.

Hailey Route will extend service into the airport in recognition of the demand for the connection to the airport. And during winter peak season it will run on weekends.

There will be lots of improvements on Valley route; adding evening service from 7-9pm, improving Saturday night service the same as Friday night service, morning express trip southbound from Ketchum at 8am and Meadows connections.

No changes to Silver and Bronze route although we did encourage it from Sun Valley company. Galena route will continue with support by BCRD, Friday through Sunday from Dec 15<sup>th</sup> to Feb 25<sup>th</sup> which is 11 weeks and more circulation within the route.

There will be no stand-alone airport route but the airport will be accessed by Hailey route and transfers from Valley route to Hailey route.

The board looked at the unanswered questions and the options list:

Valley Route new evening service to run just Friday and Saturday or Monday through Saturday? Dave Patrie asked about the financial impacts. It refers to number 12 in the options list and if it ran all week it would be \$30,000 so the cost would be less if it just ran on Friday and Saturday. Jason Miller said there would be \$20,000 in savings by only running the late trips on Fridays and Saturdays.

Joyce Fabre said we could consider using the savings from the Valley route for Red Route in the summer.

**Joyce Fabre made a motion to add the additional late evening trips on Valley Route only on Friday and Saturday between 7-9pm for a savings of \$20,000 which could be utilized in another service area that we could vote on. Kristin Derrig seconded.** Dave Patrie stated that the service plan and budget are linked. This is a process that has been going on for months. In the case of City of Sun Valley we did not get the full amount. The City of Sun Valley elected officials were very supportive of boosting the Blue Route and put taking away the Red Route on the table. We have had several workshops to get where we are today. We believe the area needs service and in order to provide it we need full support from our partners. Dave Patrie would be in favor of funding demand response service for Red Route in the summer.

Jason Miller stated that the symphony service will continue in the summer.

Grant Gager wanted to know the ridership on the mid-week south and northbound trips on Valley Route. Mike Knudson said the ridership was light during the week.

Jason Miller said we could adopt half of a service plan and come back next spring to work on the schedule for next summer. Jane Conard suggested sometimes our funding partners can reopen their budgets so there may be a possibility of more funding. **Board members in favor of motion: Kristin Derrig, Becki Keefer, Joyce Fabre and Tory Canfield. Dave Patrie, Grant Gager and Joe Miczulski opposed. Jane Conard abstained.**

Jane Conard went to the next question which was asking if we operate Red Route in the summer. Grant Gager suggested keeping the demand response service for summer.

**Dave Patrie made a motion to operate Demand Response Red Route in the summer at a minimum but this is not an exclusive option. Joe Miczulski seconded.** Tory Canfield is in favor of demand response service at a minimum or something more but would like to see regular service in the summer.

Al Stevenson from Twin Creeks said that an evening service would work. He would like the board to give the residents of Twin Creeks and Elkhorn a chance to work with Mountain Rides. Chuck Williamson from SVEA said he has access to over 2000 emails and could run a survey for Mountain Rides to find out what Elkhorn wants. Dave Patrie said it is clear that we need to find ways to service Elkhorn. Jane Conard thinks there will be a time for budget openings in the spring as well. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Jane Conard stated the next question asks about cutting some service on the Hailey route.

Jason Miller said that the request and the actual funding from Hailey is off by \$3000 and that the last run of Hailey route doesn't have high ridership. He proposed the route end about 5:45pm and not go down Woodside Blvd.

**Becki Keefer made a motion to remove a small amount of service out of the Hailey Route on the last bus of the day. Joyce Fabre seconded. The motion carried unanimously.**

Jane Conard said the next question would be service to River Run. Jason Miller said that Silver route is very successful in the winter but it could be considered for the summer but it does have a high price tag. The board will defer the decision as it is not a priority for Sun Valley Company. Dave Patrie said if it is not a priority for Sun Valley Company what is the benefit for us. There could be a "moral hazard" and a risk to our relationship with Sun Valley. Joyce Fabre said if we do the Red Route in the summer that it does not need to go through West Ketchum. Jane Conard brought up the next question which is that there is no West Main connection to River Run during the winter which was connected with the Ride n Fly last year. Jason Miller said the connection from Sockeye Square and the Gem streets has been very spotty over the years. This is one we haven't solved but we don't want to hide it. Becki Keefer asked if some of these questions would be helped by the transportation Hub or center. Jason Miller said it's possible but there is a challenger servicing everywhere but having a Transportation center would give us the opportunity to solve a lot of challenges.

Jane Conard stated that after doing this process that there is \$23,000 saved and we will revisit the service plan in March. Joyce Fabre wanted to confirm that the blue route will connect to Morning Star in the spring, summer and fall and Jason Miller confirmed this.

Ben Varner suggested being in touch with City of Sun Valley, the fire department and the public safety director, Walt Femling to confirm using their street for bus turnarounds. Joyce Fabre said that her vote is contingent on the Morning Star turnaround. Jason Miller confirmed we will be doing the Morning Star service.

**Becki Keefer made a motion to approve Mountain Rides' FY2018 Transportation Service Plan defining all routes and service levels for Nov 2018-Oct 2019, as presented and with changes**

as listed on page 5 taking all 15 options except for item #12 which is Friday and Saturday only for the Valley route evening service. This accounts for \$20,000 in savings. Tory Canfield seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board took a short break.

**b. Action item:**

*Action to approve updated Mountain Rides Policy Section 104: Accounts Receivable*

Tucker Van Law said the changes came out of an ITD audit. They suggested a separation of mail collection and deposits made. He also said that we are proposing to a dual control key box for counting fares from the fare boxes.

Dave Patrie recommending doing quarterly spot checks with fare boxes and then present the findings to the Finance and performance committee.

Jason Miller said this policy was reviewed by legal counsel and there were a few minor tweaks.

**Dave Patrie made a motion to approve adoption of updated Mountain Rides Policy Section 104: Accounts Receivable, as presented with the addition of a quarterly review by the Finance and Performance committee of spot checks referenced in the fare box cash receipt section and include the changes made by legal counsel. Joyce Fabre seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**c. Action item:**

*Action to approve Mountain Rides updated Employee Manual for FY2018*

Jason Miller said that this has been reviewed by legal counsel. The group discussed the meal period section.

**Dave Patrie made a motion to table this item to the November meeting. Becki Keefer seconded and the motion carried.**

**d. Action item:**

*Action to approve submission of grant applications to Idaho Transportation Department for Public Transportation funding for operating and capital, 10/1/18 – 9/30/20*

Jason Miller said we are asking for more than what is available. We will show our full need and let ITD to the reconciliation.

Dave Patrie said "Shoot the Moon."

**Joyce Fabre made a motion to approve Mountain Rides' submission of grant applications to Idaho Transportation Department for Public Transportation funding from the Federal Transit Administration 5311 and 5339 programs for operating and capital, for the funding period 10/1/10 – 9/30/20, as presented. Joe Miczulski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**e. Action item:**

**Action to approve declaration of buses 14 and 26 as surplus property and dispose per policy**

Ben Varner said Bus 14 is going away due to changes in service and Bus 26 has been replaced by our New Flyer Bus 201. Grant Gager asked about the planned method for disposal. Ben Varner said they will go through "public surplus" and "Cars 4 Less" in Hailey.

**Joe Miczulski moved to approve MRTA's surplussing of buses 14 and 26. Kristin Derrig seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**f. Discussion item:**

*Update on battery electric buses and potential order for first electric bus*

Ben Varner said every manufacturer is now coming to the table with electric buses. Cummins and Gillis will now be partners. He also said that there could soon be low cost charging stations. Portland is launching their first 2 electric New Flyer buses next spring.

Jason Miller said we will have to assemble more funding over the next year to have enough funding to order an electric bus.

**6. Committee Reports**

Finance & Performance committee reports for October

**Committee members approved the minutes for Finance & Performance for October. Grant Gager abstained.**

**7. Staff reports**

a. Dashboard performance reports for August 2017

b. Operations report

c. Marketing and Outreach report

d. Bike-Ped report – Michael David said Bike and walk to school was successful despite the snow. Safety is a big concern and we may move the fall one up to September. The E-bikes public forums will be this week and the legislation is a little murky and we are working toward consistent regulations.

e. Maintenance report – Jane Conard noticed 2 road calls and asked about them. Ben Varner said they were a coincidence and bad luck. He said he tends to over track road calls.

f. Business Manager report – Tucker Van Law said we are coming in on budget in operations.

g. Executive Director report – Jason Miller said he was feeling better this year about staffing. Mike Knudson said he feels like he has a few good candidates. We will have 2 full time positions available and winter only positions as well.

**8. Consent Calendar items**

a. Approve minutes for September 20<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting and October 4<sup>th</sup> special board workshop

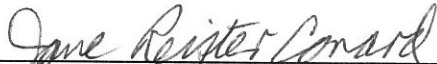
**Tory Canfield moved to approve the minutes. Joe Miczulski seconded. The motion passed.**

b. Receive & File August 2017 financials and bills paid

**Becki Keefer moved to receive and file August 2017 financials. Joyce Fabre seconded. The motion passed.**

**9. Adjournment**

**Tory Canfield moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:11pm. Kristin Derrig seconded and the motion carried unanimously.**

  
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Chair Jane Reister Conard