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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VRT Management Committee delays decision on proposed changes to Route #42

BOISE – The Valley Regional Transit (VRT) Management Committee on Monday postponed for a month a decision on a proposal to eliminate ValleyRide bus service along at least a one-mile stretch of Overland Road between Five Mile and Maple Grove Roads.

The unanimous decision by the committee followed a review of a public comment report and a recommendation by VRT Executive Director Kelli Fairless to postpone any decision until the committee’s Aug. 4 meeting.

“We are not delaying, we just need a little more time,” Fairless told the Committee. “We are still looking at options. We need more time to do a route deviation cost analysis.”

The proposed service reduction would affect the ValleyRide Route #42 Nampa/Meridian Limited Stop, which provides weekday service between Nampa, Meridian and Boise.

The possible service reduction is the result of an arbitrator’s decision in a matter between VRT and Local 398 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, which represents ValleyRide mechanics and bus drivers. The union claimed that a Boise bus system restructure implemented in October 2005 violated the collective bargaining agreement, which prohibits subcontracting. As a result of the system restructure, non-union bus operators working for a private transit management company began driving the one-mile section of Overland Road that was once part of the Boise route system.

The arbitrator in the case ruled that subcontracting of the one-mile route section must end. ValleyRide staff examined several options to modify existing Boise fixed-line bus routes to provide service in the affected area, but determined that none of the options would meet bus service standards.