

SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 27th, 2026

DRAFT

Members Present: Kristi Kusche, The ARC of Western Montana
Adam Stuart, A.W.A.R.E., Inc.
Elizabeth Wehling, Mountain Line
Tami Hoar, Summit Independent Living
Tom Thompson, Consumer Advocate
Brandon Viall, Missoula Vocational Rehab
Charlie Menefee, Missoula MPO
Chris Hightower, Missoula Housing Authority
Paige Kerwin, ASUM Transportation

Guests: Hoyle McCallum, Mountain Line
Olga Kreimer, Mountain Line
Rachel Huff-Doria, RHD LLC

1.0 Call to Order and Roll Call

10:34 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 January 9th, 2026 meeting Minutes

Viall made a motion to approve the minutes for January 9th, 2026, seconded by Kerwin. The motion carried unanimously.

3.2 Meeting Participation and Bylaw Discussion

Hoar discussed the purpose of remaining on the agenda and discussed the STAC committee responsibilities as members of the committee. Tabling this item until further notice. Menefee gave an update on the MPO bylaws with the separation of County and City planning boards, which will formalize decisions made at STAC.

3.3 Reserve Street Safety Action Plan Draft Update

Menefee gave an overview of the project's status. This plan is currently in its final stages of approval, and implementation considerations have been established. Wehling asked about crash trends that occur during the planning phase and how they are taken into consideration for the planning efforts. Menefee said that any crashes that meet the characteristic threshold they're evaluating during the planning process are taken into consideration. A presentation on the project elements and next steps was shared. As of this meeting, the 30-day public review is taking place, and the plan is expected to be adopted on March 17th.

3.4 MPO Public Participation Plan Draft Update

Menefee and Huff-Doria discussed the current state of the plan, which is expected to be adopted on March 17th. The documents for this process are live on the MPO's website, which has created a more ADA-compliant platform for information.

3.5 Mountain Line ADA Paratransit Rider's Guide Updates and Review

Kreimer shared the proposed updates to the ADA Paratransit Rider's Guide, including replacing or adding information that was previously outdated or unavailable, and brand updates. Hoar recommended passing the documents for feedback along to Travis Hoffman and Brandon Viall.

3.6 Election of Officers

Hoar will hold the position of Chair, Wehling will hold the position of Vice Chair, and Kerwin will hold the position of Secretary. Viall motioned to accept this slate of officers, seconded by McCallum. The motion carried unanimously. These positions will be held throughout the 2026 calendar year.

3.7 Mountain Line Update

Wehling shared that the six paratransit vehicles expected earlier in the year remain undelivered after factory-spec rejections, and the expected delivery date remains unknown. In January, Paratransit saw an increase in ridership, with approximately 8,400 rides completed. OTP remains steady at 98%, while demand is being met at 99%. There are roughly 500 active riders and 110 driving hours per day. The bus stop improvement project is still under reevaluation, with prioritization of ADA accessibility at stops and compliance with PROWAG. Route 10 is expected to begin in early July and will replace Route 8; stop placement and safety assessments are in progress.

3.7 Summit Update

Hoar shared that Summit has fully moved into their new facility and is requesting a bus stop assessment to place a stop closer to their location. Exterior and sidewalk accessibility updates will begin at the end of April.

3.8 Update on city planning efforts & current projects

A grant was just submitted to the federal BUILD Grant program for infrastructure improvements in the Mullan Road/Sxwtpqyen neighborhood. Northside has been selected for the next location for the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program, pending City Council approval.

3.9 ASUM Update

Recently put out an accessibility survey, hoping to partner with campus departments to assess equity—mid-semester operator training focusing on this. Fee increase campaign coming; if not approved, UDASH faces significant changes.

3.10 Other business

Viall shared that Vocational Rehab category one will be closing; any applicants will be placed on a waitlist until further notice.

Next meeting March 27th, 2026