

# Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee

March 28, 2025

## MINUTES

### Hybrid Teams/In-Person

1. Hoar called the meeting to order at 10:38 AM and asked for roll call and introductions.
  - a. **Paige Kerwin**, Operations Manager, ASUM Transportation
  - b. **Glenn Ingram**, Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
  - c. **Tami Hoar**, Executive Director, Summit Independent Living
  - d. **Tom Thompson**, Consumer Advocate
  - e. **Elizabeth Wehling**, Lead Operations Supervisor, Mountain Line
  - f. **Charles Menefee**, Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
  - g. **Evan Hauser**, Project Manager, Missoula Housing Authority
2. Public comment for items not on the agenda – None.
3. February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Kerwin motioned for approval of the minutes, Hauser seconded, and the minutes were approved.
4. Reserve Street Safety Action Plan- Desiree Dean joined the meeting at 10:42 am. Menefee gave a presentation on this Plan. For background, the project is a federally awarded grant program through Safe Streets and Roads for All, which has received just over \$400,000 with a \$300,000 match from the State of Montana DOT. This planning grant does not include construction but assists with

boots-on-the-ground work to create the plan for future construction. The plan review consisted of project timeline, existing conditions and identified solutions. Wehling asked what material is used to create a protected bike lane, which Menefee explained due to plowing, an idea of delineation would be using plastic bollards so they can be removed during the winter months to plow. Hauser questioned whether the shared use paths will be one way or multidirectional.

5. Mountain Line Update- Wehling discussed the Paratransit statistics for the month of February, with ridership trending around the 7,000-rider mark, with 243 rides daily being completed. Six (6) drivers have begun driving on their own in the past few weeks, with an additional driver training class beginning on April 14<sup>th</sup> and a new Dispatching Supervisor beginning on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Efforts are being made to build metrics on the incoming Paratransit applications. Roundabout issues were present during the days preceding this meeting, where they were installed, and buses could not navigate them without the possibility of collision. A meeting is planned with the City to review their location so normal routing can resume.
6. Summit Update- Hoar shared that Summit is in the same holding pattern as last meeting. Renovations are happening slowly at their new facility, and they will not be able to host meetings in the near future. Directives have come from DPHHS dismantling which directly impacts Summit's services. An accessible parking bill passed and was signed by the Governor as of this meeting, which continued work by staff at the legislature.

7. Update on city planning efforts & current project- Menefee shared Ingram's efforts on the Long-Range Transportation Planning, with a draft plan being released in the next week for public review. Updates are being made to the "Our Missoula Growth Policy", which is policy documenting land use mapping and street typologies, including code reform. The link to a formal comment period will be posted on the City's website the week after this meeting.
8. ASUM update- Kerwin shared ASUM is still running their fixed route service for this semester and summer planning efforts have begun. Their strategic plan will be presented to the student senate next week. Routing for commencement is being decided currently. Hiring for summer CDL training course is occurring. ASUM employees will be traveling to the APTA Mobility Conference for professional development.
9. Other business- Hauser updated the committee on HUD inflation rates increasing which in turn allows MHA to distribute additional housing vouchers. Hoar request an agenda item for the next meeting to discuss continuing participation from all parties involved in this committee, especially from participants who receive program benefits from combined participation in this committee.
10. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This meeting will take place at 1221 Shakespeare Street and virtually.