



**Job announcement:**  
**Executive Director**

**Salary:** \$79,000 - \$112,000; plus excellent benefit package

**First application review:** January 31, 2018; open until filled



*Do you...*

*Want to be a part of an idyllic mountain community that values and supports public transportation?*

*Want to join a highly competent and successful team of transportation professionals that collaborate in a cooperative and professional culture?*

*Want an opportunity to leverage your experience and knowledge within an organization that is growing and looking ahead to new challenges?*

## **Mountain Rides Transportation**

**Authority** (MRTA) is seeking an Executive Director to lead this multi-modal public transportation agency in the Sun Valley area of Idaho, a beautiful mountain community in Idaho.



Photo Credit: Josh Wells

### **the opportunity.**

Working under the direction of an 8 member publicly appointed Board of Directors, the Executive Director directs, plans, organizes and controls the management and operation of public transportation services in Blaine County, Idaho, which includes the mountain resort communities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley.

Executive Director duties include general management of MRTA, administering the financial affairs of the system, insuring MRTA compliance with state and federal regulations, and serving as the liaison to key local, regional, state and federal organizations to facilitate multimodal planning and funding and to advance the system's future. This position requires significant outreach to, and interface with, a wide array of stakeholders, elected officials, regional and community leaders and customers.

The Executive Director reports to an appointed board of directors of eight that govern MRTA and requires ability to align organization with vision, mission, and goals set by the board, as well as:

- Collaborating with the board of directors on relevant issues
- Attending board and committee meetings and giving regular updates, reports, and presentations on organizational progress.
- Managing the budget development and financial performance of organization.
- Developing funding strategies and writing grants.
- Soliciting funding and support from private, local, state, and federal sources; and reporting on financial and performance indicators.
- Strategic planning and market strategy development that results in increased usage and awareness of services.
- Partnership building with local government entities, community organizations, businesses, and the general public is vital.

The Executive Director serves as organization’s spokesperson and must seek to create opportunities for improved transportation facilities (i.e. park and ride lots, bus shelters, transit facilities, etc.), and favorable local land use and regional transportation planning towards public transportation.

## **the organization.**

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The MRTA statement of purpose is: Mountain Rides provides and supports a full range of transportation alternatives\* for Blaine County and adjacent communities that are safe, user oriented, environmentally friendly, economically sustainable and supportive of a strong local economy.

MRTA goals are:

1. Provide and advocate for well-funded transportation system that reduces the number of single occupancy vehicle trips and meet the needs of our communities.
2. Promote knowledge and increase awareness of the social, financial, environmental and community benefits of transportation alternatives\*.
3. Promote regional cooperation on transportation issues.

*\*Alternatives include, but are not limited to, walking, biking, rideshare, vanpool, carshare, bikeshare, fixed route bus, paratransit demand response, custom bus, commuter bus, transportation planning and transportation counseling.*

MRTA is a Joint Powers Authority created by the Cities of Sun Valley, Ketchum, Hailey, Bellevue, and Blaine County, and is funded by these local entities, as well as federal transit funds, farebox revenues, and private funding from



employers and businesses including Sun Valley Company.

MRTA profile:

- 20 buses and 15 vans
- 2 maintenance and administration facilities; one in Bellevue and one in Ketchum
- Annual ridership of 520,000+ passengers that has been growing over the past four years
- 750,000-800,000 miles per year
- 45 peak season employees
- An annual operating budget of \$2.9 million plus additional budget for capital projects
- 25 bus shelters and over 120 bus stops
- Bike-ped programs that include a fleet of 30 bikeshare bikes, Safe Routes To School, and community events like Bike To Work and School Day

For more information on Mountain Rides, please visit: <https://www.mountainrides.org/>

## **the community.**

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MRTA serves the communities of Bellevue, Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley in Blaine County, Idaho, which is home to the Sun Valley resort. Sun Valley was developed in the 1930s by the Union Pacific Railroad as the country's first destination winter resort and has been a world-class ski resort since its inception. Sun Valley was recently ranked the second best ski resort in North America by Ski Magazine and Powder Magazine's Top 8 Ski Towns.



In addition to downhill skiing, Blaine County offers unparalleled outdoor recreation without the crowds. Locals and visitors enjoy biking over 400 miles of local singletrack and 30 miles of paved pathways, fly-fishing the Big Wood River and Silver Creek, hiking and camping in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, soaking in remote natural hot springs, Nordic skiing on over 200km of expertly groomed trails, backcountry skiing, hunting virtually unlimited and accessible public lands, watersports on high mountain lakes like Redfish Lake, and climbing high peaks that surround the area. Blaine County is truly an outdoor sport mecca where there's always something new to try or a new area to explore.

And the offerings of the Sun Valley area don't stop with recreation. The Ketchum-Sun Valley area is rated as one of America's top small towns for art. With more than a dozen galleries, two live theater companies, the Sun Valley Writers' Conference, the Sun Valley Film Festival, free summer symphony concerts, and one of the West's premier nonprofit arts organizations, the area definitely shines as a hub for arts and culture, especially given its relatively small size.

Other notables include a top notch school district, a growing economy, world-class dining options, and walkable downtown areas where there's always a concert, performance, or community event taking place.

## **the candidate profile.**

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This position requires:

- Four years' progressively responsible leadership, managerial, and administrative experience in a public transportation agency, or a closely related industry
- Outstanding communication and interpersonal skills, especially adept at navigating politics and connecting to elected officials
- Ability to lead in a team-oriented, customer-focused environment that emphasizes cooperation over hierarchy
- Strategic and long range planning experience; project management capabilities, especially for development of transportation assets
- Bachelor's degree in transportation, public or business administration, or a closely related field

Having a passion for public transportation and desire to be in a mountain resort community are critical.

The ideal candidate would have experience writing, receiving, and managing federal and state transportation grants; understanding of multi-modal transportation including bus, vanpool, bike, and pedestrian programs; experience working in the public (government) sector and knowledge of relevant rules and regulations; and a master's degree in public or business administration. An ideal candidate would also bring a track record of building partnerships, leading a rural or resort transportation agency, and strong public transportation industry knowledge.

## **how to apply.**

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In order to be considered for this opportunity, please submit a cover letter stating why you are the right candidate; your resume with qualifications and work history; and six professional references.

To be considered as part of the first review, submit your application materials by **5 pm MST, Wednesday, January 31, 2018** to: [MRTArecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:MRTArecruitment@gmail.com)

This position is open until filled.

MRTA is an equal opportunity and veteran's preference employer and does not discriminate because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, national origin, disability, ancestry, marital status, veteran status, medical condition or any protected category prohibited by local, state or federal laws. Complete equal opportunity policy and job description can be found under the employment section of the MRTA website at <https://www.mountainrides.org/about-mountain-rides/>.

Any questions about this opportunity can be sent to [MRTArecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:MRTArecruitment@gmail.com) or by contacting Jason Miller at 208-720-5977.