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Contact: Mark Carnopis
Community Relations Mgr.
Valley Regional Transit
(208) 846-8547 ext. 4215

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ValleyRide schedules two public hearings on proposed changes to Route #42

BOISE – The public is invited to attend two hearings in Nampa and Boise next week to learn more about 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 public hearings are scheduled for:

- **4 p.m. Wednesday, June 18, Nampa City Hall, City Council Chambers**
- **4 p.m. Thursday, June 19, Boise City Hall, City Council Chambers**

A presentation providing information about the proposal is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on both dates. Valley Regional Transit (VRT) staff will be available at the public hearings to discuss the proposed service change and gather comments.

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 collect 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 the one-mile route section be returned to the Boise fixed-line service system. 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.

The VRT Management Committee is scheduled to make a decision on the service reduction at its July 7 meeting. Those who cannot attend the public hearings can learn more about the proposal and provide comment by visiting www.valleyregionaltransit.org, or calling 846-8547, ext. 4215. The deadline for submitting public comment is June 29.

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