



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 1:00 pm
Sun Valley City Hall, 81 Elkhorn Rd, Sun Valley, 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, Kristin Derrig, Tom Blanchard, Martha Burke, Melody Mattson, Muffy Davis

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Grady Burnett called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m. Kristin Derrig took attendance and confirmed that a quorum was present.

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

- Parade & Community Outreach: Appreciation to staff for the Bellevue Labor Day parade theme "Serving the community one free ride at a time"; positive reception noted.
- Ribbon-Cutting Event: Thanks to staff for successful facility ribbon-cutting and tours; strong attendance and publicity.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none

4. ACTION ITEM: Approve Consent Agenda

- a. Authorize/approve: Disbursement of MRTA's funds for paying bills on hand as of September 15, 2025
- b. Approve/file: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, August 20, 2025
- c. Receive/file Performance Dashboard, August 2025
- d. Receive/file: July 2025 Operating Fund and Bills Paid
- e. Receive/file: Report from Director, Fleet, Maintenance & Facilities; Director, Transit Operations; Manager, Finance, Human Resources & Administration; Manager, Marketing & Communications, Director, Accessible and Community Transport; Executive Director

- Fleet and Facilities: Staff reported intermittent charger issues in Ketchum, with one unit under repair; Bellevue's new charging station is fully operational. Bellevue's boiler system venting error by a subcontractor is being corrected at no additional cost to MRTA.
- Human Resources: Jerry Garcia and Liz Ruiz will attend the State Council Employment Law Conference in Boise on September 19 to strengthen HR knowledge.
- Capital Projects: The Ohio Gulch/Meadows infrastructure improvements, funded by a \$12M federal RAISE grant (state match via ITD), remain under ITD management with potential construction starting as early as summer 2026
- Ridership: Hailey Route ridership has grown significantly, with school use, daycare trips, and community campus activities contributing. The board emphasized the need to monitor neighborhood growth for future service adjustments.
- Fuel and Fleet Mix: Electric fleet usage is increasing, reducing diesel expenses. Staff anticipate nearly all-electric service by January 1, 2026, including ADA vans, except for the Community Health Transportation (CHT) route to Twin Falls.
- ADA Service: Weekend trip requests are increasing, with riders supporting medical, shopping, and personal needs. Service coverage has been extended countywide where feasible. Board members encouraged highlighting ADA growth in outreach to local governments.
- Vanpool: August showed a temporary ridership dip, but September trends indicate recovery. The vanpool fleet was intentionally reduced to 14 vehicles from 19 for right-sizing.
- Procurement: Replacement air compressors sourced from overseas have proven more reliable than OEM parts, with inventory maintained on hand.

Tom Blanchard moved to approve the consent agenda, and Kristin Derrig seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION ITEM: *Presentation and discussion re: On-demand Micro Transit; Stephen Murray (Downtowner), presenter.*

Stephen Murray presented an overview of Downtowner's turnkey microtransit services, which provide point-to-point shared rides within defined service zones. Key points:

- Microtransit complements fixed-route service by covering first/last-mile and in-town circulation gaps.

- Examples from Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Aspen, Tahoe, Steamboat, and Carbondale demonstrate rapid adoption and ridership growth.
- The service operates via app or call-in, with ADA accessibility and bilingual support.
- Vehicle options include hybrids and EVs, with flexible branding to match local transit systems.
- Funding can utilize FTA Section 5311 rural operating funds with local match, as well as special grant opportunities.
- Discussion: Board members highlighted equity and ADA benefits, potential ridership growth in Hailey and Bellevue, and opportunities to reduce strain on fixed routes while increasing Valley Route frequency. They emphasized the need for clear cost modeling and funding pathways.
- Next steps: Downtowner will prepare a preliminary pro forma for Ketchum, Sun Valley, Hailey, and Bellevue service areas.

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

No additional items were raised.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Kristin Derrig moved to adjourn the meeting, and Tom Blanchard seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.


Chair Grady Burnett