

Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee

January 24, 2025

MINUTES

Hybrid Teams/In-Person

1. Sweten called the meeting to order at 10:36 AM and asked for roll call and introductions.
 - a. **Jennifer Sweten**, Director of Operations, Mountain Line
 - b. **Paige Kerwin**, Operations Manager, ASUM Transportation
 - c. **Chris Hightower**, Resource Center Supervisor, Missoula Aging Services
 - d. **Elizabeth Wehling**, Lead Operations Supervisor, Mountain Line
 - e. **Travis Hoffman**, Policy Director, Summit Independent Living
 - f. **Lyn Hellegaard**, Executive Director, MTA, MRTMA
2. Public comment for items not on the agenda – None.
3. December 20th, 2024, Meeting Minutes – Kerwin motioned for approval of the minutes, Hightower seconded, and the minutes were approved.
4. Election of Officers- Sweten will hold the position of Chair, Hoar will hold the position of Vice Chair, and Wehling will hold the position of Secretary. Kerwin motioned to accept this slate of officers, seconded by Hightower. These positions will be held through the 2025 calendar year.
5. Reserve Street Safety Action Plan- Hoffman shared the walk audit of North and South Reserve will be conducted on March 4th.

6. Coordination Plan Prep- Sweten shared that responses have not been received by community partners for vehicles. Hellegaard shared they will be submitting a request for one (1) non-ADA accessible minivan.
7. Mountain Line Update- Sweten began discussion on updates from Nelson Nygaard on the strategic plan, with service changes projected to occur in September. This timeframe could change based on Board direction. A holding pattern continues while waiting for the City to move forward with the Grant Creek project. The MOAB project sits at 30% design, which is shedding further light on what changes can be made to original design. The fleet has hit 55% battery electric as of November 2024, with 1 million revenue miles on electric vehicles being met this month. 10 additional electric buses will go onto the assembly line in February, with delivery anticipated in May and June and put into service in Summer. Wehling gave an overview of Paratransit efforts. All road supervisors have completed an Easterseals Determining ADA Paratransit Eligibility course, which is the prerequisite to complete a determination with Paratransit service and conduct in-person assessments. For the month of December 2024, 6,588 rides were completed, with roughly 220 rides per day. Active ridership remains at 461, and OTP continues to track at 97%. Hoffman asked what Mountain Line's application intake is for a month, which they hope will be something that can be tracked in the coming months. The path of accessibility library work will begin now that all road supervisors are trained.

8. Summit Update- Hoffman discussed the move from their current location on SW Higgins to the West Broadway location. Moving trucks will begin taking items to the new location next week, with internet being wired in following this move. Montana Legislators are in session, with a bill being introduced on rental tax. House bill 38 on parking violations in ADA designated spots will be presented, which raises the fine. This bill has been adopted interim at a local level, but the hope is to have it adopted at a state level in October.
9. Update on city planning efforts & current project- No update.
10. ASUM update- Kerwin shared that winter break made for successful maintenance and operator onboarding. There are currently 20 operators on staff. A third supervisor has been onboarded. Long term planning and campus surveying are being conducted. A roundtable is expected with the City and Mountain Line, which can allow for collaborative service changes to both transportation agencies. An audit of ASUM's website and ADA documents will take place soon.
11. Other business- Hightower shared that the volunteer driving program has grown both with demand and trip distance. The volunteer program is currently focused on medical appointments, and volunteers need to respond to fulfill these requests.
12. The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2025. This meeting will take place at 1221 Shakespeare Street.