

Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee

April 25, 2025

MINUTES

Hybrid Teams/In-Person

1. Wehling called the meeting to order at 10:33 AM and asked for roll call and introductions.
 - a. **Paige Kerwin**, Operations Manager, ASUM Transportation
 - b. **Glenn Ingram**, Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
 - c. **Chris Hightower**, Resource Center Supervisor, MAS
 - d. **Tom Thompson**, Consumer Advocate, Summit Independent Living
 - e. **Elizabeth Wehling**, Lead Operations Supervisor, Mountain Line
 - f. **Charles Menefee**, Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
 - g. **Evan Hauser**, Project Manager, Missoula Housing Authority
 - h. **Brandon Viall**, Missoula Vocational Rehab
2. Public comment for items not on the agenda – None.
3. March 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Hauser motioned for approval of the minutes, Hightower seconded, and the minutes were approved.
4. Meeting Discussion Participation – Wehling shared background on this discussion item. Menefee shared his involvement in this committee and the alignment this discussion has with the city transportation update. Bylaws were brought up as a guide for gauging membership involvement. Ideas brought up

were reaching out individually to engage participants and pinpoint if a new meeting time would boost participation. Ingram echoed Menefee's thoughts and shared the importance of dialing in the essential functions and goals of the committee, as well as strategic planning. The Missoula MPO is looking for more engagement with the STAC committee and involving community members with accessibility needs at these discussions. Having STAC members present at Missoula MPO is an interest as well. Hightower also expressed his impression STAC exists as a locale for information webbing between organizations, including advocacy. Interest in reviewing the bylaws was expressed. Kerwin also shared the desire to see more involvement in the committee to couple with updates from members. This discussion will be revisited at the next meeting.

5. Reserve Street Safety Action Plan – Menefee updated the group on the design details shared at the March meeting. Currently, they are in the drafting phase of the plan. The scope will prioritize five different strategies of focus. Once design details are created, an in-depth discussion will be requested with STAC to discuss accessibility qualities.
6. Mountain Line Update – Wehling shared ridership statistics, with 7,477 completed rides in the month of March. Shared ride trips have increased, with trip duration decreasing slightly. Another class of drivers began in the week prior to this meeting. Road Supervisors are moving forward with photo documentation for the Path of Accessibility assessments. Staff has also begun tracking application intake for Paratransit.

7. Summit Update – No update.
8. Update on city planning efforts & current project – Moved up to item 6.28
intersection improvements were placed recently, including neighborhood traffic circles and stop signs. Long-Range planning continues and a public comment document exists to gather more information. The “Our Missoula Growth Policy” was adopted last fall, which identifies goals based on street typology and the plan is currently going through the code process. Reconstruction grants in addition to the Reserve Street Safety Action Plan are in the works.
9. ASUM update – Kerwin gave an overview of the strategic plan presentation to the student Senate, with additional engagement beginning with the University.
Current routing will be amended for the fall semester, reducing the amount of routes but increasing frequency. Work continues with Mountain Line to evaluate gaps in service and address such. River shuttles will return this summer Thursday-Sunday, July 10-August 10. Ingram asked for further information on the conversations surrounding gaps in service. Most messaging from ASUM will be sharing alternate modes or bus stop locations to ride Mountain Line.
10. Other business- While discussing the agenda items, Wehling mentioned reaching out if you have specific talking points and would like your item added to the agenda. Hightower and Hauser shared projects previously discussed are continuing at the same pace.
11. The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2025. This meeting will take place at 1221 Shakespeare Street and virtually.