



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Call**

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 Tom Blanchard (Bellevue), Vice-chair Kathleen Kristenson (Blaine County), Secretary Grant Gager (Ketchum), Melody Mattson (at-large), Kristin Derrig (Ketchum) and Rick Webking (Sun Valley) (by phone)

ABSENT: Juan Martinez (Hailey) and Peter Hendricks (Sun Valley)

ALSO PRESENT: Mountain Rides Executive Director, Wally Morgus
Mountain Rides Director, Finance & Administration, Tucker Van Law
Mountain Rides Director, Transit Operations, Ben Varner
Mountain Rides Director, Community Development, Kim MacPherson
Safe Routes Coordinator, Cece Osborn

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tom Blanchard called to order the meeting of Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 10:00am via conference call, called roll and determined that a quorum was present.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD MEMBERS and STAFF

Tom Blanchard asked to pass on to the drivers a thank you from the board.

Kristin Derrig said more restaurants are going to take-out.

Melody Mattson said the Advocates Attic has been closed and she has not been riding the bus.

Wally Morgus said the ridership is changing as the week goes on. We would like to consider going to the spring schedule for Blue route earlier than planned.

Administrative staff have the option of working from home.

MRTA has posted the CDC guidelines in English and Spanish on the buses.

MRTA has been monitoring other transit agencies around the country. Transit has been classified as an essential service.

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 of Regular board meeting, February 19, 2020

b. Receive/file: Performance Dashboard report for Feb 2020

c. Receive/file: Financial Statements and Bills Paid Reports for Jan 2020

- d. Receive/file: Planning & Marketing Committee, Mar 4, 2020, Minutes
- g. Receive/file: Finance & Performance Committee, Mar 4, 2020, Minutes
- h. Receive/file: Reports from Director, Community Development; Director, Transit Operations; Director, Finance & Administration; Safe Routes Coordinator; Executive Director

Kristin Derrig moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Melody Mattson seconded. The motion passed.

5. ACTION ITEM:

Authorize Battery electric Bus Infrastructure Expenditures

Ben Varner said this was presented to the Finance & performance committee and they recommended that it be moved to the full board. Ben said the key piece here is the first step of a \$20,000 contract with an electrical engineer. These electrical engineer expenses for the infrastructure will likely be the only FY20 expenses. The rest of the expenses will come in the FY21 budget. Our policy calls for the board to approve the whole construction budget.

Wally Morgus stated that what we need approved is the entire budget.

Grant Gager stated he is in favor, but it is scary to be spending money on a project and will be interesting to see how the JPA steps up to contribute their share of the project.

Kristin Derrig agreed with Grant Gager regarding spending the money with the unknowns ahead of us.

Rick Webking said to look at this as a management tool and we can look at this down the road and it will have to come to the board again before the money is spent.

Kathleen Kristenson moved to the construction budget for electric bus infrastructure in an amount not-to-exceed \$215,908. Kristin Derrig seconded. The motion passed.

6. Executive Session:

Executive Session per Idaho Code 74-206(c), to discuss real estate acquisition

Kristen Derrig made a motion that the Mountain Rides' Board of Directors enter Executive Session as authorized by Idaho Code 74-206 (c). Kathleen Kristenson seconded. The motion passed. Roll call: Kathleen Kristensen, Grant Gager, Kristin Derrig, Rick Webking, Melody Mattson and Tom Blanchard.

7. Chair Tom Blanchard stated we will return to open/public session

8. ACTION ITEM:

Per Executive Session

There was none.

9. ACTION ITEM:

Authorize Special Actions Pursuant to Coronavirus State of Emergency

Wally Morgus gave an update regarding Mountain Rides and the plans implemented since the Coronavirus State of Emergency.

- The Gold and Bronze routes have been shut down for the season.
- The Silver Route is staying in service for the Sun Valley Co employees and will end it when the demand diminishes.

- After consultation with Peter Hendricks in Sun Valley, the Red Route was discontinued yesterday. We received a call from the Elkhorn homeowner’s association. Staff put signs up throughout Elkhorn.
- Valley Route activity has been decreasing due to schools being shut down and we see that reflected in the afternoon as well. Valley Route in the evening from 6 to 11:30pm, we had one rider southbound. We are seeing many changes to the Valley ridership as places close.
- We have been talking internally with staff and are thinking of switching to the Blue Route spring schedule earlier.
- We are looking at this with respect to our workforce as well.
- We look to our core values that we all agreed to when we have challenges ahead of us: Safety, People and Connections.

Tom Blanchard asked about the numbers of employees affected by the run reductions.

Ben Varner stated the employees affected are 16 full time drivers, 3 seasonal/part time folks and winter only drivers. We are going to a shoulder season 25 days ahead of where we would be normally.

Grant Gager said there is a delicate dance between service and employees. He said for staff to look to making changes to employees and schedules.

Kristin Derrig agreed with Grant Gager. The Cellar Pub is making changes by offering take-out and will be closed at 9pm. Socially they are trying to encourage people not to be out late.

Wally Morgus said the seasonal people will not be getting any more hours and we can lay them off with severance. The full-time drivers and staff during a complete shut down could be paid pro forma according to the existing schedule as if we were continuing to operate. We do have end of season tasks that we could keep our full-time drivers employed up to a month.

Kristin Derrig moved to authorize the Executive Director, in consultation with the chairs of the Finance & Performance committee and the Planning & Marketing committee and staff, to devise and implement any special plans necessary for workforce deployment and compensation during the extent of the coronavirus emergency. Kathleen Kristenson seconded.

Rollcall: Kathleen Kristenson, Grant Gager, Kristin Derrig, Rick Webking, Melody Mattson and Tom Blanchard. The motion passed.

Ben Varner asked Grant Gager about what the City of Ketchum is doing to keep their employees busy. The employees are working if able and if self-quarantined will continue to be paid. These are our employees and we need to treat them well and Mountain Rides is in the same position.

Wally Morgus said thank you to all board members to be with us on this.

Grant Gager stated that they have granted some extraordinary powers to Wally Morgus and offered his help if needed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Melody Mattson moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:33am. Kristin Derrig seconded. The motion carried unanimously.



Chair Tom Blanchard