



**REGULAR MEETING
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 12:00 p.m.
Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho**

Board Members of the Mountain Rides Transportation Authority of the Cities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum and Sun Valley, and Blaine County, State of Idaho, met in a Regular Meeting in the Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho.

PRESENT: Chairman Peter Everett, Vice-Chairman Susan McBryant, Board Members Michael David, Mark Gilbert, Joe Miczulski, Nils Ribbi, and Steve Wolper.

ABSENT: Secretary Jim Jaquet.

ALSO Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller

PRESENT: Mountain Rides Business Manager/Treasurer Wendy Crosby
Mountain Rides Operations Manager Jim Finch
Mountain Rides Maintenance and Facilities Manager Rod Domke
Administrative Support Coordinator Kim MacPherson
Vanessa Fry, Community Transportation Association of Idaho District 4 Mobility Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Peter Everett called to order the meeting of Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 12:04 p.m.

2. Comments from the Chair and Board Member thoughts

Chairman Peter Everett related the history of KART (Ketchum Area Rural Transit), Sun Valley Resort’s yellow buses, the PEAK bus running from Ketchum to Bellevue, and Wood River RideShare multimodal organization merger into Mountain Rides Transportation Authority through a Joint Powers Agreement.

One topic for the Mountain Rides annual strategic planning retreat is to develop a policy that allocates partner funding to operation.

Board Member Steve Wolper has suggested the Finance and Performance Committee consider two new employee benefits: to establish an emergency fund for an employee in need; and to establish a fund for merit increases or one-time recognition.

Chairman Everett said Seattle recently canceled its free downtown transit service since homeless people were using the system to ride buses all day long.

3. Public comment period for items not on the Agenda (including questions from the press)

No comment at this time.

4. Action items and discussion items

a. Discussion Item: Board seats up for appointment – Blaine County and Hailey seats

Chairman Everett suggested the Board wait until January to elect officers, when the Hailey and Blaine County seats are up for reappointment. Everett said he would be retiring as chairman.

b. Discussion Item: Comments on ITD Performance Measures Proposal

Idaho Transportation Department is proposing performance measures to evaluate the success of transit systems. Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller said the Board’s Finance and Performance Committee has discussed measurements and baselines to use for the measurements. One measure ITD didn’t include is customer satisfaction. Board members expressed concern that providers across the state are different, and use different equipment and fuel, making it difficult to compare them equitably. CTAI District 4 Mobility Manager Vanessa Fry said the measurements would likely go to the Idaho Mobility Council for approval, and influence funding allocation for next year. Fry agreed that comparison of different entities was unfair; and the IMC also disagreed with the proposal.

Board Member Mark Gilbert said ITD didn't seem to respond to feedback. It would be helpful to know how ITD planned to use the measurements. Miller said he'd requested additional information from ITD on the request, but hadn't received a response.

Board members authorized Miller to write a response to ITD. They decided to wait to see what happened with IMC before encouraging Mountain Rides funding partners to participate.

c. Action Item: Approve FY2013 Transit Service Plan

Mountain Rides is a county-wide transit system, not a system that just connects individual jurisdictions.

Executive Director Miller outlined changes of the different routes and schedules.

- Blue Route: no changes to route or schedule, but expanded summer service.
- Red Route: no changes to route but how it operates will change. Winter service will have half-hour frequency from 9:00 to 3:00 for peak ski season, and one-hour service the rest of the ski season. Summer service will be hourly from 8:30 a.m. to 7:25 p.m. There will be no Red Route service until the mountain opens on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 22nd and then after the mountain closes in April until June 15th, 2013.
- Green Route: no changes to route. Winter evening hours of service have been eliminated.
- Silver Route will be extended slightly to cover River Run's later closing.
- Gold Route still has options that need to be discussed.
- Bronze Route is no change.
- Valley Route will have no change to timing or route, but Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) funding will pay for another morning commute trip and weekend deviation to River Run.
- Hailey free route has no change.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

- Elkhorn residents questioned and clarified route schedules through Elkhorn
- Staff clarified the additional Valley Route run.
- Ken Viafore thanked staff for providing a great service.

Board Member Mark Gilbert moved to approve staff recommendation for Red, Blue, Green, Bronze, Valley and Hailey routes. Motion seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski, and passed unanimously.

After the Board's special meeting on October 4, the committees further discussed the routes. The answer to keeping the Silver Route on schedule during peak winter times seemed to be a floater bus. The Gold Route is pretty much being used as a floater already, so the committee suggested augmenting the Silver Route by discontinuing the Gold Route, and putting any operational savings toward the capital account.

Board Member Mark Gilbert moved to discontinue Gold Route immediately, augment Silver Route with a floater bus in operation for an additional 60 hours, and any savings would be put into a Sun Valley City reserve capital account. Motion seconded by Board Member Nils Ribi. In discussion, Ribi said Sun Valley City purchased the Sprinter buses for the Red and Gold routes. Board Member Nils Ribi said the concept is to replace the expensive and unnecessary Gold Route with something that is productive and useful. Board Member Steve Wolper said Mountain Rides staff should be given enough flexibility to use the concept to do what works best. **Board Member Mark Gilbert amended his motion to an 80-hour floater bus, seconded by Board Member Nils Ribi.** In discussion, Chuck Williamson said the greatest concentration of Elkhorn condos is located in the Elkhorn Village core. Mountain Rides Operations Manager Jim Finch said the main carrier in that area is Blue Route, which remains the same. Gold Route was carrying less than five passengers an hour, most of who rode between Dollar Cabin and Baldy View Circle. Sun Valley Company basically pays for Silver and Bronze routes. Gold Route is a benefit to Sun Valley Company, but they may accept the expanded Silver Route in its place. McBryant said she would not want to see an expanded Silver Route funded from general funds. Gilbert directed staff to come back to the Finance and Performance Committee if the Silver Route floater exceeded 80 hours. Everett assured the Board that the capital reserve fund will not be considered a credit by Sun Valley City toward their contribution next year; and will not be used as an argument to reinstate the Red Route slack bus. Miller said this route reconfiguration addressed pressure on the Silver Route for this season, and he hoped Sun Valley Company would react positively. He wasn't sure how the Silver Route floater would work in future years, as Dollar usage and events increase. **Amended motion passed unanimously.**

d. Discussion Item: Comments on ITD proposal on Mobility Management funding in Idaho

Also Present: Vanessa Fry, Community Transportation Association of Idaho District 4 Mobility Manager

The Board reviewed Miller's letter of response to ITD's proposal on Mobility Management funding. Board Member Gilbert suggested a minor revision. CTAI District 4 Mobility Manager Vanessa Fry said CTAI was the only applicant to do mobility management services for ITD. The state apparently considers mobility management important, but balks at adequately funding it.

e. Discussion Item: Summer 2012 Customer Survey

Administrative Support Coordinator Kim MacPherson said surveys showed that riders are completely satisfied with Mountain Rides service. Mountain Rides has really good drivers, two of which—Pam and José—received especially high approval ratings. This is the first summer to summer survey, and the approval rating has increased.

One frequent request is to not cut buses during slack. MacPherson said most of the requests come from Blue Route commuters when the service is cut from half-hour to hourly.

Board Member Michael David left the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

MARK GILBERT SAID HE WISHED MIKE WERE HERE WHEN THEY DISCUSSED PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CIP.

f. Action Item: Approve FY2013-FY2017 Capital Improvement Plan.

This year's CIP includes the "local funding share" needed from each partner to accomplish planned projects for future years. Board Member Gilbert said capital projects and buses should be supported on a pro-rata share. Sun Valley Sprinter buses aren't the sole responsibility of Sun Valley City any more than the South Valley maintenance facility is a Bellevue project. Board Member Ribi felt a partner might be able to support a particular capital project; but other Board members felt improvements should be for the betterment of the system as a whole. Miller said one new Sprinter had just been received that would rotate with the existing Sprinters, which are a little over halfway through their lifespan.

Board Member Mark Gilbert moved to approve the FY2013-FY2017 Capital Improvement Plan, as presented, and approve the funding allocation. In discussion, Board members noted that a funding allocation by year would track the funding allocation by partner. Miller said Mountain Rides does not depreciate vehicles on a per-hour basis. One capital improvement not included in the plan is kiosks at major stops. **Board Member Mark Gilbert withdrew his motion for lack of a second.**

g. Action Item: Approve annual financial audit engagement letter with Anderson Arritt Robins Waters, Certified Public Accountants.

This is the same auditor as the last three years; they were low bidder last year. The price for this year's audit is increased by \$100. Mountain Rides is satisfied with their work. There are no substantial changes in the contract, except the language is clarified that the auditor is responsible for preparation of federal grants, and Mountain Rides is responsible for their presentation.

Board Member Mark Gilbert moved to approve the annual financial audit engagement letter with Anderson Arritt Robins Waters, CPA, seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Committee reports

a. Planning and Marketing Committee report from Chair Steve Wolper

Approve October committee minutes

Board Member Steve Wolper moved to approve the October committee minutes from the Planning and Marketing Committee meeting, seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski. In discussion, Ribi asked that the minutes say what was done instead of have question marks. **Motion passed with five in favor and Board Member Mark Gilbert abstained.**

b. Finance and Performance Committee report

Approve October committee minutes

Vice-Chairman Susan McBryant moved to approve the minutes of the Finance and Performance Committee. Motion seconded by Board Member Mark Gilbert, and passed unanimously.

6. Staff reports

a. Transit report from Operations and Maintenance with September 2012 ridership

Mountain Rides Maintenance and Facilities Manager Rod Domke said they've been using less expensive, lower grade oil in the IC buses, which only go at most 3,000 miles on an oil change.

Mountain Rides Operations Manager Jim Finch said Valley Route ridership was increasing now that Woodside Blvd. is complete, and he expected to see ridership continue to increase. The Hailey free bus ridership has increased considerably, probably partially due to 50¢ fare on the Valley Route.

b. Bike-Ped report

No report at this time.

c. Business Manager Report

Mountain Rides Business Manager/Treasurer Wendy Crosby asked Board members to sign Conflicts statements.

d. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Jason Miller said the South Valley facility is in the Bellevue P&Z zoning entitlement process, which will take about 60 days.

7. Consent Calendar items

- a. Approve minutes – September regular board meeting**
- b. Receive and file September 2012 Financials**
- c. Receive and file September 2012 Bills Paid**

Board Member Ribi asked if the Finance Committee’s review of the potential \$83,000 surplus would come to the entire Board. Business Manager Crosby said the Finance Committee would make a recommendation to the Board about how the excess funds would be allocated to the capital funds.

Vice-Chairman Susan McBryant moved to approve the Consent Calendar, including the Minutes of September 20, 2012 Regular Board Meeting, the September Financial Report and September Bills Paid Report. Motion was seconded by Board Member Steve Wolper, and passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

With no other business to come before the Board, Board Member Joe Miczulski moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:08 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chairman Susan McBryant. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Peter Everett

cc: Commissioner Angenie McCleary, Blaine County
Virginia Egger, Interim Sun Valley City Administrator
Gary Marks, Ketchum City Administrator
Sandy Cady, Ketchum City Clerk
Heather Dawson, Hailey City Administrator
Mary Cone, Hailey City Clerk
Dee Barton, Bellevue City Clerk
Tess Cenarrusa, Carey City Clerk
Randall Patterson, Carey Mayor