



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, October 15, 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, Tom Blanchard, Kristin Derrig, Peter Hendricks, Muffy Davis, Martha Burke, Neil Bradshaw, Melody Mattson

ALSO PRESENT: Wally Morgus, Carlos Tellez, Jamie Canfield, Jerry Garcia, Raul Romero, Eric Humbach, Andrea Hernandez, Liz Ruiz, Wendy Jaquet, Jim Jaquet, Kristine Bretall, Trent Donat (Double check spelling)

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

There were none.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none

4. DISCUSSION ITEM: Presentation and discussion re: Story Tour, Wendy Jaquet, presenter
Wendy Jaquet provided a briefing on the volunteer-led "Story Tour", now in its 12th year.

- **Overview & Purpose:** The tour uses regular Blue Route service (10:15 a.m. start) to share local history with residents and visitors, introducing new riders to Mountain Rides and encouraging bus use. In 2025, the program carried 277 people over the season, generally using two buses to manage demand.
- **Partners & Promotion:** Longtime collaboration with Visit Sun Valley/Visitor Center and, this year, with The Community Library and the Museum of History & Culture. A Bloomberg-supported museum brochure now includes the Story Tour on the back, improving visibility.
- **Operations:** Tours run on the Blue Route with deviations; sign-ups are capped at 20 per bus (leaving seats for regular riders); if demand exceeds capacity, a second bus runs a mirrored script starting at the other side. Volunteer guides follow a script of points of interest and lead a short history quiz.

- **What's Next:** The Story Tour team requested: (a) exploring a slightly longer season (starting earlier than July 4 and extending through Trailing of the Sheep); and (b) help evaluating amplification/PA options.
- **Board & Staff Reaction:** Directors expressed support for the program's community value and rider-acclimation benefits. Operations noted a longer summer/shoulder-season run is feasible, so long as there are no route deviations; winter operations are not recommended due to capacity and weather constraints.
- **Follow-ups:** The board requested a brief proposal from Wendy outlining desired 2026 dates, any content tweaks, and PA/amplification options with rough cost estimates. Staff will provide feedback on operational fit and opportunities for MRTA promotional support. Ideas for school-age groups were noted as a potential fit outside peak winter constraints.

5. ACTION ITEM: Approve Consent Agenda

- Authorize/approve: Disbursement of MRTA's funds for paying bills on hand as of October 13, 2025*
- Approve/file: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, September 17, 2025*
- Approve/file: Minutes of Finance & Performance Committee, October 1, 2025*
- Receive/file Performance Dashboard, September 2025*
- Receive/file: August 2025 Operating Fund and Bills Paid*
- Receive/file: Report from Director, Fleet, Maintenance & Facilities; Director, Accessible & Community Transport; Director, Finance, Human Resources & Administration; Manager, Operations; Manager, Marketing & Communications; Executive Director*

Before the vote, the Board discussed several items from staff reports and packet materials:

- **Battery recall on 2022 New Flyer buses:** A safety recall requires limiting state-of-charge to 75% while the manufacturer works on a fix; software updates are being deployed, and battery replacements are possible under warranty. Service is continuing; Operations will mitigate reduced cold-weather range with planned bus swaps. Staff are in near-daily contact with the manufacturer and will keep the Board updated.
- **Insurance payment timing:** The large ICRMP line item reflects the first half of annual insurance due in October; expenses are allocated monthly.
- **Ridership reporting (Hailey):** September's higher numbers are caused by a counting error. Buses that start on the Hailey Route and transition to the Valley Route are recording all passengers under the Hailey Route. The operations team is correcting this issue.
- **Vanpool:** Fleet size is intentionally smaller than prior years; a low-utilization public van is being phased out (it used a flat fee rather than per-mile charges). FY25 closed with a ~\$4,000 vanpool deficit; staff will evaluate a modest FY26 rate adjustment to close the gap.
- **ADA/CHT:** ADA requests are rising; service continues countywide as feasible, including Carey and north of Ketchum. E-vans are now in ADA use. Positive feedback was shared.

- **On-demand micro transit (Downtown) status update:** Staff have a Friday call scheduled with the vendor to review a pro forma and service/zone options. Directors emphasized due diligence on costs, funding mix (e.g., FTA 5311), and service tradeoffs (e.g., potential replacement of in-town fixed routes while boosting Valley frequency). A North Valley pilot was discussed conceptually (order-of-magnitude cost cited as substantial).

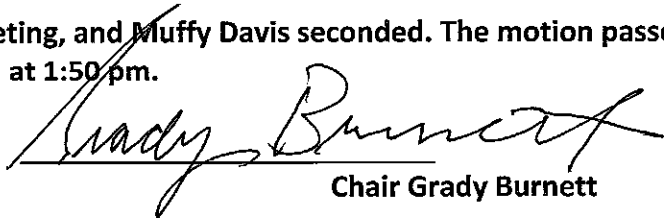
Kristin Derrig moved to approve the consent agenda, and Muffy Davis seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Brief update on ITD construction and lane configuration near Elkhorn/Serenade: paving/stripping is weather-dependent; a temporary measure may be used to open all lanes before sustained cold sets in.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Tom Blanchard moved to adjourn the meeting, and Muffy Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.


Chair Grady Burnett