

Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee

June 27, 2025

MINUTES

Hybrid Teams/In-Person

1. Hoar called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM and asked for roll call and introductions.
 - a. **Paige Kerwin**, Operations Manager, ASUM Transportation
 - b. **Tami Hoar**, Executive Director, Summit Independent Living
 - c. **Spencer Starke**, Project Manager, Missoula Housing Authority
 - d. **Charles Menefee**, Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
 - e. **Glenn Ingram**, Transportation Planner, Missoula MPO
 - f. **Evan Hauser**, Project Manager, Missoula Housing Authority
 - g. **Tom Thompson**, Consumer Advocate, Summit Independent Living
 - h. **Brandon Viall**, Rehabilitation Technician, Vocational Rehab
 - i. **Chris Hightower**, Resource Center Supervisor, Missoula Aging Services
2. Public comment for items not on the agenda – None.
3. May 23rd, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Viall motioned for approval of the minutes, Kerwin seconded, and the minutes were approved.
4. Meeting Participation and Bylaws Discussion – Hoar shared Wehling’s update that AWARE and Opportunity Resources, Inc., were contacted to remind the organizations of their obligation to participate in STAC. No updates on

communication from either organization were given. A reply was received from the ARC of Montana that they have an interim Executive Director, and Summit would be able to reach out to the ARC for future meeting participation from a representative of theirs. Hauser asked what repercussions exist if the organizations not participating that are receiving state funds ultimately do not respond to outreach. Ultimately, it would boil down to reaching out to Montana DOT regarding lack of participation which could in turn affect future ability for funding applications. As the Missoula MPO develops the requirements for the STAC collaboration at their tables, this is a pivotal time for other organizations to participate. Menefee reminded the committee that beyond the bylaws, participation is federally required and FTA and the FHWA do check on the operating power of STAC. Collaboration on voting items would be more empowering to the group as the participation while those who haven't participated recently can be brought up to speed. Starke mentioned Mountain Line's ability to stress the importance of participation.

5. Reserve Street Safety Action Plan – Menefee shared an update on this item. Currently, the second community engagement phase is coming to an end and the third round commencing soon, which will focus on a draft corridor plan. Five key infrastructural strategies have been developed with conceptual design and cost estimates. Many safety components such as additional ground infrastructure, traffic signal improvements, lighting improvements and roundabouts are examples which were defined for many different sections of

Reserve Street. Viall echoed the need for safety updates to the Palmer Street area for pedestrians. The Committee discussed what prioritized safety upgrades would impact risk management quickly.

6. Mountain Line Update – Starke discussed Jennifer Sweten’s departure and the impacts that has had on staffing. Stephane Gariepy has been given the Interim Director of Operations role. Eight (8) new battery electric buses have been received and are being put into service. Work continues on establishing charging infrastructure. We’ve received two Paratransit vehicles from Lewistown and have put one into service. Implementation for the Transit Service Plan are on the horizon. Hoar requested an update on the Transfer Center Island renovations. The project is projected to be completed on time.
7. Summit Update – No update.
8. Update on city planning efforts & current projects – Menefee discussed the grant award work needed to be done to obtain the funds. The funding for the Highway 200 Redevelopment Project was pulled due to no grant agreement in place as this was a large pool of funding. Ingram shared anticipated start dates on the Scott Street roundabout and Cregg Lane traffic signal construction projects.
9. ASUM update – Kerwin updated the group on services running at this time. A shuttle was provided for the Shania Twain concert on July 3 and efforts continue with river shuttle preparation, running July 10 through August 10.
10. Other business – Viall shared concern about individuals crossing Palmer Street to get to the coffee shop on the other side of the road, narrowly avoiding being

hit. Ingram will inform the individuals who perform the city transportation safety checks and provide an update.

11. The next meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2025. This meeting will take place at 1221 Shakespeare Street and virtually.