



February 15, 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ValleyRide Caldwell Route 55 to be replaced by new bus service**

MERIDIAN – ValleyRide Caldwell Route 55 Franklin Smeed, a fixed-line pilot bus route that began operating in June 2011, will be replaced with new bus service, Valley Regional Transit has announced.

A ridership count on Route 55 shows that very few people are using this bus and it is not cost effective to continue operating the service in its current form. A decision has been made to discontinue the route; its last day of operation will be **Friday, February 17, 2012.**

Route 55 is a part of a project to improve transportation services in the Caldwell area, including much needed service to the Health and Welfare, Department of Labor and Veterans Administration offices. All funding for this project has been provided by the Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC) through a federal grant.

There is a need for public transportation services to the above mentioned government agencies and to additional key area locations, including the YMCA and the Southwest District Health Office. Valley Regional Transit and the SILC are developing a new type of bus service to replace Route 55. This service will begin **March 19, 2012.**

The existing Route 55 operated between 7:25 a.m. and 6 p.m. weekdays. The new service will consist of three routes that will operate between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. **(Editors: below is a general outline of the new service; more detailed information, including fixed route stop locations, fares and the demand response service areas will be available shortly.)**

**Fixed-Route Service:** *Parma – Notus – Farmway Village – Middleton – Wilder -Greenleaf*

On Mondays (beginning March 19), ValleyRide Route 73 will provide bus service from Parma, Notus, Farmway Village, Middleton, Wilder and Greenleaf to Department of Health and Welfare, Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Administration and Southwest District Health Office and the Caldwell YMCA.

**Demand Response Service:** *Nampa and Caldwell*

On Tuesdays (beginning March 20), Route 57 bus service will be provided between Nampa and agency locations, Southwest District Health and the YMCA.

On Wednesdays (beginning March 21), Route 58 bus service will be provided between Caldwell and agency locations, Southwest District Health Office and the YMCA.



Demand response service involves vans or small buses operating in response to calls from passengers to the transit operator, who schedules a vehicle at least two working days in advance to pick up the passengers and take them to their destinations.

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