



Mountain Line

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Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, May 13, 2024

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 a Special Session on Wednesday, May 13, 2024, at 1:30pm in the Mountain Line VERA Room, 3773 N. Kaspar Dr., Flagstaff, AZ 86004. This was a WEB BASED meeting. Members of the Board attended virtually, and members of the Mountain Line staff attended in person, by internet conferencing, or by telephone. The public was invited to attend.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tony Williams, (Chair), Vice President of Student Services, CCC, designee, (Zoom);
Jeronimo Vasquez, (Vice Chair), Board of Supervisors, Coconino County, (Zoom);
Miranda Sweet, City Councilor, City of Flagstaff, (Zoom);
Lori Matthews, City Councilor, City of Flagstaff, (Zoom);
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, (Zoom);
Jacki Lenner, Deputy General Manager, (Zoom);
Josh Stone, Management Services Director, (Zoom);
Jon Matthies, IT Manager;
Rhonda Cashman, Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board;
Scott Holcomb, Mountain Line Attorney, (Zoom)

GUESTS:

Judy Begay, Board of Supervisors, Coconino County, alternate, (Zoom);
Tom Evans, Lumen Strategies, (Zoom), joined at approximately 1:32pm;
Stacy Pearson, Lumen Strategies, (Zoom), joined at approximately 1:34pm;
Karen Kruse, The Kruse Group, (Zoom with Heather Dalmolin)

1. CALL TO ORDER -Chair Williams called the meeting to order at approximately 1:31pm.
2. ROLL CALL

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:

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3. TRANSIT TAX RECOMMENDATION

-Heather Dalmolin, CEO and General Manager

Staff recommends the Board of Directors formally request that Flagstaff City Council refer a transit tax measure to the ballot in the November 2024 election.

Ms. Dalmolin expressed her gratitude for our Board members making the time for this special meeting. She stated that she wanted to first provide a financial update. She shared a comparison chart of the FY2024 Budget, the FY2024 Projected, and the FY2025 Budget. She noted the increase in FY2025 is due to the significant match required. Next, she reviewed the Transit Tax Fund Balance graph, and she pointed out the significance of each line. She shared the system map as it is today, and the Transit Vision, a map noting improvement priorities per the Flagstaff in Motion, Five-Year Plan completed recently. She reviewed the fact that full build out of Flagstaff in Motion would be a doubling of the existing transit tax, 29.5 cents on a \$100 purchase, including eight cents to close a revenue to expense gap. She explained the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) consisted of nine diverse community members and held three meetings. She reviewed the survey outcomes, noting that as the amount of a potential tax increase went up, the percentage of support went down, but it was still over 50 percent, and climate change elicited a higher tolerance for a tax increase. She noted staff refined the funding request to include the eight cents to close the revenue to expense gap, and 12.5 cents to provide opportunity for increased frequency, longer service hours, and service to unserved areas. She explained the proposed question would increase the tax by 20.5 cents and would renew the transit tax until 2040. This increase would provide some funding for expansion; with the tax effective on July 1, 2025. She noted some alternatives were listed in the staff report. She reported to the Board that she drafted a letter to City Council requesting a ballot measure be considered for the November 5, 2024 election should the Board approve this recommendation.

Director Maher asked about the outreach for the virtual open house. Ms. Dalmolin deferred the question to our consultant. Mr. Evans explained the virtual open house was an open-ended process with ads placed in the Arizona Daily Sun over a two week period and the only requirement was that you had to be a registered voter. Additionally, up to two text messages were sent to random members from the registered voter list with a link to the virtual open house. Director Maher also asked about demographics. Mr. Evans stated that the data was not cross-referenced that much. Director Maher commented that his concern was the possibility of responses being skewed by respondents. Mr. Evans noted that in his experience, it is often those who are engaged that tend to be more critical of the proposed initiative. Ms. Dalmolin shared that the CAC discussed the current tax expiring in 2030 and the important opportunity for both the renewal and expansion. Chair Williams asked what other ballot initiatives are expected. Ms. Dalmolin stated that in addition to the potential for Mountain Line, the City is planning for the Bed, Board, and Beverage (BBB) tax renewal (sunsetting in 2026), and the County is planning for an expenditure limits initiative, not a tax; she is not sure what initiatives the State will have on the ballot. Chair Williams asked about the cost for this effort. Ms. Dalmolin communicated that the fees for the actual elections would be shared with the City and that Mountain Line had an adequate budget for education materials and open house efforts. Vice Chair Vasquez asked if the tax would be restricted to the City. Ms. Dalmolin

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responded that the tax would not be used to expand any transit services outside the City. Director Matthews reported that this Thursday the City Council would hold a work session related to the water rate increase and this conversation about financial impacts to our community may have an adverse impact on this initiative. Director Sweet moved to approve the transit tax recommendation as presented. Vice Chair 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	

ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE AND STAFF:

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE AND IDENTIFY AGENDA ITEMS

June/August Working Agenda

The next Board meeting will be June 26, 2024 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. June agenda items may include but not be limited to the FY2025 Budget Presentation and Adoption, Expand Reduced Fare Program, Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan, Triennial Review Final Report, Possible Route 7 Changes, Procurement Resolution, Grant Resolution, Line of Credit, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program, Title VI Policy, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Drug and Alcohol Policy, Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), Strategic Workplan Update, Workforce Utilization Report, Annual Information Technology(IT)/Cybersecurity Report, Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) Update, and Delegation of Authority Updates. The June 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.

19. ADJOURNMENT -Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:57pm.

Tony Williams, Chair of the Mountain Line Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Rhonda Cashman, Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board

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