

Missoula City Council Public Works Committee Minutes

**November 3, 2021, 1:00 pm
ZOOM Webinar**

Members present: Stacie Anderson, Mirtha Becerra (chair), John P. Contos, Jordan Hess, Gwen Jones, Julie Merritt, Amber Sherrill, Sandra Vasecka

Members absent: Heather Harp, Jesse Ramos, Bryan von Lossberg, Heidi West

1. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1.1 Roll Call

1.2 Approval of the Minutes

1.2.1 PW Committee Minutes 10/27/2021

The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

3.1 An Information Update from Mountain Line

Cory Aldridge Mountain Line CEO and General Manager and Shanti Johnson Communications Specialist presenting,

This presentation is an update on Mountain Line projects and a look at what is coming in the future. Mountain Line won national recognition by winning the Transit System of the Year award.

Mountain Line has been working on a Bus Stop Improvement Project, the largest project they have ever undertaken. The three key goals of this project were to Improve Safety, Increase Accessibility, and Maximize Service Efficiency. Mountain Line received a BUILD Grant to help them with these improvements. These improvements include new bus stop shelters, new seating, ADA accessible stops, adding trash receptacles, and adding new signage.

Mountain Line has plans to expand service to Sunday and longer hours on Saturday. Mountain Line will need to hire bus operators to broaden this service, which has been a bit of a struggle.

The three-year demonstration project of the Zero-Fare showed that ridership and community support increased. Mountain Line plans to continue moving forward and operating the Zero-Fare program. It was beneficial to have great partnerships like the

City. Zero-Fare has been instrumental in getting federal funding because of the increase in ridership.

Mountain Line is outgrowing the current facility and doesn't have any room to grow. They would like to find some property to build a new facility close to where they currently are. They need to be close to town and the downtown transfer center. A possible new location may be off Scott Street, close to the City facilities. The other option would be out by the airport, increasing the cost of maintenance, wages, and fuel to be so far away. Mountain Line estimated that if they had to relocate by the airport, it would increase costs by about \$500,000 a year.

Mr. Hess asked what the operational benefits were of the Zero-Fare program. Mr. Aldredge explained that before Zero-Fare, they had fare boxes on all buses that required two people to empty the boxes. Then two other people would count the fare, and then the money was transferred to the bank by an armored truck. In addition to that, the fare boxes needed upgrading, which would have been around a million dollars. It also increases bus time because of the delay of riders putting money in the box. Not having the farebox on the buses also increase bus operator safety limiting the number of assaults over fares. Mr. Hess commended Mountain Line for all they have done and is excited to see what they can do in the future.

Ms. Merritt asked if it was possible to collaborate with Beach Transportation for sharing employees. Mr. Aldridge said that creating overlap would be challenging because the Mountain Line drivers are union. However, they would be open to sharing if there was a good solution.

No Recommended Motion – Informational Only

3.2 Public Works and Mobility Administrative Rule 410 and 418- Informational Only

Monte Sipe construction project manager with Public Works and Mobility presenting,

The Public Works and Mobility department has some updates to a few Administrative Rules and would like to notify City Council. They are both posted on the website and have been available for public comment. The Public Works and Mobility Department has not received any comments regarding these updates. Administrative Rule 410 has been updated to reflect job title changes and municipal code. Administrative Rule 418 has been updated to reflect the cities intention to additional dedication revenue to sidewalk projects. This rule also updates the funding assistance formula.

No Recommended Motion – Informational Only

4. ADJOURNMENT