

Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee

May 23, 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. **Jennifer Sweten**, Director of Operations, Mountain Line
 - c. **Jordan Hess**, General Manager, Mountain Line
 - d. **Olga Kreimer**, Communications Specialist, Mountain Line
 - e. **Stephane Gariepy**, Interim Director of Operations, Mountain Line
 - f. **Travis Hoffman**, Policy Director, Summit Independent Living
 - g. **Tami Hoar**, Executive Director, Summit Independent Living
 - h. **Elizabeth Wehling**, Operations Manager, Mountain Line
 - i. **Charles Menefee**, Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
 - j. **Evan Hauser**, Project Manager, Missoula Housing Authority
 - k. **Tom Thompson**, Consumer Advocate, Summit Independent Living
2. Public comment for items not on the agenda – Kreimer gave an overview of the branding refresh being conducted by Mountain Line.
3. April 25, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Kerwin motioned for approval of the minutes, Hauser and Thompson seconded, and the minutes were approved.

4. Meeting Participation and Bylaws Discussion – Hoar began discussion regarding low participation in STAC meetings and revisiting bylaws to evaluate the participation from voting members, specifically those who participate in the Transportation Coordination Plan. ORI and The ARC of Montana have been identified as voting members who have maintained little to no outreach with STAC. Sweten encourages the original charter that formed this committee to be revisited, as it was part of the founding of MUTD in the 1970s. The MPO and MDT has shared their desire for further engagement from STAC on City and County planning. Wehling will reach out to the organizations identified in the bylaws and share our bylaws and find out if they have a representative to point to the committee.
5. Reserve Street Safety Action Plan – No update.
6. Mountain Line Update – Sweten shared updates on construction projects occurring at the Transfer Center. This involves giving height to the Transfer Center island roof to accommodate taller buses. Temporary security cameras and increased staff attention will be surrounding the relocated Transfer Center on Woody Street. The buses will be making in-lane stops, not curbing, and anyone with a mobility device can receive assistance boarding from supervisors if they are unable to ambulate to the vehicle ramp. Wehling shared metrics on Paratransit service. Application numbers are larger than normal. 8,000 rides were completed in May, with daily ridership hovering around 266 riders, and 108 driver hours per day. Hauser asked about the in-person assessment process and how it

has changed the application process. Wehling explained the benefits of the in-person process, including giving additional voice to someone who may not have an easy time explaining their condition on paper and the rapport building. It has also encouraged travel training and fixed route education for those who want to ride but haven't had the means to learn. Hess informed on Paratransit-related information from the Strategic Planning efforts being conducted by Mountain Line.

7. Summit Update – Hoar updated the committee with ongoing construction efforts at Summit's new facility, with the interior construction completed by the end of summer and a grand opening occurring in the fall. A targeted fundraiser is being launched for a new kitchen in their facility for independent living skills classes, which will allow for sponsorship of products and appliances for the kitchen. Interest in discussing bus stops in proximity to their new location was raised. Hoffman discussed Summit's involvement in the SAM Project on Higgins Street.
8. Update on city planning efforts & current project – Menefee shared the Long-Range Strategic Plan will be presented at TTAC and TPCC in June for adoption. Public engagement commenting is now available online. Some information has been received that the funding for the Highway 200 corridor project has been redacted. Verification on this will be given at a future meeting.
9. ASUM update – Kerwin discussed the conclusion of the fixed route service for the school year and launching of summer service, including the river float shuttle and smaller charter services. A decrease in ridership was noted for the school year

that just ended, which could be contributed to service reduction due to fleet and staffing constraints.

10. Other business – Wehling shared information on the Market Trolley changes on Saturday mornings.
11. The next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2025. This meeting will take place at 1221 Shakespeare Street and virtually.