



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, May 15, 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: Vice-chair Grant Gager (Ketchum), Secretary Tory Canfield (at-large), Jim Finch (Hailey), Kathy Kristenson (Blaine County), Rick Webking (Sun Valley) and Tom Blanchard (Bellevue)

ABSENT: Chair Kristin Derrig (Ketchum) and Peter Hendricks (Sun Valley)

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*
Jane Conard
Michael David

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-chair Grant Gager called to order the meeting of Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 12:31pm. Tory Canfield called roll and determined that a quorum was present.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER THOUGHTS

Grant Gager thanked the staff in advance for all the hard work coming this summer season. Wally Morgus said he would like the board to listen to the mid-year report that he gave to the funding partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you...and with the Community... the mid-year good news from Mountain Rides.

*Thanks to **your support**, as well as **broad-based support and patronage from the people of Blaine County**, the state of Mountain Rides is **strong, vibrant, and growing**. This year...**ridership is up...spending is within budget** and the bottom line is positive...and our **expanding ridership is happy and satisfied with Mountain Rides and our services.***

Ridership is Up...

*Year-to-date (and, whenever you hear "year-to-date" or "this year," it refers to our **fiscal year**, which begins October 1 and ends September 30)...*

So...year-to-date...system-wide...on all of our bus routes...total ridership is ~251,000 riders, which is up by ~27,000 riders over the same period last year...that's a 12% year-over-year increase in total ridership...

At a route-by-route level, the news is just as positive...on our Town Routes, ridership is ~105,000, which is up by ~10,000 riders (+11%) over last year...on our Resort Routes, ridership is ~77,000, up ~15,000 riders (+25%) over last year...and on our core commuter service, the Valley Route, ridership is ~68,000 riders, which is up ~1,400 riders (+2%) year-over-year...

So...ridership is up...the ridership numbers are good...now, what about some of the other numbers...

Fiscal Responsibility is Alive-and-Well...and Taken Very Seriously...

Under the diligent control of Tucker, our Director of Finance, Mountain Rides' year-to-date financial picture (thru Jan 31, 2019) is a good one...

Total Revenue stands at ~\$1.24M year-to-date, which is ~\$40,000 over budget (+3.2%)...**Fares + Advertising Receipts**, revenue items that we can impact as the year plays out (as opposed to our Federal grant dollars and Joint Powers funding), total ~\$191,000 year-to-date, or ~\$7,000 above budget (+4.0%)...

Total Expenses are at ~\$1.03M year-to-date, which is ~\$20,000 under budget (-1.5%)...of note, because it comprises the lion's share of our Total Expenses, or ~72% of Total Expenses, is **Payroll Expense**, which, year-to-date, is ~\$716,000, or ~\$7,000 under budget (-1.0%)...**Stuart**, who does the scheduling of our drivers, does a commendable job each week filling all the shifts while minimizing overtime...he has really taken ownership of the challenge...and has produced outstanding results...

Lastly, speaking of **Payroll...raises** at Mountain Rides this year are averaging ~+2.5% (and range from ~+1.0% to ~+4.0%)...

One other number...bus passes sold to students this year total 366 versus 325 at the same time last year...up 41 passes (~+13%).

Customers are Happy & Satisfied...We Work Hard Every Day to Keep It That Way

We just ran through the numbers, however ... the numbers – ridership, revenue, expenses, bus passes – are really just the **play-by-play** component of the Mountain Rides' story.

When it comes to really understanding and appreciating the value of Mountain Rides in our community, the more interesting and telling part of the story is the **color commentary**.

The diligence, safe operation, and customer-friendly focus of our drivers, especially our Valley Route drivers – Hortencia, Raul, Maira, Rob, Hillary, Michael, Jose, Bryan, Kurt, Ryan, Teo, Stuart, and Ashley – engender a genuine loyalty among our riders that manifests as positive – and priceless – word-of-mouth messaging throughout the community, and inspires countless compliments about our drivers; our friendly, professional service; our safety; our system of routes and schedules; our contributions to the community; and the commitment, consistency and foresight of our community partners.

Here are a few examples:

Compliment #1

Thanks for having such great drivers on your buses. They are very helpful and love to help the passengers. We ride mainly the Blue, Gold, and Silver Routes and each of the drivers encountered is great. I ride the bus on my commutes...and I enjoy it each time...especially not having to drive!!

Compliment #2

Jose did an amazing act of kindness. I was at the Northwood stop waiting for a bus going towards Warm Springs. Jose, in a Valley bus headed toward Sun Valley (the opposite direction), pulled into the Northwood stop. He got out of his bus and walked across the street to tell me that I had missed the Warm Springs bus by 10 minutes. He suggested that I take his bus to Sun Valley and catch one of the buses from Baldy View Circle to Warm Springs. Thank you to Jose; I just wanted to make sure his act of kindness did not go unnoticed. Mountain Rides has a GREAT service.

Compliment #3

*I was in Ketchum this week for 3½ days...and Mountain Rides **upgraded** my stay! Before I left Seattle, I was easily able to locate the bus stop at the Hailey airport using your website and Google maps. When my flight arrived, for the trip into Ketchum (and back) I purchased a round trip ticket from a Mountain Rides driver.*

I bused to Baldy and back with Mountain rides three times. I took one morning off from skiing and used Mountain Rides to visit Sun Valley Resort, Dollar Mountain, and Elkhorn. Your drivers are really kind to your riders. The buses themselves are fine. I used the external ski racks on the buses six times without problems.

I love it that schedules are posted at each stop. That really reduces rider anxiety about when the bus is coming...and the buses arrived when the schedules said they would!

Mountain Rides is a good system and you have a good team. Compliments, like these, far outnumber the minor complaints – aka opinions – we receive from time-to-time. That’s the mid-year report from Mountain Rides...if you have any questions or comments, I’d be happy to field them now...

Thank you.

Tory Canfield said that was fantastic.

Wally Morgus said as of Monday, our Low-No grant was submitted by ITD to the FTA for evaluation. The total of the grant that Mountain Rides submitted is \$2.49 million for low-no buses and infrastructure.

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, Apr 17, 2019
- b. Receive/file: Performance Dashboard report for April 2019
- c. Receive/file: Financial Statements and Bills Paid reports for March 2019
- d. Receive/file: Finance & Performance Committee, May 1, 2019, Minutes & Report from Chair
- e. Receive/file: Reports from Director, Community Development; Director, Transit Operations; Director, Finance & Administration; Executive Director

Tom Blanchard moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Tory Canfield seconded. Grant Gager said there was great strength in the Valley Route. Grant Gager said the ridership numbers closely correspond to the LOT income. **The motion passed.**

5. ACTION ITEM:

Approve Mountain Rides’ FY20 Joint Powers’ Funding Requests

Wally Morgus took this to the Finance committee, and they all agreed. Wally adopted the Ketchum format for the other requests as well. Wally said Mountain Rides is a holistic service and not a set of parts or pieces. The information he is submitting to the joint powers is very similar and consistent across the board. If you look at the funding requests, he set forth one primary request and 3 other scenarios.

Grant Gager said later night service is a need heard from business owners to employees.

Currently, there are employers who drive their employees home after work because there is no service. We recognize that we are a late-night service economy and there is a need to get

up and down the valley. There is a gap in the late-night service and would like to reach riders that we haven't been able to reach in the past.

Jim Finch said there is a need to have more peak service because the commuter buses are full. Grant Gager said the late-night service would be opening a new market and not just adding to an existing market. This is aspirational for Mountain Rides to be thinking of this. The Valley route ridership numbers are good, and we are investing in the backbone of Mountain Rides service.

Rick Webking moved to approve the FY20 funding request for each Joint Power, as follows: City of Sun Valley: \$352,500; City of Ketchum: \$704,500; City of Hailey: \$84,700; City of Bellevue: \$6,500; Blaine County: \$185,000. Tom Blanchard seconded. Tom Blanchard said he was sensitive to what the board was saying regarding late night service. We don't know what the audience will be for later service neither do we know what the audience would be for more afternoon service. There is anecdotal evidence more service is needed but we can't fund both. Grant Gager asked Ben Varner about the equipment need to add more service. Ben Varner said we would need more buses, but we would also need another mechanic as we move forward. As a valley route user, Kathleen Kristenson said there is a need for late night service. **The motion passed unanimously.**

6. ACTION ITEM:

Approve awarding a Contract for Consulting Services re: Alternative Fuel Technology

Rick Webking stated that we received three responses from qualified firms for the Alternative Fuel RFP. The board made a decision to go with Fannesbeck Electric Bus Solutions. They have worked for Park City for years and has very hands-on experience. The Finance committee made a very thorough review of all candidates.

Jim Finch moved to award the contract for Alternative Fuel Technology Consulting Services to Fannesbeck Electric Bus Solutions. Tom Blanchard seconded. The motion passed.

7. Executive Session: Per Idaho Code 74-206(1)(c), to discuss real estate

Tom Blanchard made a motion that the Mountain Rides' Board of Directors enter Executive Session as authorized by Idaho Code 74-206(1)(c) at 1:35pm. Tory Canfield seconded.

Roll call: Jim Finch, Tom Blanchard, Grant Gager, Kathy Kristenson, Rick Webking and Tory Canfield.

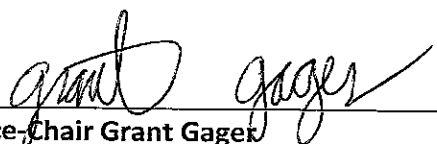
8. Grant Gager stated return to open/public session at 1:44pm.

9. ACTION ITEM: Per Executive Session, if any

There was none.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Tory Canfield moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:44pm. Tom Blanchard seconded. The motion carried unanimously.



Vice-Chair Grant Gager