



**Missoula Urban Transportation District
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2025**

APPROVED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Jason Wiener
Sebastian Strauss, Board Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Lisa Sheppard

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Jordan Hess, CEO & General Manager
Allison Segal, Finance Manager
Jasmine Blumenbach, Accountant
Teddy Mierze, Accountant
Heather Halter, Director of Administrative Services
Colin Woodrow, Director of Capital Projects & IT

Call to Order and Roll Call

11:00 a.m. – Wiener called the meeting to order and asked for roll call.

Changes or Additions to the Agenda – None

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda – None

Action Items

3.1 May 22, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes – Wiener tabled approving the minutes until the July finance committee meeting because there was no quorum. Sheppard was not able to attend the meeting.

Hess clarified that recommendations could be forwarded to the board meeting, but no official actions could be taken.

3.2 April 2025 Financial Statements – Wiener observed that the agency is about \$2.3 million under budget. Segal confirmed that compensation is approximately \$1.2 million under budget as the number of Operators fluctuates. In addition, multiple one-time projects were budgeted for and not completed. Strauss questioned if predicting utility costs was difficult. Segal pointed out that the FY26 budget had been adjusted to allow for increased electricity needed to charge ten new buses. Hess said diesel pricing is more predictable than gas pricing and the peak demand charge is the most expensive component of the electric bill. Wiener asked if the recent price hike from Northwestern Energy would flow through to the agency. Hess replied that the agency gets billed within the standard commercial user tier.

Wiener asked why the paratransit compensation budget was 20% lower despite the substantial trip increase. Segal said compensation was re-evaluated for higher accuracy in FY26. The fluctuations in benefits was also adjusted for FY26.

Though there was not a quorum, Wiener recommended that the board approve the April financial statements as presented. Segal suggested scheduling a mid-year project status update with the board.

4.1 FY26 Final Budget Review – Segal said the budget had been revised to reflect increased commercial insurance rates and an added service person. Hess said based on a recommendation by the Montana Department of Revenue, the agency submitted a public records request for parcel level data to better project tax revenues.

Segal mentioned the \$1 million STIC funding increase is based on National Transit Database 2022 figures. Continuing to receive the funding will depend on consistent bus utilization and ridership. Hess said the national trade organization representing smaller agencies is advocating for a 5% increase in assistance.

Segal explained that operating electric buses instead of diesel ones does not represent a big insurance savings. Strauss pointed out that the agency's capital contribution was about 20% of the \$1.2 million cost for an electric bus, but getting rid of the diesel buses only saves about \$4,700 of insurance costs. Segal said the municipal financial advisor will be instrumental in adjusting future debt and that the capital improvement plan did not change.

Strauss observed that the pro forma showed a net position loss in mid-2028. Segal confirmed this and noted the draft budget increased. Wiener suggested that the slower growth would affect property taxes. Segal confirmed that property tax revenues had flattened in the pro forma, and commercial insurance expenses had increased. Strauss asked about the recreation shuttle amount would be funded. Hess replied that the revenue source is yet to be determined but business sponsorships are a potential source it likely would not be necessary to hire additional staff.

Strauss asked if the need to acquire land for the land mobile radio system would affect the budget. Hess said the plan to lease a space next to the city's control tower would impact the budget. The equipment will be law-enforcement grade but building a new space is not recommended unless there is no other way. The agency will use 5339 allocated funds for the equipment but installing it may require a creative approach.

5.1 Debt Policy – Segal said the municipal financial advisor will recommend establishing a debt policy for understanding the implications of taking on debt. Board members are invited to participate in interviews to be conducted on July 14 and 15.

Adjournment

11:47 a.m. – Wiener adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Darlene Craven, Board Clerk