

Mountain RIDES

RECORDED

REGULAR MEETING
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Thursday, September 20, 2012, 10:30 a.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: Vice-Chairman Susan McBryant, Secretary Jim Jaquet, Board Members Michael David, Mark Gilbert, Joe Miczulski, Nils Ribi, and Steve Wolper.

ABSENT: Chairman Peter Everett.

ALSO Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller

PRESENT: Mountain Rides Business Manager/Treasurer Wendy Crosby
Mountain Rides Maintenance and Facilities Manager Rod Domke

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Susan McBryant called to order the meeting of Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 10:30 a.m.

2. Comments from the Chair and Board Member thoughts

There were no comments at this time.

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

There was no public input at this time.

4. Presentations

The Board congratulated Mountain Rides Chairman Peter Everett, who was named the Community Transportation Association of Idaho (CTAI) Member of the Year.

5. Committee reports

a. Planning and Marketing Committee report from Chair Steve Wolper

Approve September committee minutes

Committee Chairman Steve Wolper said the Committee had a spirited discussion on how to pare down the budget to compensate for loss of some funding. He felt the planning discussion should involve the entire Board. The Committee also discussed looking at marketing as an outreach. Running special buses to the different towns for holiday parades, and having a later bus for night events, perhaps at a reduced fee, could induce people to get on the bus.

Board Member Nils Ribi made a change to the September Planning and Marketing Committee minutes.

Board Member Nils Ribi moved to approve the September Planning and Marketing Committee minutes, as amended. Motion seconded by Board Member Steve Wolper, and passed with six in favor and Board Member Jim Jaquet abstained.

b. Finance and Performance Committee report from Chair Jim Jaquet

Approve September committee minutes

Committee Chair Jim Jaquet moved to approve the minutes of the September Finance and Performance Committee meeting, seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski. Motion passed with six in favor and Board Member Steve Wolper abstained.

6. Staff reports

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

The main Valley route Bus #5 had a major breakdown a few weeks ago. It should be back in service this week. The IC buses that must go to Rush Truck in Twin Falls are now being repaired faster. One bus is back, but three more need to go to Twin for reprogramming and repair.

Mountain Rides is purchasing a power-brush bus-washing system, which will save time and labor expense. Driver training has improved driver's driving habits, which benefits the Maintenance Department in fewer parts replacement.

Mountain Rides gets a lot of calls asking for bus schedule and route updates on the Woodside improvements. Once improvements are done, Mountain Rides plans some kind of completion celebration.

Miller questions the accuracy of the ridership data. Recent reports showed segments of routes with zero ridership, which is suspect. The start of school could also be a factor. RouteMatch is going through all routes data; Mountain Rides is comparing average history to current route data. Mountain Rides is also beginning to compare ridership numbers with local events and information, i.e., skier numbers, car counts on the highway, etc.

b. Bike-Ped report

Social Bicycles was in town to do training and maintenance on the SoBi RideShare bikes. The program kick-off has been delayed to next summer, but staff, potential partners and Hailey are very excited about the program. There are a few SoBi bikes being used at Hailey City Hall, Community Campus, and St. Luke's.

c. Business Manager report

A couple capital projects are getting close. Eight bid packages for the East Fork project went out, but requirements are a little onerous for the size of the project.

I-TRIPS (Idaho Transportation Reimbursement, Integration, and Performance System) is hosting an educational seminar on ITD's new online system that manages vehicle assets, performance reporting, and grant management.

d. Executive Director report

Board Member Jim Jaquet moved to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate acquisition, pursuant to Idaho Code 67-2345 I(c), since Mountain Rides just received an update on the purchase of property in the south valley. Motion seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski, and passed unanimously.

Mountain Rides staff uses a Cloud-based file server, Dropbox. Miller asked if Board members would like to have packet folders, by-laws and other documents available on Dropbox. Board Member Ribi said he would prefer the packets be emailed or made available on the website. Vice-Chairman Susan McBryant suggested the website have a downloadable agenda with items linked to corresponding pages.

Board Member Steve Wolper moved to direct staff to move forward to create agendas and packets on the Internet. Motion seconded by Board Member Nils Ribi, and passed unanimously.

The Idaho Transportation Department holds Board meetings in their different districts. They visited Blaine County recently, and toured the airport, Ketchum whitewater park, and Mountain Rides shop. They were updated on the Ketchum Transportation Hub and Social Bicycles, Vanpool, East Fork stop, Woodside project, south county property, etc. They rode a bus down to the Chobani plant in Twin Falls. Board Member Jaquet said they wanted the Board to understand why a free bus system and Local Option Tax were important to a resort economy.

Highway 75 expansion to four lanes from the hospital to the bridge is funded, and will start next summer.

7. PUBLIC HEARING for FY2013 BUDGET

- a. Mountain Rides is adopting its FY2013 Budget totaling \$3,956,684.00, which includes \$2,369,934.00 in expenses for general operations and \$1,586,750.00 in expenses for capital/contingency funds.**

Crosby explained the major components of the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

Board Member Mark Gilbert moved, seconded by Board Member Jim Jaquet, to adopt the budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Action items and discussion items

- a. Discussion Item: FY2013 Transit Service Plan adoption process**

The Board scheduled a special Board meeting on October 4, and public workshops on October 10 in Ketchum and Hailey to present and discuss the FY2013 Transit Service Plan.

- b. Discussion Item: Ketchum Transportation Hub public process update**

A second series of open houses was held at Ketchum City Hall and Ketchum Town Square. The Town Square workshop was well-attended by a diverse group of people. Overall opinion was very positive. The committee and Ketchum will now focus on six possible site locations, using public input received; and make a recommendation to

Ketchum City Council by the end of the year. McBryant commended the graphics team on making the site plans so understandable.

c. Discussion Item: MAP-21 Federal Transportation Bill overview

Miller gave an overview of the new Federal Transportation Bill, which will determine Mountain Rides' federal funding. Rural areas will see what looks like new opportunities, but the funding must cover capital needs. Grant funds have to be used within the year; and the elimination of earmarks will cause challenges in doing big capital projects. Gilbert said "full-funding" should be available to fund projects over several years.

d. Discussion Item: IC Bus status and warranty update

Mountain Rides had a teleconference with Rush Truck District Manager and general managers of the Twin Falls Rush Truck operation. The slow repair turnaround in Twin Falls was not their fault, but due to International/IC Bus not providing the proper engineering schematics; and the truck chassis were totally atypical. Rush Truck has since found a new engineering process to reconfigure the vehicles' onboard computer system. One MRTA bus is now done, and time will tell if it is fixed. Buses were purchased on a contract that provides a five-year 250,000-mile extended warranty; and it's likely the engine repairs done so far are covered under the warranty.

e. Action Item: Approve updates to MRTA Employee Manual for FY2013

Mountain Rides had contemplated an amendment to the Employee Manual to allow employees to donate paid time off to another employee who is undergoing a significant life event that requires extended time off. One long-time Mountain Rides driver is now seriously ill with cancer, and would benefit from the amendment, as would his spouse, also a Mountain Rides driver. The Finance and Performance Committee supported this provision, and asked that it be presented directly to the whole Board to avoid delay.

Board Member Mark Gilbert moved to approve the added paragraph amendment (on page 63) to the MRTA Employee Manual for FY2013, with two additional limitations, that the donor may not make a donation that would cause their accrual to fall below 50% of their maximum annual accrual rate; and the recipient may not exceed in any 12 consecutive month period more than 50% of their maximum annual accrual rate for PTO. Motion seconded by Board Member Nils Ribi. In discussion, Crosby said seasonal employees only accrue the equivalent of statutory annual holidays, which is a maximum of 48 hours per year. The PTO policy in this format has been in effect for one fiscal year, so a seasonal employee could have a maximum of 48 hours, and minimum hours available to donate. Miller would rather seasonal employees not participate in the plan. Motion passed unanimously.

f. Action Item: Authorize Executive Director to complete agreements with local funding partners for FY2013

Board Member Mark Gilbert moved, seconded by Board Member Joe Miczulski, to authorize Executive Director to complete agreements with local funding partners for FY2013. Motion passed unanimously.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Member Nils Ribi moved to go into Executive Session, pursuant to Idaho Statute 67-2345 1(c) to discuss acquisition of real estate. Motion seconded by Board Member Michael David. Roll call: Nils Ribi yes, Michael David yes, Mark Gilbert yes, Jim Jaquet yes, Susan McBryant yes, Joe Miczulski yes, and Steve Wolper yes. Motion passed unanimously.

THE MOUNTAIN RIDES BOARD RESUMED OPEN SESSION.

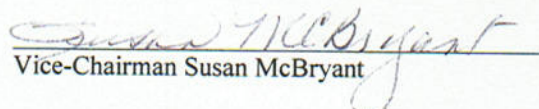
10. Consent Calendar items

- a. Approve minutes – August regular Board meeting
- b. Receive and file August 2011 Financials
- c. Receive and file August 2011 Bills Paid

Board Member Mark Gilbert moved to approve the Consent Calendar, including the Minutes of August, 2012 Regular Board Meeting, the August Financial Report and August Bills Paid Report. Motion seconded by Board Member Steve Wolper, and passed unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.


Vice-Chairman Susan McBryant

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