

Missoula Urban Transportation District Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2025

APPROVED

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sebastian Strauss
Eva Rocke
Sam Oliver
Amy Cilimborg
Lisa Sheppard
Jason Wiener
Don MacArthur

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Jordan Hess, CEO & GM
Colin Woodrow, Dir. Capital Projects
Allison Segal, Finance Manager

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call – Strauss called the meeting to order at 11:32 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

2.0 Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda – None.

3.1 FFY 2026 Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program Local Match Commitment – Woodrow outlined the details of the grant application for buses and bus facilities, highlighting the need for a local match commitment. The board discussed the components of the application, including the addition of programmatic elements of the new facility such as additional service lanes and bus storage parking. Wiener raised questions regarding the resolution language and the amounts specified for the grant and local match.

Segal shared a budget presentation, noting changes in the facility reserve and the allocation of funds for construction and design. Wiener asked for clarification on the current balance and discussed the potential to utilize unrestricted funds to cover the facility reserve deficit. Segal confirmed that the facility reserve remains in the negative but indicated that cash is available to address this issue.

MacArthur indicated that the funding proposal appears to be a simple decision, while Strauss questioned the overall feasibility and risks associated with requesting \$18.7 million. He emphasized the importance of understanding the financial commitments involved, particularly regarding the new facility project and potential additional expenditures if the funding is not secured. He noted that the project would be reduced due to financial limitations. Woodrow clarified that the team would not proceed with any changes until an award is confirmed, which is expected by the end of September. He discussed the varying impacts of potential expansions on design and construction, indicating that some components could be integrated more easily than others.

Strauss raised questions regarding the impact of a potential grant on the district's debt financing for the new facility. Segal responded that the grant could eliminate the need for debt associated with the new facility, while still necessitating funding for shared infrastructure. Strauss said it was important to understand all the financial implications for making responsible decisions.

Woodrow agreed with MacArthur, noting that the grant's structure allows for flexibility in funding allocation. He highlighted the need to write the application in a way that maximizes the potential for receiving the most advantageous funding. MacArthur reiterated the importance of clarity in project goals to prevent complications in future negotiations.

Wiener moved to amend the resolution for a grant application by removing specific dollar amounts from the "whereas" clauses, while keeping them in the "be it resolved" sections. Woodrow explained that the dollar amounts were included to provide clarity to the FTA and prevent over-matching local funds. The board discussed the importance of accurately representing the total project costs and to ensure that the resolutions were not redundant. Wiener restated the motion to pass the revised resolution required for the grant application. Segal confirmed that the application will request \$10 million for buses and \$20 million for the building. MacArthur seconded and it carried unanimously. Hess thanked the staff for assembling the grant application so quickly despite changing the request to include the new facility.

4.0 Adjournment – Strauss adjourned the meeting at 12:21 p.m.