



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 1:00 pm
Ketchum City Hall, 191 5th St West, Ketchum, ID**

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

PRESENT: Grady Burnett, Peter Hendricks, Neil Bradshaw, Kristin Derrig, Tom Blanchard, Muffy Davis, Martha Burke

ALSO PRESENT: Wally Morgus, Carlos Tellez, Jamie Canfield, Jerry Garcia, Liz Ruiz, Andrea Hernandez, Raul Romero, Eric Humbach

NOT PRESENT: Melody Mattson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Grady Burnett called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Kristin Derrig took attendance and confirmed that a quorum was present.

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

- Tom Blanchard recognized the positive editorial in the Mountain Express highlighting Mountain Rides and expressed gratitude to the team.
- Discussion followed regarding electric bus funding and recent appropriations for additional electric buses.
- Announcements:
 - Jamie has taken on a new role as Director of Community Transportation
 - Raul Romero Campos was introduced as the new Manager of Transit Operations, bringing nearly 19 years of experience with Mountain Rides.
 - Board members expressed appreciation for Jamie's service and welcomed Raul in his new role.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none

4. PRESENTATION: ITD PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SITE REVIEW

Connie Edwards, Grants and Contracts Officer, ITD Office of Public Transportation, delivered the following report:

“A site review is technically ITD standing in the shoes of FTA. We make sure all of the policies and procedures that FTA requires are followed.

The site review process starts with a technical assistance rating. How much technical assistance, given past performance, do we anticipate the agency will need in the upcoming year. Major staff changes, past findings, new technology, it all plays a part.

The ratings are:

- High: they need a lot of attention, and they get a site review every year.
- Medium: some need some technical assistance, need some help throughout the year, and we come out every 2 years.
- Low: minimal amount of technical assistance needed. Personally, I see it more as collaboration, and a site review every 3 years.

Mountain rides falls into that low category. We conduct a site review every 3 years. But the site reviews are not a small project. We ask for about 35 documents or policies, and the site review packet itself is 52 pages long. It's a heavy lift. We send it out in January, and the site review is in May. We do a desk review when the packet comes back, and we kind of look through and see if there's any missing documents, and clear up any misunderstandings before, so we have a clear picture when we need to come out to you. And then we come to your facility.

And it was a real treat. We got to come by last year when we were in the area and saw kind of the in-progress construction, but to have it mostly complete was so very cool. It's a beautiful facility and a beautiful community.

Let me just tell you a few things that I found impressive when I was visiting Mountain Rides.

Number one, definitely, is the staff. So many came out to support the organization in their site review. Present and invested in the results, ready to provide any information we needed in their area of expertise. Wally, Jamie, Carlos, Liz, Jerry, just to name a few. So proud of the new facility, so proud of the buses, and so proud to be part of MRTA. It came through in all of our exchanges with your organization. The positivity, the pride, it was really nice to see.

Secondly, the level of organization. From Wally throughout the staff, there was never an instance we didn't get what we needed. There was never a 'well, I can't find that, can I get it back to you?' I talk a lot about invoicing. That's kind of my bread and butter. Jerry and Liz do such a great job. It's clean, it's organized, it's so easy to deal with, but I found that throughout the entire organization. And that doesn't happen by chance. It's an organizational norm. And it's through and through Mountain Rides.

A few of the areas we examine with the staff is financial capacity, procurement, ADA compliance, Title VI compliance, drug and alcohol testing and requirements, safety and security, marketing, vehicle maintenance, facility and equipment maintenance, technology and software, and lobbying. We asked for documented proof as well as a representative of the above-mentioned departments. We asked them how certain tasks are carried out. The staff was ready and prepared to tell us about the process.

The site review, we had no findings. Um, they got an A+. Which means they passed all areas of the review. Mountain Rides is such a beautiful area of Idaho, and with all the electric buses, something that I don't think anybody thought could be accomplished, let alone in Idaho. It's so cool.

They are definitely an example of doing it right. When it's not done right, it's hard on everyone, from the staff to the community in general, to us. So we appreciate Mountain Rides and their dedication to community and staff"

Board members thanked Connie for her positive review and praised staff for their excellent work.

5. ACTION ITEM:

Approve Consent Agenda

- a. *Authorize/approve: Disbursement of MRTA's funds for paying bills on hand as of July 14, 2025*
- b. *Authorize/approve: Declaration of Surplus: Bus 201*
- c. *Approve/file: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, June 18, 2025*
- d. *Approve/file: Minutes of Planning & Performance Committee, July 2, 2025*
- e. *Approve/file: Minutes of Finance & Performance Committee, July 2, 2025*
- f. *Receive/file Performance Dashboard, June 2025*
- g. *Receive/file: May 2025 Operating Fund Financial Statements and Bills Paid*
- h. *Receive/file: Report from Director, Fleet, Maintenance & Facilities; Director, Transit Operations; Director, Finance, Human Resources & Administration; Manager, Marketing & Communications; Executive Director*

Items approved with the exception of the June 18, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes, which were amended to correctly reflect Tom Blanchard's late arrival.

Neil Bradshaw moved to approve the consent agenda, and Martha Burke seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION ITEM: FY26 Service Plan

- FY26 service plan will remain largely the same as FY25, with the exception of the removal of the extended Bronze Route during the World Cup.
- Continued late-night service on Blue Route (Fridays and Saturdays until 1:30 AM) and Valley Route (daily until 1:00 AM).

- Continued one-seat Valley Route service to the airport, with an exploration of a potential dedicated airport service.
- Community Health Transportation to Twin Falls continues.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM: *FY26 Budget*

- A balanced budget draft was presented.
- Proposed across-the-board 4.5% employee wage increase (to account for inflation and prior under-adjustment).
- Discussion ensued on whether to consider merit pay/bonuses in the future.
- Federal 5311 grant funding secured for FY26 (~\$2.7M).
- Continued CARES funding to support Community Health Transportation.
- Electric buses continue to lower overall fuel and maintenance costs.

8. DISCUSSION ITEM: *Items of Interest to the Members*

- Discussion on ridership trends, numbers are leveling off following COVID-era spikes.
- Board agreed success should be measured beyond ridership, including customer satisfaction. Staff will begin working on community/rider survey questions.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Neil Bradshaw moved to adjourn the meeting, and Kristin Derrig seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.



Chair Grady Burnett