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RECORDED



**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Friday, April 17, 2026, 1:00 pm
Ketchum City Hall, 191 5th Street West, Ketchum, Idaho**

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 Preckegees, Martha Burke, Christina Giordani, Muffy Davis, Mike Burchmore

ALSO PRESENT: Wally Morgus, Carlos Tellez, Jamie Canfield, Liz Ruiz, Andrea Loera

1. CALL TO ORDER

Grady Burnett called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Kristin Derrig took attendance and confirmed that a quorum was present.

2. ACTION ITEM: *Seat New Member to the Board*

Grady Burnett welcomed Mike Burchmore, appointed by the City of Sun Valley to fill the board seat previously held by Peter Hendricks.

Muffy Davis moved to accept the appointment of Mike Burchmore to the Mountain Rides Transportation Authority Board of Directors, effective April 17, 2026, through December 31, 2027. Tom Blanchard seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Peter Preckegees noted he may need to leave the meeting early due to a previously scheduled meeting.

No additional comments were made.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

5. ACTION ITEM: *Approve Consent Agenda*

- a) *Authorize/approve: Disbursement of MRTA's funds for paying bills on hand as of April 13, 2026*
- b) *Approve/file: Minutes of Regular Board Meeting, March 18, 2026*

- c) *Approve/file: Minutes of Finance & Performance Committee, April 1, 2026*
- d) *Approve/File: Minutes of Planning & Marketing Committee, April 1, 2026*
- e) *Receive/file Performance Dashboard, March 2026*
- f) *Receive/file: January 2026 Operating Fund Financial Statements and Bills Paid*
- g) *Receive/file: Report from Director, Fleet, Maintenance & Facilities; Director, Community Transportation; Manager, Finance & Administration; Director, Transit Operations; Manager, Marketing & Communications; Executive Director*

Board members reviewed the consent agenda. Discussion focused primarily on electric bus battery replacement delays, airport shuttle performance, and ridership trends.

Staff provided updates regarding:

- Carlos Tellez stated that there are delays in software development needed for battery replacements on certain electric buses.
- Wally Morgus said they anticipate continued operation of electric buses despite delays.
- Muffy Davis said Jamie Canfield is doing a great job with the Airport Shuttle and that she's so happy that they have ADA accessible vans. Jamie said there's been a slowdown due to the slack season, but it's still doing well, and he anticipates it to pick back up over the summer. Kristin Derrig said she took the shuttle, and it was great. She also noted that there is a lot of signage inside the airport pointing you to the airport shuttle.
- Wally noted that ridership declines are attributed to lower tourism activity, workforce reductions, and community concerns affecting public transit usage.

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*

Microtransit/Downtowner-VIA Discussion

Wally discussed the ongoing exploration of an app-based microtransit service for Ketchum and Sun Valley, intended to supplement or potentially replace portions of fixed-route service. The proposed service would provide shared, door-to-door transportation using smaller ADA-accessible vehicles.

Staff explained that:

- Discussions are now occurring with VIA, which acquired Downtowner.
- VIA operates similar systems in resort communities such as Jackson Hole, Park City, and Steamboat Springs.
- The Board will likely review the concept in greater depth during the June strategic workshop.
- Initial implementation would likely focus on Ketchum and Sun Valley, with possible future expansion to south valley.

Late-night Transportation Discussion

The Board discussed community interest in restoring late-night transportation options between Ketchum/Sun Valley and the south valley. Wally noted that Mountain Rides-operated late-night route would likely be cost-prohibitive, but partnerships with local businesses or future microtransit opportunities may provide alternative solutions.

Federal Funding Update

Wally informed the Board that Mountain Rides is projected to receive approximately 12% less in federal 5311 rural transportation funding for fiscal years 2027 and 2028, resulting in an estimated annual reduction of approximately \$325,000.

Key points included:

- Changes in rural population calculations due to Twin Falls becoming classified as a small urban area.
- Potential impacts on District 4 allocations.
- Possibility of using reserves in the short term.
- Continued outreach to Idaho Transportation Department officials and elected representatives to better understand allocation methodology and explore alternatives.

Highway 75 Transit Infrastructure Improvements

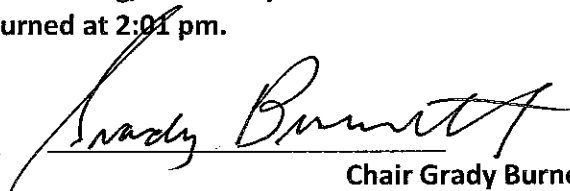
Wally shared positive updates regarding the Highway 75 transit infrastructure project and associated RAISE grant funding

Key updates included:

- ITD has separated the transit infrastructure portion from the larger Highway 75 project.
- Funding remains in place for the transit infrastructure improvements, including tunnel and bus stop enhancements.
- ITD intends to have shovel-ready plans completed before the September 30 deadline to preserve the federal grant funding.
- Construction could begin as early as summer 2027.

7. ADJOURN

Tom Blanchard moved to adjourn the meeting, and Muffy Davis seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 pm.


Chair Grady Burnett