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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Valley Regional Transit purchases site in Caldwell for new transit facility**

MERIDIAN – Valley Regional Transit (VRT) has purchased the former Happy Day Ford dealership site on Cleveland Boulevard in Caldwell with the intent to develop it into a maintenance and operations base and a public transit center.

The purchase price was \$1,011,000, which includes a 25,000-square-foot building and 4.5 acres of land. Funding for the purchase came from the Federal Transit Administration and Canyon County. The property is located at 5807 Cleveland Boulevard.

The Caldwell Boulevard site will be the new home for ValleyRide Canyon County Operations, which are currently housed in a leased facility on Industrial Road in Nampa. The current facility has inadequate space for parking buses, has a dirt lot, only one access point, minimal parking for staff and visitors, only one usable maintenance garage door for the buses, and minimal lobby space.

ValleyRide Canyon County Operations manages the fixed-line and dial-a-ride bus services in Nampa and Caldwell and the inter-county service between Ada and Canyon counties.

VRT reviewed several sites for relocating the Nampa operations. The two finalists were Happy Day Ford and the closed Familian Northwest site at 925 Franklin Boulevard.

Rhonda Jalbert, VRT Capital infrastructure Project Management, said the Happy Day Ford site was selected in large part because it had more space for current and future needs (which may include a bus wash and a fueling facility) and required fewer building improvements to convert it to a bus operations site.

Jalbert said plans are to move the ValleyRide Canyon County Operations to the new site by December 2013.