

# **SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2025

## DRAFT

**Members Present:** Paige Kerwin, ASUM Transportation  
Glenn Ingram, Missoula MPO  
Evan Hauser, Missoula Housing Authority  
Elizabeth Wehling, Mountain Line  
Tami Hoar, Summit Independent Living  
Brandon Viall, Missoula Vocational Rehab  
Travis Hoffman, Summit Independent Living  
Tom Thompson, Consumer Advocate  
Marne Newton, Orientation and Mobility  
Specialist, State of Montana  
Charlie Menefee, Missoula MPO

**Guests:**

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

10:40 AM Hoar called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call.

### **2.0 Public Comment**

None.

## **3.0 Regular Business**

### **3.1 Approval of October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting Minutes**

Viall made a motion to approve the minutes for October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, seconded by Kerwin. The motion carried unanimously.

### **3.2 Meeting Participation and Bylaw Discussion**

Wehling gave an overview of the in-person meetings with The ARC of Western Montana, AWARE and ORI, conducted by Desiree Dean, Tami Hoar and Elizabeth Wehling. Emails were distributed to participants explaining the value STAC and the input STAC participants bring to their organization and consumers. Viall brought up funding within the Coordination Plan for vehicles only being available to those who participate. One note from the Coordination Plan narratives is that the participants requesting funding are required to meet with STAC once a quarter, so future funding could be at risk based on lack of participation and not meeting minimal criteria. Ingram asked if the lack of participation was based on capacity, which is not what has been told to Wehling or Hoar. Ingram recommended a memorandum of understanding to give clarity to expectations and purpose behind the committee. Bylaw update discussion will be on the January agenda.

### **3.3 MPO Public Participation Update**

Ingram shared that the MPO is wrapping up the draft plan, with an extended comment period which will be open until late December or early January. One topic of discussion that came up during the planning process across many groups was more information on the MPO, their funding model, and what their larger purpose is. An overview of the Public Participation Plan guide was presented.

### **3.4 Mountain Line Update**

Wehling answered Newton's question on the Big Sky Passenger Rail and the expected transportation available through this project. Wehling did not have any information to offer, Menefee mentioned that County Commissioner Dave Strohmeier initiated the discussion around this passenger rail system and would be the best to receive information from. Menefee said that planning efforts have not identified an associated cost or the feasibility of running a passenger rail system locally. Newton asked about the Bus Stop Improvement Plan status. The updates have been finalized, and the plan is being developed by Mountain Line Staff currently. Amenity upgrades are not being identified by routes or stop location but rather ridership.

The Director of Operations position filling continues. The job posting has been removed from public forums and a candidate made an in-person visit mid-November. Ridership in Paratransit continues to grow, with both weekday and weekend ride request records being broken in the month of November. The in-person assessment process has seen success in encouraging prospective passengers to utilize travel training and fixed route. The IVR system for the Paratransit voicemail is expected to be put into place in the next few weeks. This system will give more autonomy to passengers who are calling in for information as they will be able to receive real-time information on future rides. The hope is that this system will reduce the call/ voicemail volume.

### **3.5 Summit Update**

Hoar updated the committee on the timeline for completion of the inside of their facility, which is expected for three weeks from now. Once construction is complete, the BASE program hosted by Summit will move into the new facility, and all programs will be at the same location. Paratransit rides are anticipated to increase to this location since there is no close bus stop access. Exterior updates to the building will not begin until early spring. There will be community rental space available in the completed facility. Staff has been added to the Personal Care Program, and an additional position will be added in partnership with Missoula Vocational Rehab.

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

Menefee discussed the previous Reserve Street Action Safety Plan presentation and that being the final external engagement for key input from involved committees. The draft plan is now being created with the input gathered, and draft materials will be available at the beginning of the new calendar year, with the plan being adopted in March. Additional funding for the Mullan area is being explored for project completion. Ingram informed the committee that code reform will be adopted in December, which impacts the mobility component and creates change to the Public Works manual. This should outline better pedestrian facilities and making it easier for individuals to navigate. Discussion continued on infrastructure that can assist those who are visually impaired.

### 3.7 ASUM Update

Kerwin gave an overview of the fixed route service service break coming in mid-December for the semester break. During the break, preventative maintenance and CDL training will occur. There is anticipation for home game and playoff game transportation for the Griz football games. Ridership has been steady in comparison to the previous calendar year.

### 3.8 Other Business

Hauser shared that 96 apartments at Wildflower Apartments will be rehabilitated next year with funding received, including fully ADA accessible apartments and right of way improvements.

Next meeting January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026