



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Call and in person, Ketchum City Hall, Ketchum, ID**

The Mountain Rides Transportation Authority's Board of Directors met in a Regular Meeting in person and on a conference call.

**PRESENT:** Chair Melody Mattson (at-large), Vice-chair Tom Blanchard (Bellevue) Neil Bradshaw (Ketchum), Martha Burke (Hailey), Grady Burnett (Sun Valley), and Kristin Derrig (Ketchum)

**NOT PRESENT:** Kathleen Kristenson (Blaine County) and Peter Hendricks (Sun Valley)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mountain Rides Executive Director, Wally Morgus  
Mountain Rides Director, Finance, Tucker Van Law  
Mountain Rides Director, Assets and Planning, Ben Varner  
Mountain Rides Director, Communications, Kim MacPherson  
Mountain Rides Manager of Human Resources, Jerry Garcia

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Melody Mattson called to order the meeting of Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 1:00 pm via conference call and in person at Ketchum City Hall, Ketchum, ID. Secretary Grady Burnett took roll and determined that a quorum was present.

**2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD MEMBERS, and STAFF**

Melody Mattson said she is glad the buses are so full.

Tom Blanchard asked about the improvements in the East Fork area.

Wally Morgus said there are improvements to occur there next summer.

Kristin Derrig said the Blue route bus running until 12:20am is great. She also asked when the late-night bus could come back and run for another hour to 1:20am in the winter.

Wally Morgus said that as the service plan exists now is that the late-night expansion is not included.

Neil Bradshaw suggested that we keep talking about it and doesn't want to bring it back where it jeopardizes the safety of the Mountain Rides drivers.

Ben Varner said we are coming up to a challenging year and will need to look at cutting service if we bring something back.

Kristin Derrig said the safety of drivers is important. She respects and understands the issues.

Wally Morgus said the Twin Falls service is contingent on getting some funding from other sources. The service is ramping up, in fact the Director of Transit Operations is driving to Twin Falls today with a rider.

The challenges to the budget this year have to do with the facility Mountain Rides wants to build in Bellevue and asking for extra funding from the Joint Powers. Neil Bradshaw said the \$600,000 ask for the building is a large number for Ketchum. Tucker Van Law also said there are challenges in the operating budget with liability insurance going up about 36% and Health Insurance is up 6.1%.

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

*No comments.*

**4. ACTION ITEM: Consent Agenda**

- a. *Approve: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, April 19, 2023*
- b. *Receive/file: Minutes of Planning & Marketing Committee Meetings, May 3, and June 7, 2023*
- c. *Receive/file: Minutes of Finance & Performance Committee Meeting, May 3, and June 7, 2023*
- d. *Receive/file: Performance Dashboard report for May 2023*
- e. *Receive/file: Quarterly March Capital, Facilities, Workforce Housing, and Contingency Fund Financial Statements and Bills Paid. March and April Operating Fund Financial Statements and Bills Paid*
- f. *Receive/file: Reports from Director, Assets & Planning; Director, Communications; Director, Transit Operations; Director, Finance & Administration; Manager, Human Resources; Executive Director*
- g. *Approve: Surplus/Disposal of Bus 417*

**Kristin Derrig moved to receive, approve, adopt, and file the Consent Agenda. Martha Burke seconded. The motion passed.**

**5. DISCUSSION ITEM:**

*FY24 Funding Requests*

Wally Morgus brought this forward for discussion. We are exceeding our expectations this year with our ask. The operations piece is normal, but the capital request is over and above what we normally ask for. We would like to receive this one-time CIP ask this fiscal year so we can keep the project moving along. We are asking other funding partners to get involved in this match such as Sun Valley Company.

Neil Bradshaw suggested there may be some creative ways to look at this project.

Wally Morgus said we are asking St. Luke's to contribute to the Twin Falls service.

Gardy Burnett asked about the discrepancies regarding the funding from the JPA. Why are some higher than others.

Wally Morgus said it goes back to when the Joint Powers Agreement was put together. And there were some years where the City of Sun Valley cut back their funding and we had to cut back service.

Neil Bradshaw said the majority of services bring the work force from Bellevue and Hailey to Ketchum but is that a benefit to Ketchum or south valley. It's a function of the relative budgets of the different cities. Ketchum saw the value in that as well. If we can get the majority of people off the road on the way to Ketchum, that's good for Ketchum. We have strong support from the City of Ketchum council and mayor. His grief comes from the percentage increases being the same across the board, Ketchum's increases are on a higher basis.

Martha Burke agreed and said the challenges are the same for Hailey which has a fifth of the budget. Lisa Horowitz and Martha are very supportive of this request. Martha appreciates what Ketchum does for the Mountain Rides budget.

Neil Bradshaw said this is an important issue for the housing discussion as well. Neil said they are forecasting their LOT to be down this year. The good news is good support for public transportation, and he would like to see the City of Sun Valley put in more funding.

**6. DISCUSSION ITEM:**

*BoD Items of Interest*

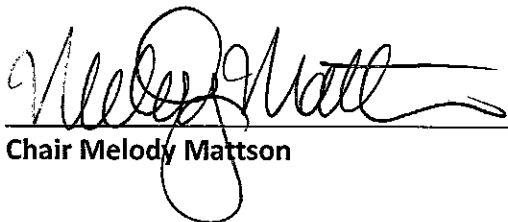
Wally Morgus said Sarah Michaels has asked for consideration of putting the HOV discussion back into the ITD conversation for the improvements on Hwy 75. From a transit point of view, we would like to see them back. He thinks it went out of the consciousness of the planning for the Hwy. If we don't do it now, it will never get put back in.

The board agreed and supported Wally to go forward.

Neil Bradshaw said during the EIS study, the HOV lanes were suggested.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Kristin Derrig moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:36pm. Martha Burke seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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Chair Melody Mattson