



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Thursday, May 16, 2024, 1:00 p.m.
Hailey City Hall, 115 Main Street South, Hailey, ID 83333**

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

PRESENT: Vice-chair Tom Blanchard (Bellevue), Peter Hendricks (Sun Valley), Neil Bradshaw (Ketchum), Melody Mattson (at-large), and Muffy Davis (Blaine County)

NOT PRESENT: Grady Burnett (Sun Valley) and Kristin Derrig (Ketchum) Martha Burke (Hailey)

ALSO PRESENT: Mountain Rides Executive Director, Wally Morgus
Mountain Rides Director, Communications, Kim MacPherson
Mountain Rides Director, Maintenance, Carlos Tellez
Mountain Rides Director, Transit Operation, Jamie Canfield
Mountain Rides Manager of Finance, Jerry Garcia
Mountain Rides Finance & Administration Specialist, Liz Ruiz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-chair Tom Blanchard called to order the meeting of Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 1:05 pm. Tom took roll and determined that a quorum was present.

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

There were no comments.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

4. ACTION ITEM: Consent Agenda

- a. *Approve/file: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, April 17, 2024*
- b. *Approve/file: Minutes of Planning & Marketing Committee, May 1, 2024*
- c. *Approve/file: Minutes of Finance & Performance Committee, May 8, 2024*
- d. *Receive/file: Performance Dashboard, March 2024*
- e. *Receive/file: March 2024 Operating Financial Statements and Bills Paid and March quarterly Capital, Facilities, Workforce Housing, and Contingency Fund Financial Statements and Bills Paid*

- f. Receive/file: Report from Director, Fleet, Maintenance & Facilities; Director, Community Transportation; Director, Transit Operations; Manager, Finance & Administration; Executive Director*

Peter Hendricks noticed that the expenses for the van service had been fairly high over the revenue for the last three months and asked what was happening.

Jerry Garcia answered that they are currently working on changing tires from winter to summer tires and also had to replace windshields. Towards the end of winter, they always have to change windshields.

Wally Morgus agreed and said that this is the typical cyclical nature of vanpool. They start catching up, and revenue starts exceeding expenses as they move deeper into the summer and have more vans in service. Wally said if they looked at March 2023, they would see a typical progression.

Peter Hendricks said it would be interesting to see a fiscal year-end report to see if expenses exceed revenue or if it's mostly breakeven.

Wally Morgus said it's close to breakeven, but revenue typically exceeds expenses by a small amount.

Jerry Garcia also stated that they don't have as many vans out during the winter as in the summer because of the landscaping and seasonal workers.

Wally said they will see the revenue and expense balance go the other way as they go into the summer, and by the end of the fiscal year, they should be at breakeven or a bit of a profit on the costs.

Peter also added that he noticed that revenue is above on the actuals, and expenses are below on the actuals and congratulated the Mountain Rides team.

Wally said we are finally catching up because we had the third payroll budgeted for March. We have been collecting our reimbursements on the 5311, and as usual, our joint powers are right on the mark with their payments.

Tom Blanchard asked what is happening on the blue route that the expenses are so much higher.

Jerry Garcia responded by saying that they are paying 2 dollars extra for any routes that go past 11 p.m. There have also been tire replacements on the Blue Route buses.

Tom Blanchard asked if the Finance Committee could have a conversation regarding the chart showing where we are distributed on a monthly basis, as well as some other issues that are equally vague, to make them more precise, get rid of them or change them.

Neil Bradshaw moved to receive, approve, adopt, and file the Consent Agenda. Melody Mattson seconded. The motion passed.

5. **ACTION ITEM:** *Approve Purchase of Two (2) Light-duty Battery Electric Buses.*

Wally Morgus said they identified Phoenix Motorcars as the OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) vendor from which they would like to purchase their next round of light-duty electric buses through a quote process complying with the Idaho code.

Wally also mentioned that they received three quotes, and Phoenix's quote came in as the lowest. We feel like they are the best quality in sustainability, and Phoenix has been around since 2003. Wally also said that with their assessment by every measure, they can determine Phoenix Motorcars is a reliable OEM provider that will stick around.

Neil Bradshaw asked about the vehicle floor plan and whether the floor plan in the packet is the one they are going with or if they are still deciding on one. Neil also asked if there were wheelchair positions.

Wally Morgus answered that they already have the floor plan; it's the one provided in the package. Wally also said that there were wheelchair positions and that they have drop-down seats for when wheelchairs are not in place.

Muffy Davis asked what service the vans will be used for.

Wally Morgus said they will be used mostly on the Red Route, but they could also be deployed on the Hailey and Silver routes, and depending on demand, they could also be deployed to Twin Falls. Wally also said that's why they are looking at adding a charging station at St. Lukes in Twin Falls so they can top off when they are in Twin Falls using that vehicle. Wally said the station is a four or five-thousand-dollar item.

Melody Mattson asked how long it takes to charge them.

Carlos Tellez responded that they charge in 3 hours.

Melody Mattson moved to approve and adopt the purchase of the 2 light-duty battery electric buses. Muffy Davis seconded. The motion passed.

6. **DISCUSSION ITEM:** Airport Service

Wally Morgus discussed the process of the Airport Service. Wally talked about a solution using the Valley Route but not going into the airport on every run. They have looked at the flight schedule and are tailoring the proposal for service around the flight schedule. They are sending the Valley Route to the airport on its northbound run 3 times a day, and southbound 2 runs will go into the airport. Wally also talked about the big one being the late-night arrival; they will send the northbound valley bus into the airport at around 11:20, which will service that last flight. Basically, 6 Valley Route runs a day into the airport.

Wally Morgus also talked about the cost going down to about \$105k for the year. Wally said he thinks they have come up with a really good solution.

Tom Blanchard mentioned that we should keep in mind that we don't want to increase the time for the valley route.

Neil Bradshaw commented that the Air Service Board approved funding towards the electric bus facility in Bellevue, and they approved 700k. Neil also said that the funding for the airport service could potentially come from the Air Service Board, and the Air Service Board will discuss whether they want to fund it or not. Neil also said that 100K is much more manageable for the Air Service Board. Neil also said that he would rather have the route run a little later other than time it perfectly to catch the last stragglers. He also said that we will continue to look at this, and he will bring it to the Air Service Board's Attention at the appropriate time.

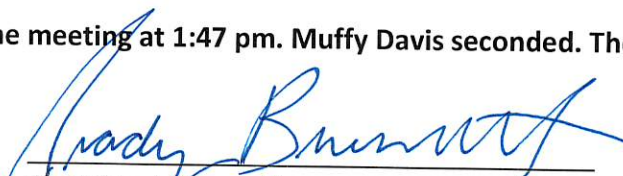
Peter Hendricks said that he hopes that when we announce this, we target the phrase Pilot Program because this is not the final way to look at this. Peter also asked if there was ever a contemplation of cutting the valley route service to make room for the airport service. Wally Morgus responded that, yes, they were contemplating running the valley route from downtown Ketchum straight up the highway to Saddle Rd rather than into Warmspring past the YMCA and around that way to make up the time.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM:

Items of Interest to the Members

8. ADJOURNMENT

Melody Mattson moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 pm. Muffy Davis seconded. The motion carried unanimously.


Chair Grady Burnett