

# **Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee**

**April 22, 2022**

## **MINUTES**

**Via Zoom**

### 1. Roll call and introductions

- a. Lisa Shepard, CEO Missoula Aging Services
- b. Desiree Dean-Kaldor, State of Montana Transportation Coordinator
- c. Jennifer Sweten, Director of Operations, Mountain Line
- d. Tom Thompson, Peer from Summit Independent Living
- e. Travis Hoffman, Summit Independent Living
- f. Jon Sand, MPO
- g. Marsha Hauk, Missoula Manor
- h. Shanti Johnson, Communications, Mountain Line
- i. Ron Knight, Fleet Manager, AWARE
- j. Mike McCollough, Missoula Development Services

### 2. Public comment

- a. None.

### 3. Approval of March 25th meeting minutes

- a. Travis Hoffman moved to approve the March 25 minutes. Ron Knight seconded. Passed unanimously.

### 4. Discussion and vote of support/non-support re: City Roundabout Committee

- a. Remove the word vehicle in reference to intersection crashes.
- b. Started out as a Roundabout First Policy. Goal is to make it more holistic and emphasize about safety and accessibility.
- c. Check about updated crash data, ultimately will go to the Intersection Crash Safety Team
- d. Include people with mobility devices, bicyclist vs people on bicycles
- e. MPO and City Council has reviewed the document and provided input on language
- f. Resolution has language about how roundabout is always safest, contradicts attitudes about
- g. As a motorist, roundabouts can be efficient and smooth, pedestrians need to be much more cautious, drivers are concentrating on navigating the roundabout and pedestrians often are not stopped for. For this reason, roundabouts aren't always the safest option. 4 lane roundabouts even more complicated. Definitive language in resolution needs to address this.
- h. Shall first consider use of roundabout when evaluating intersection, and determine if a roundabout is the safest treatment.
- i. (1) The city of Missoula shall first consider the use of and roundabout and its potential impact on safety when evaluating intersections
- j. Sightlines for low vision and blind must be considered, including landscaping, center landscaping can cause blind spots.

## 5. Discussion of return to in-person meetings

- a. How does the committee feel about in-person/ hybrid meetings?
- b. Need to discuss where meeting will be held, Summit Conference room is available. Next meeting is May 27.
- c. City of Missoula and Aging Services have conference space available if there is ever a conflict with Summit.
- d. Teams vs. Zoom? TBD

## 6. Mountain Line Updates

- a. Making headway on various projects
- b. Operating Training and recruitment are going well, on track for service expansion July 10, 2022. Sunday services will be 9-9 M-F 5:45-10:50, Sat 9-11. Some difference on different routes, paratransit hours will apply.
- c. 30% increase in fixed route service coincides with paratransit trips as well.
- d. MDT has not delivered vehicles from 2021. Relying on mechanics to keep rolling.
- e. This week paratransit software was tested, addressed glitches. Technology will be improved. Communicating with users what to expect. that starting next week will receive automated text or call at 5 minutes, and when arrives. Currently defaulting to a call, can set text/ call preference. More features will be deployed in future. More communication from an automated system. Switching to system on Monday. Software provider will be in town to help roll out.

- f. New fixed route application, new voice announcement in buses, more ADA announcements, better timed ADA announcements (on fixed route, “now approaching Trempers shopping” no control over this in past. Can control where announcements occur and improved timing. Will be computer voice and all routes will be completed by end of May.
- g. Focused on sustainability, all month long been promoting Spring Shift, encouraging people to think about sustainability as the weather improves, route race, entered into prize, family friendly scavenger hunt. Next month is bike month, communications about bike and bus.

#### 7. Update on city planning efforts & current projects

- a. VA - plans for a bus stop at the VA hospital have disappeared. Mtn Line has started. Route 11. Checking in Colin, road construction and light going in.
- b. Planning efforts around Higgins Avenue continue. 3 draft alternatives were released to the public during the month of March. Planning staff hosted several Open Houses and an online Story Map and survey to collect public feedback. There was general support to include buffered bicycle lanes and increased safety features.

#### 8. Other business & announcements

- a. Zero-Fare, 3-year demonstration project, so well received community partners 6 year. Mil levy included zero fare funding on ballot. Zero fare will be in perpetuity thanks to the community support.

i.

9. Lisa, Missoula Aging Services

i. June 7<sup>th</sup> Levy replace a flat mil from 2007. Recommit to aging services levy

ii. Every 4 years, area plan on aging. Up to 10 listening sessions. Dates coming

iii. Missoula Gives: Aging Panel – info coming learn about aging and aging services and impact in community.

10. The next meeting is scheduled for 10:30 AM, April 22, 2022. 5/27/22