

# **SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Minutes**

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **DRAFT**

**Members Present:** Paige Kerwin, ASUM  
Charlie Menefee, Missoula MPO  
Elizabeth Wehling, Mountain Line  
Brandon Viall, Missoula Vocational Rehab  
Marne Newton, Blind and Low Vision Services  
Gail Pryatel, National Federation of the Blind  
Marshall Wissink, The ARC of Montana  
Kristi Kusche, The ARC of Montana  
Tom Thompson, Consumer Advocate

**Guests:**

### **1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call**

10:37 AM Wehling called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call.

### **2.0 Public Comment**

None.

### **3.0 Regular Business**

### 3.1 Approval of September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes for September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, seconded by Kerwin. The motion carried unanimously.

### 3.2 Meeting Participation and Bylaw Discussion

Wehling shared the in-person efforts made by Tami Hoar, Desiree Dean and herself to visit the ARC of Western Montana, Opportunity Resources, and AWARE in hopes of speaking with potential STAC representatives from each organization and share information on the importance of participation. Outreach to AWARE and Opportunity Resources continues.

### 3.3 MPO Public Participation Update

No update.

### 3.4 Reserve Street Action Safety Plan Design Phase Details

Menefee gave a presentation on the latest updates to this Plan. This update contained project status, recommendations and priority listings, community engagement and the next phase of the Plan. Newton asked about the roundabout plans described and what implementation would look like. Other topics discussed were lighted pedestrian crossings and hybrid-crossing locations involving traffic lights. Wehling asks about delays foreseen within this project, which Menefee explained the focus of the project is to improve safety and align with projected growth by 2050 along this corridor. Viall asked about cost estimation for improvements at specific intersections which are not available yet. Discussion was had on the extension of American Way towards George Elmer, as Mountain Line is exploring this area for future routing.

### 3.5 Mountain Line Update

Wehling shared information on the Marshall Mountain Line Recreation Shuttle pilot program, which runs through October 26<sup>th</sup>. It has been a successful pilot and Mountain Line looks forward to future deployments of similar projects. The Director of Operations position remains open and interviews have begun. The IVR project, which works with the Paratransit scheduling software currently used, is continuing. This will allow passengers to check on their ride times and cancel rides by using an automated system attached to their rider ID. Viall asked about the piloting of this, which has not been done with the public yet, but it will not change any of the features that currently exist within the phone system currently used. Letters for the coordination grant will begin going out in November. In the month of September, Paratransit ridership saw a slight fall with approximately 7,964 rides completed. 265 rides were completed per day, while maintaining 99.7% demand being met, and ride duration is continuing to fall so passengers get to their destination quicker. There are around 500 active riders in the system and 108 driver hours per day. All fixed route buses on order have been received and are in service. Menefee asked on behalf of Parks and Recreation if there are any ADA accessible vehicles or ability to obtain ADA accessible vehicles committee members could think of. Wehling explained the coordination grant planning that will be submitted in the coming months and encouraged participation from someone in Parks and Recreation at a future meeting.

### 3.6 Summit Update

None.

### 3.7 Update on City planning efforts & current projects

None.

### 3.8 ASUM Update

Kerwin discussed a service reduction that took place on the Maroon line due to staffing and vehicle reliability. This service reduction will remain in place for the rest of the academic year. The ASUM bike program has expanded, with a national bike summit being hosted at the University. A bike pledge program was launched which allows for a commuter bike to be assigned to a freshman if they pledge to not bring a car to campus. The football shuttles have generated approximately 1,300 rides per game.

### 3.9 Other Business Next meeting November 21<sup>st</sup>.