



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 12:30 p.m.
Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho**

The Mountain Rides Transportation Authority's Board of Directors met in a Regular Meeting in the Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho.

PRESENT: Chair Kristin Derrig (Ketchum), Vice-chair Grant Gager (Ketchum), Secretary Tory Canfield (at-large), Jim Finch (Hailey), Kathy Kristenson (Blaine County) and Peter Hendricks (Sun Valley)

ABSENT: Rick Webking (Sun Valley), Tom Blanchard (Bellevue)

ALSO PRESENT: Mountain Rides Executive Director, Wally Morgus
Mountain Rides Director, Transit Operations, Ben Varner
Mountain Rides Director, Finance & Administration, Tucker Van Law
Mountain Rides Director, Community Development, Kim MacPherson
Peter Jensen, *Idaho Mountain Express*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kristin Derrig called to order the meeting of Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 12:30pm. Tory Canfield called roll and determined that a quorum was present.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER THOUGHTS

Kristin Derrig mentioned that some people got a little caught off guard with the schedule change at the end of ski season. We work with Sun Valley Co with end of season dates and are somewhat flexible when it comes to adding additional service when Sun Valley extends the season.

Grant Gager thanked the staff for the busy first few months of the year.

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

There was none.

4. ACTION ITEM: Approve Consent Calendar items

- a. Approve minutes: Regular board meeting, Mar 20, 2019
- b. Receive/file: Performance Dashboard report for March 2019
- c. Receive/file: Financial Statements and Bills Paid reports for February 2019
- d. Receive/file: Planning & Marketing Committee, Apr 3, 2019, Minutes & Report from Chair
- e. Receive/file: Finance & Performance Committee, Apr 3 & 11, 2019, Minutes & Report from Chair

- f. Receive/file: Reports from Director, Community Development; Director, Transit Operations; Director, Finance & Administration; Executive Director
- g. Approve: Distribution of MRTA RFP #1905-001-MRTA (Graphic Design and Marketing)
- h. Approve: Submission to FTA of 2019 FTA Certifications and Assurances
- i. Approve: Distribution of Joint Powers Agreement Extension to Joint Powers

Grant Gager moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Peter Hendricks seconded. The motion passed.

5. ACTION ITEM:

Approve Summer/Fall 2019 Service Plan

Wally Morgus highlighted the changes route by route that staff suggests for the upcoming summer schedule.

Blue Route: Wally Morgus said operationally, ending the Blue Route at midnight would work better. Grant Gager asked about the ridership from 1:00 – 2:00am. To end the route earlier is a major change for the Blue Route. The Ketchum police also appreciate the late-night bus. Staff showed ridership numbers for the last few years for the Blue Route by trip.

Kristin Derrig said there is not a lot of taxi services available to help drive people home from the bars.

Wally said we will stay with the current schedule ending at 2:05am.

Red Route: Wally Morgus said there will be service during the symphony (SV Music Festival) weeks.

Hailey Route: Wally Morgus said Hailey route will run from 8am-5pm instead of to 6pm. There is minimal ridership in the last hour of the day. He suggested that Hailey town route should be fare free like the other town routes in our system. The fare was instituted many years ago when Hailey didn't fully fund the service. Jim Finch agrees that it should be treated like a town route and should be fare free. Grant Gager asked if the City of Hailey wanted it to be fare free. Wally Morgus said the City of Hailey is not interested in getting us back to whole and doesn't want to increase their funding for Mountain Rides.

Jim Finch said having the route be fare free and if the ridership increased would show how important transit can be to Hailey.

Valley Route: Wally Morgus said we will have the holidays this summer (2 days) run on the Saturday schedule rather than the Sunday schedule.

Summer Silver and Ketchum Circulator Routes: Wally Morgus said both routes are contingent on funding. There is a good argument to be made for service from Sun Valley to River Run in the summer. The city of Ketchum has said they would like to be a part of the summer silver service to some degree.

Grant Gager said that we have reconfirmed that the Valley route is the backbone of the system. When we meet for service planning for FY20, we should look at adding service to the Valley route especially late-night hours.

Grant Gager said there are restauranteurs that are driving their employees and customers home late night. Kristin Derrig agreed, and she has also driven customers home.

Jim Finch moved to approve the Summer/Fall service plan as presented. Grant Gager seconded. The motion passed.

6. ACTION ITEM:

Appoint committee to conduct Executive director's annual review

Kristin Derrig suggested that they keep the committee consistent to last year.

Grant Gager moved to create a special committee to conduct the Executive Director's annual review to be composed of Grant Gager, Kristin Derrig, Tom Blanchard and Jim Finch. Tory Canfield seconded. The motion passed.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM:

Preliminary FY20 budget and Joint Powers' funding requests

Wally Morgus went through the budget and described how it gets put together. The budget assumes service levels will stay the same as this year. There was an increase in the vehicle maintenance area due to the aging fleet.

Tucker Van Law said the budget is contingent on the DEQ VW grant coming through for the capital fund.

Grant Gager wanted to make sure all board members are clear about is changing the operating percentage allocation for FY20 from what we have been has the potential for us in FY21 if we revert to historical percentage, it leaves the funding partners with a larger percentage.

Wally Morgus talked about the funding requests. We looked at both historical levels of funding and levels of service. Blaine County has funded about 12% and Ketchum has been funding about 48-50% of the funding over the last ten years. Sun Valley started at 32% down to 23% over the years. Hailey and Bellevue are about 8% of total Joint Powers funding.

Wally Morgus suggested that we start "walking" into the original historical percentage shares and try to get back to those historical amounts over a few years.

Peter Hendricks asked Wally about the goal of returning to historical levels.

Wally Morgus said he wanted to ask the board about the goal of going back to the historical levels. Wally uncovered evidence that that was the direction they wanted to head in.

Grant Gager said the historical levels go back to the KART days. He thanked Wally for the work he has done on this and that we are moving in the right direction. Grant said that Hailey, Bellevue and Blaine County are fantastic partners to have but their participation could be better. Mountain Rides provides a tremendous benefit to Hailey and the county and they make the valley a more livable community.

Grant Gager said as he looked at Bellevue's budget, administration spent more on office supplies than they do on funding Mountain Rides and that was appalling to him.

Wally noted all the boardings for each city as well.

Jim Finch said there is the forgotten pay to use for Bellevue and Hailey and the county. The fare collection is a significant number. He said the work done with the historic percentages is a good direction to head. Communities with the LOT tend to be the ones who fund the major link in the system which is the Valley route. It has always been a challenge to find the equity.

Tory Canfield asked about the percentage of LOT goes to Mountain Rides. Grant Gager, city of Ketchum, said it ended up about 25% of total LOT to Mountain Rides. Peter Hendricks, city of Sun Valley, said it was about 30% of LOT to Mountain Rides. Peter had said that Jason Miller suggested a certain percentage of LOT to go to Mountain Rides, but council said No. Sun Valley council seems to be more comfortable with the dollar amount rather than a percentage.

Grant Gager said in the city of Ketchum, Mountain Rides is the 2nd biggest use of LOT next to public safety. He said back in 1978, Mayor Jerry Siefert was very visionary when he ushered in the LOT. It was 5% on beds and booze and the only acceptable use was public transportation.

Grant Gager said Mayor Bradshaw believes we are reaching peak LOT. To the extent that is true it is going to put future funding pressure on Mountain Rides. Grant Gager said when the bottom of the economy falls out, we will have to cut service.

Wally Morgus asked whether we should be riding the wave of the increased LOT and ask for 5% or should we ask for 3%.

Peter Hendricks said that he would support asking enough for operations and doesn't think we should piggy bank any money. He said the number we are showing for vehicle maintenance is astounding in a bad way. He does realize it is an aging fleet. He also said we should ask for legitimate operating needs and there a strong case for that.

Peter Hendricks left the meeting.

Grant Gager said it would be good to know what the options are for when the economy goes down and there would be budget revisions.

Wally Morgus wanted clarity from the board if we should ask for a percentage or start working towards the historical norms.

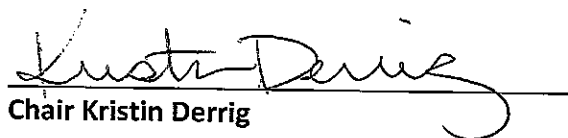
Jim Finch said the Hailey LOT came into being as a move by the chamber, Mountain Rides and Mayor McBryant to get money to meet Mountain Rides request for transportation. We were able to get funding for local Hailey service. Jim said it has always been a challenge to ask for the money from the less funded communities. Bellevue has no LOT so anything they contribute, and fares is their contribution. When the Ketchum LOT was set up and the community backed it, the idea was to provide transportation for the work force to go north to work. The benefit to the northern communities is there is less impact on streets, less pollution. Whenever we can bring a bus north, there is less impact on city of Ketchum. There is a philosophic challenge. He agrees with going back to the historic percentages.

Grant Gager said this is about all communities coming together and finding more stable funding for our services. When we run into funding shortfalls, we will have to cut service. It's about reexamining how we all benefit from this service. Cooperation has been fantastic but ultimately, we need drivers and gas and both cost money.

Wally Morgus said we want to look at this holistically. The benefits are spread across the system. We need to pay attention to the late-night runs which have become a commuter route.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Tory Canfield moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:50pm. Grant Gager seconded. The motion carried unanimously.


Chair Kristin Derrig