

Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee

February 21, 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. **Glenn Ingram**, Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
 - d. **Tami Hoar**, Executive Director, Summit Independent Living
 - e. **Tom Thompson**, Consumer Advocate
 - f. **Chris Hightower**, Resource Center Supervisor, Missoula Aging Services
 - g. **Elizabeth Wehling**, Lead Operations Supervisor, Mountain Line
 - h. **Lyn Hellegaard**, Executive Director, MTA, MRTMA
 - i. **Charles Menefee**, Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
2. Public comment for items not on the agenda – None.
3. January 24th 2025, Meeting Minutes – Hellegaard motioned for approval of the minutes, Kerwin seconded, and the minutes were approved.
4. Coordination Plan- Sweten began the public hearing at 10:38 am and concluded the public hearing at 10:40 am. A review was completed by the Committee. Five (5) capital projects are requested in this coordination plan; the first two are for

electric Paratransit vehicles. ARC submitted for projects 3 and 4 for accessible vans, with an additional ask. \$302,175 for ARC; \$407,000 for MUTD ask. Sweten opened the floor for discussion on the requests. Hellegaard asked if these were replacement vehicles and what the mileage of the vehicles being replaced would be. Sweten shared this ask is for fleet expansion and not replacement, but will look into ARC's request. Menefee joined the meeting at 10:44 am. Hellegaard made a motion to reorder the prioritization of projects for MUTD to have one vehicle as the first vehicle, then ARC's full-sized vehicle takes second project, and then MUTD's second project put at third followed by ARC's additional requests, and Hoar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Reserve Street Safety Action Plan- Menefee discussed the Plan. Details from the consultant team were unavailable for this meeting. This study is a federally awarded safety study, with additional funding provided by MDT. Two public open houses will occur on March 4th and 5th at Hellgate Elementary from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and a walk audit scheduled for March 4th. This walk audit will encompass two different sections of Reserve Street, identifying areas that need improvement.
6. Mountain Line Update- Sweten discussed the strategic plan and current wordsmithing efforts by staff, with hope to present to this Committee at the March meeting, and service implementation anticipated for late this summer. Staff will begin inspections of the ten (10) new BEB Gillig's, with all buses expected to be on the road by the end of May. Wehling shared ridership trends, which show

Paratransit has picked up some steam. Recent storms created environmental issues for drop off and pick up locations for Paratransit, with staff working diligently to clear locations for safe access.

7. Summit Update- Hoar gave an update on the location move. Summit has moved to their new location, which has brought on challenges with the cold and snowy weather. The new location is expected to be completed in the next few months. The Montana State Attorney General has given backlash on the lawsuits towards trying to remove Section 504 from Rehabilitation Act. Fourteen other states are apart of this lawsuit. Many organizations that serve people with disabilities are coordinating advocacy work at the state capital currently.
8. Update on city planning efforts & current project- Further discussion on the Reserve Street Safety Action Planning efforts and strategic planning efforts.
9. ASUM update- Updates given by Kerwin on ridership and vehicle maintenance.
10. Other business- None.
11. The next meeting is scheduled for March 28th, 2025. This meeting will take place at 1221 Shakespeare Street.