

# Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee

August 26, 2022

## MINUTES

Via Zoom

1. Roll call and introductions
  - a. **Lisa Shepard**, CEO Missoula Aging Services
  - b. **Jennifer Sweten**, Director of Operations, Mountain Line
  - c. **Tom Thompson**, Peer from Summit Independent Living
  - d. **Travis Hoffman**, Summit Independent Living
  - e. **Jon Sand**, MPO
  - f. **Marsha Hauk**, Missoula Manor
  - g. **Shanti Johnson**, Communications, Mountain Line
  - h. **Tami Hoar**, Summit Independent Living Director
  - i. **Mike McCollough**, Missoula Development Services
  - j. **Vickie Rectenwald**, ASUM Transportation, University of Montana
  - k. **Ron Knight, Fleet Manager**, Aware
  - l. **Lisa Chamberlin**, Peer, Montana Association for the Blind
2. Public comment
  - a. None.
3. Approval of June 24 meeting minutes
  - a. Tabled until next STAC meeting

#### 4. Review draft letter to MDT re: sidewalk cooling request

- a. Address service dogs
- b. important to have access on both sides of bridge
- c. Russell needs to be addressed

#### 5. Mountain Line update

- a. Completed first month of 7 day service, ramping up to work first holiday (Labor Day)
- b. Staffing is holding steady, a little lower than ideal but will continue training operators, expected to be fully staffed after next training class.
- c. Seeing immediate use of Bold Saturday/Sunday service, both fixed route and paratransit. Acknowledged there was a need in the community for evening and Sunday service.
- d. Close to widespread roll out of paratransit mobile app. Addressing confusion between new Transit app
  - i. How to guide will be sent out to users, guide will be available online
    - 1. <https://mountainline.com/your-trip/accessibility/>
    - 2. Committee asked to provide user feedback on paratransit
  - ii. Accessible vehicles, lack thereof, and extreme costs. Claiming chip shortage, not putting resources into aftermarket vehicles. Will start to affect quality of vehicles. Ford is the only Buy America compliant company to purchase from

- iii. Will there be exceptions from Buy America waiver, purpose built accessible vehicle. Discussions with Canadian company.
- iv. Other partners experiencing the same issues, encourage them to keep in contact with representative from MDT.
- v. Outreach with Students, Sunday Streets, Climate Smart Expo
- vi. MUTD received 10M grant funding for Low/No emissions bus purchasing, will be at 90 electric this decade.
- vii. Jen met with MDT about VA transit stop access, there will eventually be a traffic light at Broadway and Maryjane, work with City to get stop off of Broadway with slight route detour that will increase safety for households and VA. No additional service is anticipated until facility relocation occurs.

## 6. Summit Update

- a. Midtown Master Planning – reached out to Travis/Jon about I2 walk audits to gauge where improvements need to be made.
- b. 80s party on Sept 9 at Russell St property
- c. Horror Film Fest weekend of 8/27/22

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

- a. Midtown
  - i. The "Community Vision Night" -- the first design charrette -- is going to be held Tuesday, September 27th from 5:45-7:45pm at the YMCA.

- ii. I2 Audits – Successful Higgins Audit, plans for Midtown and Caras Park Audits.

b. Grants

- i. City/County applying for Safe Streets for All Grant for South Ave.
- ii. Applying for Reconnecting Communities Grant for Hwy 200 (East Missoula)

c. CMAQ

- i. Neighborhood Greenways and the California/ Toole/ Broadway roundabout have been nominated for CMAQ (Congestion mitigation and air quality) funding.

d. Higgins

- i. Preferred alternative will be available to the public in early Oct.

8. Other business & announcements

a. Vicki Rectenwald – new ASUM Transportation Director

- i. Wrapping up summer river shuttle service
- ii. UDASH routes are included on the Transit App, service starting next week
- iii. Vicki is new ASUM Transportation Director, taking over Jordan's role, started as student driver,

9. Schedule next meeting (9/23/2022)