



Mountain Line

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Board of Directors Minutes for Wednesday, January 18, 2023

NOTE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES THE SUMMARIZED MINUTES OF NAIPTA BOARD MEETINGS ARE NOT VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTS. ONLY THE ACTIONS TAKEN AND DISCUSSION APPEARING WITHIN QUOTATION MARKS ARE VERBATIM.

The Board of Directors met in Regular Session on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 10:00am in the Mountain Line VERA Room, 3773 N. Kaspar Dr., Flagstaff, AZ 86004. This was a WEB BASED meeting. Members of the Board and Mountain Line staff attended in person, by internet conferencing, or by telephone. The public was invited to attend.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tony Williams, (Chair), Dean of Student Affairs, CCC, designee, (Zoom);
Miranda Sweet, Vice Mayor, City of Flagstaff, (Zoom);
Jeronimo Vasquez, (Vice Chair), Board of Supervisors, Coconino County, (Zoom), joined at approximately 10:04am;
Lori Matthews, City Councilor, City of Flagstaff, (Zoom), joined at approximately 10:04am;
Josh Maher, Associate VP for Community Relations, NAU, alternate, (Zoom)
**Three of our five Board member seats must be present to constitute a quorum.*
***The City of Flagstaff holds two seats.*

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

None.

MOUNTAIN LINE STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Heather Dalmolin, CEO and General Manager, (In Person and Zoom);
Kate Morley, Deputy General Manager, left at approximately 11:40am;
Josh Stone, Management Services Director, left at approximately 11:40am;
Jim Wagner, Operations Director, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:40am;
Jacki Lenner, Marketing and Communications Director, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:40am;
Sam Short, Safety Manager, (Zoom);
Jeremiah McVicker, Maintenance Manager, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:40am;
Anne Dunno, Capital Project Manager, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:40am;
Bizzy Collins, Strategic Performance Planner, left at approximately 11:40am;
Estella Hollander, Mobility Planner, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:40am;
Lyra Littner, Associate Transit Planner, (Zoom), joined at approximately 10:21am and left at approximately 11:40am;
Heather Higgins, Purchasing and Contracts Officer, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:40am;
Jon Matthies, IT Manager, left at approximately 11:41am and returned at approximately 11:48am;
Rhonda Cashman, Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board;
Scott Holcomb, Mountain Line Attorney, (Zoom)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Judy Begay, Board of Supervisors, Coconino County, alternate, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:36am;
Dave Wessel, Planning Manager, MetroPlan, left at approximately 11:40am;

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Adam Shimoni, Member of the Public, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:15am;
 Steve Eiss, Vice President, Construction and Real Estate Development, Northern Arizona Healthcare, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:07am;
 Michele James, TAC Member, Executive Director, Friends of Flagstaff's Future, (Zoom), left at approximately 11:07am;
 Erika Mazza, Vice President, Development Services, Genterra Enterprises, (Zoom), joined at approximately 10:05am and left at approximately 11:15am;
 Rick Tadder, Management Services Director, City of Flagstaff, (Zoom), joined at approximately 10:06am and left at approximately 11:15am;

1. CALL TO ORDER -Chair Williams called the meeting to order at approximately 10:01am.

2. ROLL CALL

3. SAFETY MINUTE
 -Sam Short, Safety Manager

Mr. Short reported on railroad track safety.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present wishing to speak at this time.

5. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS
 -Heather Dalmolin, CEO and General Manager

Ms. Dalmolin welcomed Councilmember Lori Matthews to the Mountain Line Board of Directors, as well as her alternate, Councilmember Deborah Harris. Director Matthews stated she was happy to be there.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 11/16/2022

Director Sweet moved to approve the minutes for November 16, 2022. Director Vasquez seconded. There was no discussion. All approved, none opposed. Motion carried.

NAME	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Tony Williams	X	
Jeronimo Vasquez	X	
Miranda Sweet	X	
Lori Matthews	X	
Josh Maher	X	

7. STRIDE FORWARD – REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN
 -Dave Wessel, Planning Manager, MetroPlan

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Mr. Wessel provided a PowerPoint presentation for the Board. He reported there is strong public support for climate action, and they have ambitious goals through 2030 to achieve carbon neutrality. Chair Williams complimented the work that has been done and stated the Board would look forward to further discussion.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:

8. CONSIDER UPDATED LETTER TO THE CITY REGARDING NORTHERN ARIZONA HEALTHCARE'S RELOCATION

-Kate Morley, Deputy General Manager

Staff recommends the Board of Directors consider sending an updated letter to Flagstaff City Council regarding Northern Arizona Healthcare's relocation.

Ms. Dalmolin reviewed the history of transit discussions with Northern Arizona Healthcare (NAH). She noted that after consideration of several service scenarios, staff determined fixed route service is the correct long term solution. She explained staff looked at a joint route for NAH and the airport, but they have different trip generators and route planning has moved forward as two routes. She stated staff proposed a shared cost route, but NAH staff has shared that they do not have capacity for reoccurring funding necessary for transit. She reminded everyone that Mountain Line is dependent on the City for the Transit Tax and expansion will require increased funding.

Mr. Steven Eiss stated he has appreciated the conversations with Mountain Line and offered to answer questions.

Ms. Michele James encouraged Board members to send a letter to City Council regarding Mountain Line's efforts to negotiate an agreement with NAH over the last three years for transit service to the proposed location of the new hospital. She stated many were extremely disappointed at the December 6th City Council meeting when NAH disclosed they would not partner with Mountain Line for a transit route to the new hospital location. She recommended the new council understand the history of these negotiations, read the proposed agreement NAH would not sign, and fully understand the impact and consequences if there is no agreement for a transit route. She noted the hospital relocation without equitable access is not in line with City goals. Ms. James stated there are risks and consequences involved with Council taking this to the voters to fund the full cost of a transit route to the new hospital location.

Mr. Shimoni thanked Mr. Eiss, NAH, and Mountain Line for their efforts. He stated he has been in many of the conversations and feels equitable access is important. He would recommend not moving forward without having a plan but would support a letter.

Director Maher started the Board discussion by asking Mr. Eiss what NAH would be willing to do in the future. Mr. Eiss replied that the road network will be built to accommodate transit. He stated he is in agreement regarding the need for equitable access. He said the new hospital should be completed in 2027; NAH is a non-profit and 12 percent of their profit goes back into the non-profit entity; they are currently deferring patients to Phoenix and Las Vegas due to

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capacity; they will continue to offer free rides via Lyft; it is primarily employees using transit currently; they estimate two-thirds of patients come from outside of Flagstaff; and they estimate less than one percent of patients use transit to get to the hospital as they usually arrive by ambulance, etc. Director Maher stated his understanding is that this is less of an equity issue, and he noted his appreciation of staff changing the language in the letter.

Vice Chair Vasquez stated he was not comfortable without having a plan and asked what the options are going forward. Mr. Eiss commented that the public should fund public transportation or possible shuttle service. Vice Chair Vasquez asked if the hospital opening is planned for 2027, when would transit need to start? Mr. Eiss stated the outpatient surgery center would open first in 2025. Vice Chair Vasquez asked if NAH would offer shuttle service. Mr. Eiss stated they may offer shuttle service from their location to the closest bus stop.

Director Sweet asked if the formation of a Transit District had been discussed. Mr. Eiss said he thought NAH could support that funding option. Ms. Dalmolin stated the idea was proposed in the past, but Mountain Line cannot form a Transit District, and could only support the City and NAH in this consideration.

Chair Williams stated the nature of the draft letter is in line with the November discussion, continued support for NAH while Mountain Line gets clear on tax questions.

Director Maher made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to send the proposed letter to City Council. Director Sweet seconded. There was no further discussion. All approved, none opposed. Motion carried.

NAME	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Tony Williams	X	
Jeronimo Vasquez	X	
Miranda Sweet	X	
Lori Matthews	X	
Josh Maher	X	

9. FLAGSTAFF IN MOTION, A COMMUNITY TRANSIT PLAN

-Bizzy Collins, Strategic Performance Planner

Staff recommends the Board of Directors adopt Flagstaff in Motion, A Community Transit Plan.

Ms. Collins shared that she has been working on this Plan for the last 18 months. She clarified that the recommendation is to approve only this plan, and it is not a tax plan. She reviewed the history of the project and some definitions, as well as the transit vision in map form. She noted all of the recommendations had strong Board and TAC member involvement during the October 2022 Advance. She stated the intent of the Plan is to provide service improvements to existing transit programs and clarified that service outside the City will require separate funding. She provided a comparison between the transit vision map and the current service map. Ms. Collins also shared the guiding principles for successful transit; these are gaining nationwide support for transit, as well as a list of transit supportive actions. She noted that streets that work for

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transit also work well for the community. She reviewed next steps: adoption of the Plan; engagement of a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) regarding potential tax questions; survey of likely voters; and recommendation of a tax package to City Council for 2024. Chair Williams commented that he appreciated the Advance activities, and he believes it helped Board members understand better what is possible. Director Sweet made a motion to approve Flagstaff in Motion, A Community Transit Plan as presented. Director Maher seconded. There was no discussion. All approved, none opposed. Motion carried. Ms. Dalmolin offered her congratulations to Ms. Collins for achieving approval of this plan.

NAME	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Adam Shimoni	X	
Tony Williams	X	
Miranda Sweet	X	
Jeronimo Vasquez	X	
Josh Maher	X	

10. RIDER SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

-Jacki Lenner, Marketing and Communications Director

The Board may provide direction, but there is no recommendation from staff at this time.

Ms. Lenner reported that the most recent Rider Satisfaction Survey was done in October 2022. She noted these surveys are typically done every two years, but the last one was done in 2018 with the 2020 survey being skipped due to COVID. She explained Route 10 is integrated into the results this year instead being separated out as surveys were more evenly distributed across all routes. She stated the data from this survey is reflective of feedback received during the public process and as incorporated into the Flagstaff in Motion's recommendation. She shared that there were no significant declines in any areas of the survey and staff are quite pleased with the results. She recognized that one of the number one areas of concern is real time arrival solution and staff are trying to fix the issue with our vendor and cell service provider. Ms. Lenner shared additional details regarding trip purpose, reason for riding, information sources, mobility alternatives, access to bus stops (great data for planning), employment status, and vehicle access. She noted that the results identified regarding impacts of service improvements on rider use of the system are being addressed already in Flagstaff in Motion service plan. Chair Williams commented that the two are wonderfully aligned to support continuous growth. There was no discussion.

PROGRESS REPORTS:

There were no questions regarding the progress reports.

11. KASPAR INTERSECTION GRANT UPDATE

-Kate Morley, Deputy General Manager

12. FY2024 MEETING DATES

-Rhonda Cashman, Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board

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- 13. DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY
-Heather Dalmolin, CEO and General Manager
- 14. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS
-Heather Dalmolin, CEO and General Manager

Ms. Dalmolin shared the following highlights:

- Anniversaries were reviewed.
- Mountain Line returned to full service this week with some issues due to the snow.
- Snow response included less service due to school closures, Mountain Express was cancelled on Sunday, the Insta-Chains were tremendously helpful, and staff prioritized connection centers and the office for snow removal activities. All routes remained operational with an 82 percent on-on time record.

Chair Williams commented that the anniversaries are great and there is some long tenure of employment.

At approximately 11:40am, Director Maher made a motion to convene an executive session. Director Sweet seconded. There was no discussion. All approved, none opposed. Motion carried.

NAME	YES VOTE	NO VOTE
Adam Shimoni	X	
Tony Williams	X	
Miranda Sweet	X	
Jeronimo Vasquez	X	
Josh Maher	X	

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive sessions are closed to the public.

The Board convened an executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4) for the following purpose:

1. Discussion and consultation with Mountain Line's attorney for legal advice and with Mountain Line's attorney and designated representatives, regarding the Riggs v. NAIPTA litigation. ARS § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4).
2. Discussion and consultation with Mountain Line's attorney for legal advice and with Mountain Line's attorney and designated representatives, regarding the Beckshom v. NAIPTA litigation. ARS § 38-431.03(A)(3) and (4).

Following the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board reconvened the public meeting at approximately 11:48am.

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ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE AND STAFF:

Chair Williams thanked everyone for their attendance. Ms. Dalmolin offered review of the February agenda items.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE AND IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS

February/March Working Agenda

The next Board meeting will be February 15, 2023 and will be a hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting based in Flagstaff in the Mountain Line VERA Room, 3773 N. Kaspar Dr., Flagstaff, AZ 86004 at 10am. The public is invited to attend. February agenda items will include but not be limited to the Coconino Community College Proposition 438 Utilization of Funds Presentation, Advertising Policy Update, Adopt Updated Federal and State Priorities, Cybersecurity Policies, Workforce Budget Overview, Bus Stop Program Update, Vanpool Update, and Delegation of Authority Updates. The February agenda will be available for review on Mountain Line's website and at Mountain Line's public posting places (listed on the Mountain Line website) at least 24 hours prior to the meeting and should be consulted for a list of items that will come before the Board.

15. ADJOURNMENT -Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:50am.

Tony Williams, Chair of the Mountain Line Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Rhonda Cashman, Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board

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