

August 5, 2008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Transit committee approves additional bus service in southwest Boise

MERIDIAN - The Valley Regional Transit (VRT) Management Committee on Monday (August 4) approved a proposal to provide ValleyRide Boise bus service to the Social Security Office and employment centers near Overland and Maple Grove roads.

The committee voted 5-0 in favor of a proposal to provide on-demand "tripper" service to the area via the #29 Overland route. The additional service will be implemented by early October.

The proposal addresses concerns expressed by ValleyRide bus riders after VRT announced that service along at least a one-mile section of Route #42 Nampa/Meridian Limited Stop would be eliminated because of an arbitrator's decision in a grievance filed by Local 398 of the Amalgamated Transit Union. 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 a one-mile section of Overland Road (between Maple Grove and Five Mile) 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 fixed-line bus routes to provide service in the affected area, but determined that none of the options would meet bus service standards.

Here is how the new service will work: The #29 bus will leave the Boise Towne Square Mall and arrive at Cole and Overland roads. If requested, the bus operator will make the following service loop: right on Overland, right on Maple Grove, right on Hackamore Drive (which turns into Vinnell Way) and left from Vinnell back on to eastbound Overland. This "tripper" service will only be available during certain times of the day.

To comply with the arbitrator's decision, Valley Regional Transit will move a passenger pickup spot located at Five Mile and Overland farther west on Overland. The #42 bus will make stops at the new Park & Ride location, and on Maple Grove Road near the Black Eagle business center before reaching the transfer center at the Mall.