

## Regional Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

May 21, 2024 9:00 AM

VRT Board Room - 700 NE 2nd Street - Meridian, Idaho

This is an in-person meeting.

If you are unable to attend in person, you may join us via MSTeams at http://ridevrt.org/VRTRAC\_FY24 or by dialing in at 323-484-8960 Conference ID: 305 388 188#

- I. Calling of the Roll Chair Walter Steed
- II. Agenda Additions/Changes
- III. Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda are Action Items and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Regional Advisory Council Member requests the item be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Action Items.

- IV. Action Items
- V. Information Items
  - A. INFORMATION: Bus Stop Typology Update

Pages 3-5 | Kate Dahl

Staff will provide a summary of updates on bus stop improvement projects including the Bus Stop Typology, FY2024 Service Change, and Bus Stop Inventory Phase 1.

B. INFORMATION: FY2024 Network Redesign Brochures, Maps and Outreach Pages 6-8 | Jason Rose

This is an information item. Staff will present the new brochures and maps that accompany final network redesign to the Regional Advisory Council. For a complete list of route brochures, visit https://www.valleyregionaltransit.org/planning/service-changes/

C. INFORMATION: Temporary Bus Stop Signs

Pages 9-10 | Stephen Hunt

Staff will present information about temporary bus stop signs for the service change beginning June 3.

D. INFORMATION: Umo Training

Page 11 | Jason Rose and Hailee Lenhart-Wees

This is an information item. Staff will provide the Regional Advisory Council with training on how to use the Umo app and card.

E. INFORMATION: Topics for Discussion

Walter Steed

Members of the Regional Advisory Council will have the opportunity to bring up topics on items they've heard about during an open discussion session, or topics they would like to be considered on an upcoming agenda.

VI. Department/Staff Reports

## A. INFORMATION: Department/Staff Reports Pages 12-24 | Staff

The most current department/staff reports were included in the packet for information. You are encouraged to read them as they contain important information.

#### VII. Adjournment

Agenda order is subject to change.

Next Regional Advisory Council Meeting: July 16, 2024 VRT Boardroom 700 NE 2nd Street Meridian, ID 83642

Any accommodations needed for effective communication, such as language interpretation or auxiliary aids, should be made no later than three working days before the scheduled meeting. Please contact Jason Rose, Communications Director at jrose@rideVRT.org or by calling 208-258-2739.



TOPIC	Bus Stop Typology Update
DATE	May 13, 2023
STAFF MEMBER	Kate Dahl

#### Introduction

Bus stop improvements includes the following projects: the Bus Stop Typology document to provide guidance on bus stop standardization, the FY2024 Service Change including new signs, and information holders, and shifting of bus stop locations, and the Bus Stop Inventory Phase 1.

#### **Bus Stop Typology (BST)**

At the last Regional Advisory Council (RAC) workshop Valley Regional Transit (VRT) presented the Bus Stop Typology (BST) and the methodology used to identify passenger amenities. VRT and the RAC discussed the need to develop a rider survey to identify stop specific amenities that may not be required by the BST but would be useful to the riders. Staff will prepare draft survey and a proposed engagement schedule for the RAC to review at an upcoming RAC meeting.

#### Bus Stop Inventory Phase 1 Complete

To help lay the groundwork for a coordinated, objective bus stop investment program, VRT has recently completed Phase 1 of the Bus Stop Inventory. From that inventory, a database was developed outlining the conditions and amenities at each bus stop. At this time, approximately 100 bus stops have been individually inventoried. From the data collected, an analysis has been prepared with some key takeaways on bus stops on premium corridors.

#### **Bus Stop Sizes**

51% of bus stops were large, 29% medium, and 19% small

#### Boarding/Alighting Pads and Condition

- 51% had a boarding/alighting pad, 38% board or alight directly on the sidewalk, 8.8% a bus bay, and 1% separated sidewalk
- 66.7% of boarding/alighting pads were in average condition, 27.5% in good condition, and 5.9% in poor condition

#### Sidewalk Presence, Condition and Material

- 99% of bus stops were directly connected to a sidewalk
- 73.5% of concrete at bus stops is in average condition, 19.6% in good condition, and 7% in poor condition
- 98% of sidewalks were concrete, 1% were asphalt, and 1% were constructed of brick or pavers

#### **Bus Stop Amenities**

- 69.6% of bus stops had a shelter present
- 54% of bus stops had lighting within 50 feet, 28% had no lighting, and 19% had solar lighting as part of the stop

- 46% of bus stops had a Creative Outdoor Advertising (COA) bench present, 25% had a VRT bench present, 22% had no bench, and 8% had an alternative bench
- 53% of benches had no advertising, 44% had advertising, and 3% had advertising elsewhere at the stop
- 91% of bus stops had a bike rack present
- 92% of bus stops had a map case present
- 83% of bus stops had a trash receptacle present

#### **Curb Ramps**

- 80% had a curb ramp present, 20% did not
- 59% of the curb ramps were perpendicular to the intersection, 15% were parallel to it, 21% had no curb ramp, and 6% had other designs

#### **ADA Compliance**

- 69% of bus stop pad met ADA requirements size requirements 8'x 5'
- 80% of stops had a cross slope of less than 2% (ADA Compliant)
- 97% of stops had run slopes less than 5% (ADA Compliant)



In summary, bus stop improvements on premium routes are nearly compliant with the Bus Stop Typology. Overall stops are meeting the core requirements with solid boarding/alighting areas that are ADA complaint and the concrete is in usable condition and high connectivity. A high percentage of bus stops include multiple optional features which certainly improve rider ease and comfort and showcase the premium routes. VRT can continue to improve

stops by building ADA compliant boarding/alighting pads, adding and replacing amenities, replacing concrete in poor condition, and adding curb ramps. This data assists staff in identifying which stops do not meet the bus stop typology and begin developing improvement projects to bring all stops up to premium requirements.

VRT expects to conduct a Phase 2 Bus Stop Inventory this year that will collect data on standard routes. It is expected these bus stops will require significantly more improvements to come into compliance with the Bus Stop Typology. At this point it will be important to collect rider feedback on amenities and conditions at specific stops to assist VRT in prioritizing improvement projects.

#### **Additional Information**

N/A

#### For detailed information contact:

Kate Dahl, Principal Planner, kdahl@rideVRT.org, 208-258-2715



TOPIC	Change Day Update, New Maps and Brochures and RAC Involvement
DATE	May 21, 2024
STAFF MEMBER	Jason Rose

#### Staff Recommendation/Request

This is an information item. Staff will present an update on the final network redesign and discuss more ways the RAC can support Change Day outreach.

#### **Summary**

VRT's Better Bus initiative, and bus network redesign within the initiative, is the most substantial service change VRT has embarked on since its inception. Decisions were guided by thousands of points of public input over the last year, many driven by the vision and involvement of the Regional Advisory Council.

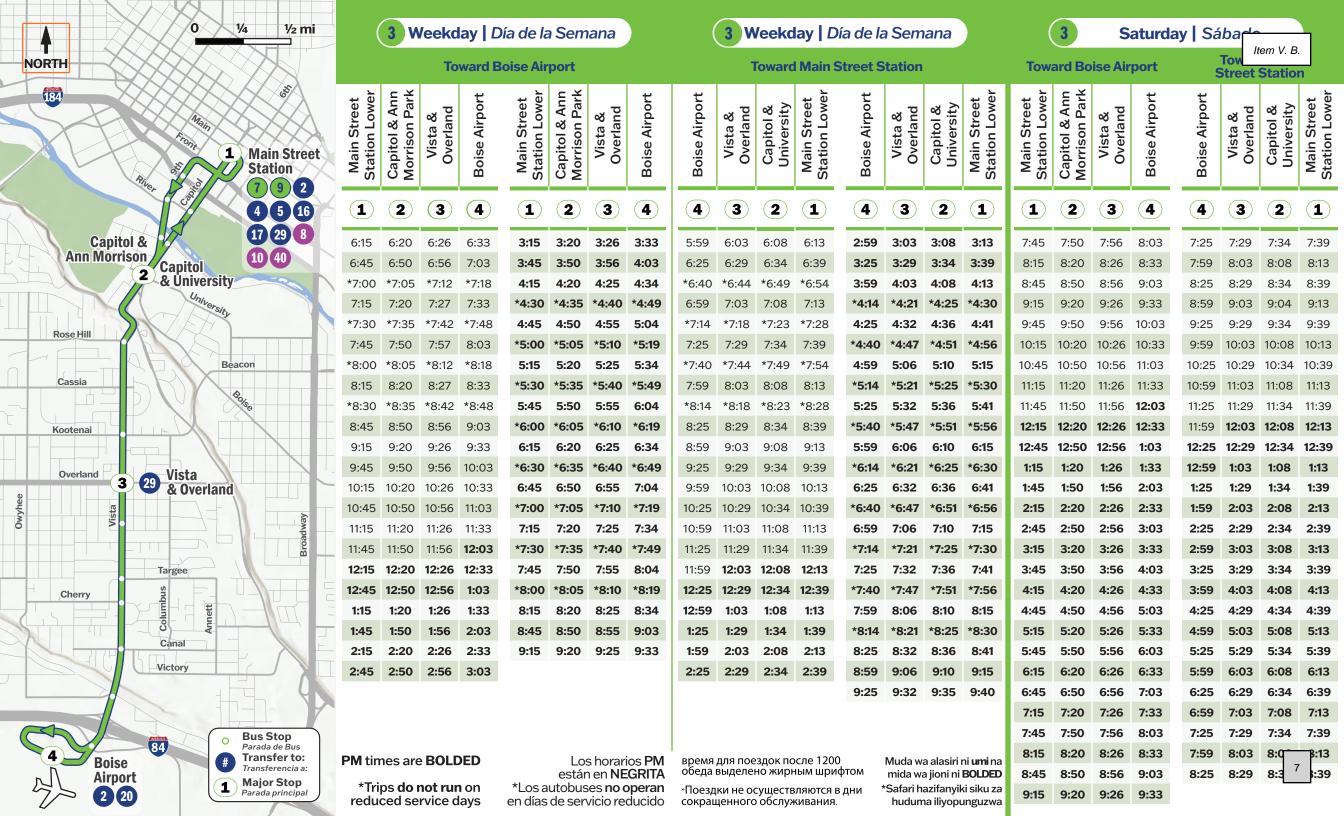
One of the more substantial changes is the integration with the new Bus Stop Typology and new VRT branding. That part of the initiative includes new route colors that are color coded based on frequency and better integration with existing outreach tools. To communicate those changes VRT has produced all new route maps and route brochures.

VRT staff will present a quick update on the maps brochures and impacts of the service changes and discuss ways for the RAC to continue their involvement with community outreach leading up to, and after, Change Day on June 3.

#### More Information

Sample route brochure and route map. At the meeting RAC members will be shown actual brochures and maps

For detailed information contact: Jason Rose, Communications Director, 208-803-5183, irose@ridevrt.org



#### Stop List | Parada

#### **Toward Boise Airport**

#### 1 Main Street Station **Lower Deck**

9th & Myrtle

9th & River

9th & Roval

#### **Capitol & Ann Morrison**

Vista & Grover

Vista & Cassia

Vista & Kootenai

#### Vista & Overland

Vista & Nez Perce

Vista & Targee

Vista & Cherry

Vista & Canal

Vista & Elder

Airport & Wright

#### 4 Boise Airport

#### **Toward Main Street Station**

#### 4 Boise Airport

Vista & Sunrise Rim

Vista & Canal

Vista & Cherry

Vista & Targee

Vista & Spaulding

#### Vista & Overland

Vista & Kootenai

Vista & Cassia

Vista & Grover

#### **Capitol & University**

Capitol & Cesar Chavez Capitol & River

**Main Street Station** Lower Deck

#### **PRO TIP** The timetable and stop list are super useful for trip planning!

Read top to bottom for the time a bus departs from major stops

► Read left to right for a bus trip

► The stop list shows every bus stop | Stop List

Plan your trip by viewing major stop times before and after your stop

Timetal	ble	
Main Street Station	Next Major Stop	Major Stop
1	2	3
7:15	7:24	7:34
7:45	7:54	8:04
3:45	3:54	4:04

1 Main Street Station Previous Bus Stop Your Bus Stop 2 Next Major Stop

CODE: VRT

# This route has stops offering VRT Lyft Pass

(If your selected ride exceeds \$8 the remaining balance **VRT pays \$6** will be charged to your default payment method)

AVAILABLE

MON-FRI 6:00 AM - 10:00 PM SAT 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Use this code in the Lyft app to load the program, order discounted rides, and to view qualifying bus stops.

> Información en español disponible por internet, en la aplicación y por teléfono.

## How to Ride | Cómo Viajar

Las traducciones están disponibles en rideVRT.org/how

# **Plan your**

Download the **Umo Mobility app** and select the Boise, ID metro area or go to rideVRT.org. Looking for VRT On-Demand? Check out the VRT Booking app!



**PRO TIP** Select "Start" after you plan your trip in Umo for live directions.

# **Get your**

Load your **Umo** account- With Umo's "fare capping" feature, you'll never pay more than you need to. You can also use cash, coins, or a paper bus pass.



**PRO TIP** Overpay with cash on board? You'll get a change card to use on a next trip.

## Head to your stop

Wait at your bus stop with your fare ready. Wave to the driver as the bus approaches so they know you are getting on board!



**PRO TIP** Check the route number on the front of the bus to ensure it's your ride!

# Get on

PRO TIP Stay connected while you

ride with free onboard Wi-Fi.

Pay your fare at the farebox or Umo reader and pick a seat. Audio and visual announcements will let you know upcoming stops. When the bus approaches your stop, pull the yellow cord and be on your way!

### **Fares** | Tarifas

		Standard	Regional
Single ride	Viaje Sen	cillo	
Adult	Adultos	\$1.50	\$4.50
Reduced	Reducido*	\$0.75	\$2.25
All-Day Pass   Pase de Todo el Día			
Adult	Adultos	\$2.50	\$7.50
Reduced	Reducido*	\$1.25	\$3.75

#### Kids ages 5 and under ride free!

Niños de 5 años y menores viajan gratis.

\*Youth (6-18) / Older adults (65+) / Disabled / Medicare cardholders Jóvenes (6-18) / Adultos mayores (65+) / Personas con discapacidades / Usuarios de Medicare

> Regional fare is only required on specific routes. La tarifa regional solo es requerida en rutas específicas.

#### Holiday Schedule | Servicio en Días Festivos

**No service on:** No hay servicio en:

New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas

Reduced service on: | Servicio reducido en:

Martin Luther King Day, Presidents Day, Veterans Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve. New Year's Eve

> For specific dates visit ridevrt.org Para mas detalles, visite ridevrt.org

#### **Information** Información

For more information. scan the QR code:

Para mas información. escanee el código QR:

**Visit** *Visite:* ride**vrt**.org/ride Call | Llame (208) 345-7433



**EFFECTIVE JUNE 3, 2024 | V42020340.8** 



**Customer Service** 208-345-7433

Item V. B. Vista

#### **15-30 MINUTES**

Monday-Friday Lunes-Viernes	A bus comes every Un autobús llega cada
6:00 AM - 6:45 AM 6:45 AM - 8:45 AM 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM 4:00 PM - 8:30 PW 8:30 PM - 9:40 PM	15 mir 30 mir 15 mir

**Saturday** Sábado A bus comes every Un autobús llega cada 7:25 AM - 8:40 PM 30 min

### **MAJOR STOPS**

MAIN STREET STATION

**CAPITOL & ANN MORRISON** 

**VISTA & OVERLAND** 

**BOISE AIRPORT** 

### **POINTS OF INTEREST**

Boise City Hall Boise State University **Boise Union Depot** Rhodes Skate Park Hawthorn Elementary Shoshone Park Albertsons





TOPIC	FY2024 Service Change Temporary Stops
DATE	May 15, 2024
STAFF MEMBER	Stephen Hunt

#### Introduction

The FY2024 service change will require new stops at various locations.

#### **Highlights**

 August 2023: VRT Board approved service change for summer 2024 implementation

• Fall/Winter 2023: VRT staff finalized bus stop locations on all new routes and

prepared National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical

Exclusion (CE) determination worksheet.

Winter 2023/2024: VRT staff coordinated with ACHD regarding new stop locations

for approval

March 2024: VRT fixed service change launch date of June 3, 2024

April 2024: Delays occurred in NEPA CE process
 May 2024: VRT to place temporary bus stops

#### Summary

Staff has been working with local and federal agencies to install new bus stops along some of the new routes that will begin operation June 3, 2024. VRT procured all signs and materials for the bus stop installation. Delays in the environmental review necessitates some of the new stops remain temporary until the environmental process is complete.

On June 3, there will be between 50 and 70 temporary stops in operation. These stops will be signed as temporary but will have all the service information of permeant stops.

Permanent stops along all routes will be installed as soon as the environmental process is complete. This should be complete by the end of July.

#### **More Information**

Attachment 1: Temporary Bus Stop Sign and Passenger Information

#### For detailed information contact:

Stephen Hunt, Development Director, shunt@rideVRT.org, 208-258-2701

#### Attachment 1: Temporary Bus Stop Sign and Passenger Information

Figure 2: Temporary Bus Stop Sign



Figure 1: Example Passenger Information





TOPIC	Umo Training
DATE	May 21, 2024
STAFF MEMBER	Jason Rose and Hailee Lenhart-Wees

#### Staff Recommendation/Request

This is an information item. Staff will provide the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) with training on how to use the Umo app and card.

#### Summary

VRT utilizes the Umo payment product for account-based fare payments, offering either a mobile app or smart card option. As a token of appreciation for Board and RAC involvement, and to incentivize usage of the transit system by decisionmakers and advisory members, Valley Regional Transit (VRT) has created codes for a complimentary bus pass for those members who wish to utilize the transit system.

The passes will be valid on VRT fixed-route and intercounty buses only and will be distributed via code or card. Staff will provide a short presentation to instruct RAC members on this opportunity, and will then follow up to work with interested members on setting up either an app or card account.

Staff will provide the RAC with training on how to use the Umo app and card.

#### **More Information**

Attachments: none

For detailed information contact: Jason Rose, Communications Director, 208-803-5183, irose@ridevrt.org



TOPIC	CEO Activity Report
DATE	May 6, 2024
STAFF MEMBER	Elaine Clegg

#### **CEO Update**

Information only, no action needed.

#### **Highlights**

Budgeting for VRT is much more than looking at revenue forecasts and lasts years costs vs this year's projected costs. As you all know our local match funding comes primarily from contributions from each of you, our members, and before deciding on those we need to answer to you about ridership and other performance measures, growth, projected needs and more. I have instituted a new process this year with more information up front and more communication as needed so you can make informed decisions. You should have received a letter and assessment request. I look forward to the conversations around the requests.

**Better Bus/Service Change** – Activities this month are the beginning of implementing the better bus service changes and include:

- Installation of over 650 new sign blades at all the bus stops
- Installation of information holders with each signpost. Every stop will now have an
  information holder that will have details about the service change now and later will
  include information about the routes that stop serves.
- Design of the inserts for the information holders, installing the temporary ones with change information and sending to print and readying for installation the permanent information inserts.
- Complete redesign of our route brochures. They now match our new brand and have easier to use information. They will go to print the first part of May.
- Complete redesign of route map and installation of routes maps at select shelters.

Please thank all of our communications staff and development staff for their hard work on this (next month you can thank our operations staff) Special thanks to Alissa Taysom and Melody Roper who did the bulk of the work on the sign blades, brochures, map and information inserts. Thank you!

Beyond Access – VRT's Beyond Access service, in partnership with Metro Community Services, is beginning to smooth out. While we have seen an increase in ridership between counties, service that wasn't previously available, overall ridership continues to be down. Part of the decrease is due to moving some riders to Access service if they are eligible and should be served by Access. Access services continue to grow as a result, especially in Canyon County. We have been holding bi-monthly meetings to solidify the partnership with Metro and ready for further changes next year and that has evolved into a great working relationship between our two organizations.

**Treefort Treeline and Disco Roller Derby** – VRT continued its service to the Treefort Music Festival with our Treeline shuttle service. It remains popular, and people especially like the

"bands on the bus" that perform on the shuttles. We held the first ever public event in Main Street Station, a Disco Roller Derby, at the close of Treefort. It was a tremendous success with a series of roller races followed by a free skate for whoever brought their own skates, all accompanied by disco music. Thank you, Mayor McLean, for starting the races and being there to skate. I didn't see anyone all day who didn't have a smile on their face. We are looking into other ways to use Main Street Sation for celebratory events in the future.

**Meetings** – VRT continues to reach out to many partners.

- Idaho 2040 Forum The forum has met twice since my last report and agreed to
  raise funds to complete some polling and a report by the Idaho Policy institute on the
  need for and economic benefits of transit. The group is also looking to raise funds to
  the help the policy institute acquire a software program that will allow a deeper
  economic ROI analysis of various scenarios and projects.
- Meetings with state leaders With the help of our government affairs consultant I
  continue to reach out to various state leaders to engage them on the importance of
  improving transit in the Idaho.
- Meetings with city leaders I have continued the individual outreach to various city
  and county officials to help them better understand what we do and why it is valuable
  to them to support our work.
- PNWER We have been meeting with the Pacific Northwest Economic Region to iron out the details of our subrecipient grant with them. They will be helping conduct feasibility analysis on using federal infrastructure bonds on joint development TOD projects and an analysis of the rail corridor for high performance rail potential.
- Idaho Power I had a great meeting with Megan Ronk to talk about ways we can better partner with Idaho Power on battery storage and regulatory issues.

#### **Boards and Committees**

- The Bus Coalition (TBC) Board The Bus Coalition has been busy advocating for more funding for bus and bus facilities grants as well as the temporary Buy America Waiver for the small Karsan Ejest buses that we have on demonstration. I sent letters to the delegation noting both of those issues and details for how they impact VRT.
- TVCCC Board The Treasure Valley Clean Cities Coalition Board held a workshop with the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program through the Idaho office of Energy and Mineral Resources. We will continue to engage in this effort.
- HSIPR Committee member The High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail committee in Washington, DC at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) met in April. I joined remotely. They continue to advocate for funding from the IIJA for rail.
- **BMCC** I am a member of the Boise Metro Chamber's Transportation Committee where we share information about our work and to listen to various presentations. This month Senator Winder gave us a rundown of this past legislative session.

Travel - This month has focused on in-state travel.

 April trip to eastern Idaho – met with the Idaho Falls mayor and transit organization and the Pocatello Regional Transit director and the MPO director in Bannock County.
 We talked about the need for more funding for transit statewide and the effort that the Idaho 2040 Forum is working on. • Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce Leadership Conference – I saw many of you at the BMCC conference in Sun Valley. It was great information on the future of energy in Idaho. As we electrify the fleet in Ada County, we will pursue many of the ideas.

**VRT in the News –** There were a variety of stories this month.

- KTVB 7 Growing Idaho: VRT CEO looks at what's next for public transportation; <a href="https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/growing-idaho/growing-idaho-whats-next-for-public-transportation-vrt/277-fdcf0b0d-a2c6-4590-ac35-d121a4247110">https://www.ktvb.com/video/news/local/growing-idaho/growing-idaho/277-824cd178-beeb-4f17-9fd3-4fa7e94265e8</a>
- BVA Boardroom Podcast Episode 15; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJtxQQJ8WOw&t=2394s1
- Boise Dev Caldwell decides not to fund added VRT bus route; <a href="https://boisedev.com/news/2024/04/03/caldwell-city-council-says-no-to-vrt-funding-that-would-have-added-a-new-bus-route/">https://boisedev.com/news/2024/04/03/caldwell-city-council-says-no-to-vrt-funding-that-would-have-added-a-new-bus-route/</a>

Regional Rail - I continue to pursue avenues to activate our rail corridor with passenger rail.

- PEL study COMPASS kicked off the Planning and Environmental Linkages study of high-capacity transit in the region with interviews and stakeholder outreach. This study is a step in the environmental approvals that will be needed to implement highcapacity transit on the rail corridor or other corridors.
- Outreach to Union Pacific I have been working with the CEO of Simplot on outreach to senior leadership at UP in the headquarters office. Early indications are positive.
- Corridor Identification Program VRT will continue to work with partners to pursue a state supported route from Boise to Salt Lake City.
- FRA Long Distance Study FRA will complete the study with a final round of meetings in June. I am scheduled to attend that final meeting in Missoula and will ask you to reach out to our congressional delegation to support restoring the Pioneer long-distance route in the Amtrak system once the report is forwarded to them.

#### **Summary of Internal Activities**

Cameron Wells has been promoted internally to Chief Financial Officer with the resignation of Jason Jedry. He has already proven to be a valuable Executive Management Team member. Congratulate Cam if you see him.

Much of the staff effort this past month has focused on the service change. That will accelerate during May, and we expect the first week in June to be very busy. No matter how well you plan, we anticipate there will be some disruption and are prepared to deal with it by having a heavy schedule of outreach available the first month, particularly that first week. VRT has challenged all of our staff to participate in May in Motion and set a goal for the organization to reach platinum status. Just as we did last year, we will have a celebration if we reach our goals.

VRT will hire a new general operating contractor next year. We have engaged a consulting firm, SBLB LLC, to help analyze our needs and wants and draft the RFP for those services. Their team has highly experienced transit operators and managers and we have been very impressed with their approach so far.

VRT continues to work with our legal counsel on the Proterra bankruptcy. Operations is working to find replacements for the dispensers that are not working properly and are working toward discounting the two remaining bus payments due to those costs. Our development and grants team drafted an application for a Lo-No grant that we just submitted to install on-route chargers, along with bathrooms, a drivers break room and other amenities at our Town Square Mall station. The grant proposes to use a battery storage container at this site rather than install more expensive electrical infrastructure. Thank you for the support of this grant application.

On the operations side we have initiated regular in-person meetings with the contract staff in both counties to improve communication and information sharing. As with the regular meeting with our Beyond Access partner in canyon County, these meeting have already been productive in improving communications on both sides. There is more to share but suffice to say that it has been a productive year; thank you all for your support of our efforts.

For detailed information contact: Elaine Clegg, CEO, 208.258.2712, eclegg@rideVRT.org



TOPIC	Development Department Monthly Report
DATE	May 6, 2024
STAFF MEMBER	Stephen Hunt

Development Department activities for May 2024 report.

#### **VRT Strategic Plan**

Goal 1 - Demonstrate responsible stewardship of public resources

#### Performance Based Decision-making

#### FY2025 Budget Build

Staff leveraged the planning efforts of the FY 2023-2027 TDP to inform the FY2025 budget process. Staff developed FY2025 preliminary budgets and is coordinating with staff of financial partners to develop FY2025 funding requests.

#### Goal 2 - Increase Ridership and Revenue

- FY2024 Service Changes Staff coordinated and is installing updated sign blades and information holders. Based on City of Caldwell funding decisions, staff removed routes 56 and 58 from the FY2024 service change.
- **Bus Stop Improvements** Phase 1 of the Bus Stop Inventory is underway. Staff continues work with consultant to develop a database of tracking bus stops and amenities, which will guide stop improvement prioritization.
- The Intercity Connections Study Staff continues working with consultant on stakeholder tasks for the intercity connections study.
- Towne Square Mall Transit Center The Dillard's contract has been updated and VRT
  is continues negotiations with Dillard's. Staff is working with consultants to prepare a
  low-no grant application to update the transit center at the Towne Square Mall and
  install electric charging infrastructure.
- Boise State University Public Policy Masters Student Capstone Project VRT staff continued support Boise State Masters Students as they've studied potential redevelopment sites along Fairview Ave.
- Nampa Caldwell Corridor TOD Study Staff reviewed and selected a consultant to initiate the Nampa Caldwell corridor study.

#### Goal 3 - Build Institutional and Regional Capacity

#### **Regional Capital Enhancements**

- Orchard Facility Master Plan Implementation
  - Staff coordinated with consultants and operations staff to complete employee parking and advance concepts of East Lot expansion and associated infrastructure.

#### Happy Day Transit Center Upgrades (HDTC)

 Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) replacement contractor is designing replacement system and is working through complications due to the unavailability of HVAC systems. Design engineer and architect are under contract for roof and awning replacement. Architect began the office redesign plans for 2024 construction and staff had the opportunity to provided comments on the future office layout.

#### Main Street Station (MSS)

 Consultants and staff continue to refine concepts and scope for the MSS charging infrastructure. We have agreed to a maximum price and are continuing negotiations with the contractor.

#### Regional Corridor Planning/Corridor Capital Investments

#### State Street Corridor Projects

- Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review along with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) providing concurrence is complete. VRT and FTA are working to finalize the and execute the Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. Further planning design activities are on hold until RAISE funds are available and/or rebalanced State Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds complete their transfer from Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) to FTA. In addition to initiating the RAISE grant process, VRT has requested for a letter of no prejudice which can also be used to release funds early to keep the projects moving forward.
- VRT awarded a contract to Idaho Site Works for construction at State and 18<sup>th</sup>. Staff and contractors have coordinated the construction schedule with Ada County Highway District (ACHD). Construction is scheduled to begin in July. VRT is working with FTA and FHWA partners to complete funds transfer to ensure timely completion of this project.
- VRT staff and the technical team continue to push updates to the State Street Traffic and Operation Plan (TTOP) through partner agencies approval process.

#### Bus Stop Improvements

 VRT staff shared refined Pioneer/River crossing transit stop improvement concepts with ACHD, City of Boise and Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC). Improvements would reduce vehicle, transit, bicycle and pedestrian conflicts around the bus stop there. The improvements would add amenities per CCDC funding request.

#### **Mobility Integration**

- Staff is developing a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) template that will help employers and developers cite goals and performance measures to reduce SOV trips.
- Staff held a meeting with the Downtown Boise Collaborative to restart TDM efforts.
- Umo is updating their backend architecture shortly that will improve mobility integration
  for the agency and the public. Updates will improve real-time information, deep links with
  other mobility applications, and more nimble responses to VRT requests.
- Staff is working with Lime to develop micromobility discounts for City Go members.

 Safe Routes to School (SR2S) staff are busy holding bike rodeo's and conducting student outreach.

#### **More Information:**

Stephen Hunt, Chief Development Officer, 208.258.2701, <a href="mailto:shunt@rideVRT.org">shunt@rideVRT.org</a>
Duane Wakan, Mobility Integration Director, 208.258.2750, <a href="mailto:dwakan@rideVRT.org">dwakan@rideVRT.org</a>
Joe Guenther, Capital Projects Manager, 208.258.2705, <a href="mailto:jguenther@rideVRT.org">jguenther@rideVRT.org</a>
Kate Dahl, Principal Planner. 208.258.2715, <a href="mailto:kdahl@ridevrt.org">kdahl@ridevrt.org</a>
Alissa Taysom, Associate Planner, 208.258.2717, <a href="mailto:ataysom@rideVRT.org">ataysom@rideVRT.org</a>
Kyle Street, Programming Planner, 208.258.270, <a href="mailto:kstreet@rideVRT.org">kstreet@rideVRT.org</a>
Hailee Lenhart-Wees, Programs Manager, 208.608.6039, <a href="mailto:hlenhart-wees@rideVRT.org">hlenhart-wees@rideVRT.org</a>
Kathleen Godfrey, Accounts Manager, 208 407-2519, <a href="mailto:kgodfrey@rideVRT.org">kgodfrey@rideVRT.org</a>
Lisa Brady, Safe Routes to School Program Manager, 208-761-8507, <a href="mailto:lbrady@rideVRT.org">lbrady@rideVRT.org</a>



TOPIC	Operations Department Staff Report
DATE	May 6, 2024
STAFF MEMBER	Leslie Pedrosa

This report provides a status update of activities related to contracted transportation services, Specialized Transportation services, compliance, customer service support and regional operations.

#### **Regional Operations**

#### Ada County Charger and Battery Electric Bus Update

January 8, VRT was notified that the bankruptcy court approved the sale of the Proterra Transit business arm of Proterra to Phoenix Motor Cars. (Phoenix). The transit business arm includes new bus builds, bus parts, and battery leases. VRT continues to work on the transition with Phoenix to get a new account set up and work through existing orders on hold.

Three Proterra chargers and nine Proterra dispensers remain out of service, leaving three operational dispensers out of twelve. With the bankruptcy being finalized, the issues with the Proterra chargers and dispensers will not be addressed. The software update VRT was expected to be deployed to restore the original chargers back to dual dispensing is no longer being built. VRT will be working with legal representative to determine a path forward to determine options to recoup money spent on obsolete equipment.

Currently, all four 40' and six of the eight 35' Proterra buses are in service. Two buses remain out of service. VRT is working with Phoenix to determine when we will place the last two buses into revenue service, based on the limited dispensers available.

#### Beyond Access Service

Beyond Access service launched on January 2. In the first three months of service, VRT provided over 9,000 rides, which is about a 12% decrease from the combined total of previous service providers. VRT continues to work through challenges with a new service.

Challenges include weather, incorrect information on bookings from the previous database, new drivers and duplicate service. VRT continues to move riders who are eligible for ACCESS service, as we find they have been booked incorrectly. Metro Community Services, who partners with VRT to provide rides also experienced mechanical issues with buses which reduced vehicles in revenue service. As time goes on, service runs better and better.

#### Treeline Shuttle

VRT operated the Treeline Shuttle for the Treefort Music Fest, March 20 through March 23. Two shuttles ran during the week and three shuttles operated on Saturday. Table 1 shows ridership for the four-day shuttle, by stop.

TABLE 1. Treefort Shuttle Ridership	
Stop	Total
6TH AND BROAD	118
6TH ST & W GROVE ST	433
S CAPITOL BLVD & W RIVER ST	1190
W FRONT ST & S 9TH ST	86
W MAIN ST & N 8TH ST	766
W MAIN ST & S 11TH ST	267
W MAIN ST & S 13TH ST	5
Grand Total	2865

VRT hosted the Underground Disco Derby with Treefort Music Fest. Treasure Valley Roller Derby performed a Derby Grand Prix Race, followed by free skating for anyone who brought their own skates. VRT estimates about 140 people attended the first ever event.

#### Miscellaneous

- VRT staff is preparing to expand service hours for Eagle On-Demand. City Council
  approved operating service weekdays from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, beginning May 1.
   Service currently operates weekdays from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. This service
  expansion will increase Customer Service hours until 7:00 pm on weekdays as well.
- Working with other VRT department staff and consultants to prepare for construction plans at Main Street Station for work planned under the 2022 Low or No Emissions (LONO) Grant.
- Working with other VRT department staff and consultants to prepare an application for the 2024 Low or No Emissions (LONO) Grant.
- Participating in the Steering Committee with Idaho Transportation Department -Public Transportation Office to plan the upcoming 2024 Public Transportation Summit scheduled September 24–26 in Coeur d'Alene.
- Operations staff continues to work with the Ada County Emergency Management team to finalize an agreement for emergency evacuations and transportation support.
- Operations staff working with other VRT departments and contracted transportation staff to finalize services changes planned for June 2024.
- Completed fiscal year 2023 National Transit Database (NTD) reporting. The issues
  with the NTD website, which prevented VRT from submitting the report, have been
  resolved and the report was submitted. Staff is working closely with NTD to work
  through corrections to complete the report.
- VRT staff began working the Avero and FourthSquare to begin work on replacing Fleet Net for our maintenance software. VRT expects the new software to be ready for use by the end of 2024.
- VRT and contractor staff worked with Gillig to finalize details for the two new battery electric buses that are expected to be delivered by the end of 2024.
- VRT staff is meeting with funding partners of the Rides2Wellness service to determine a path forward to make the service sustainable. Ridership has almost doubled in the first six months, compared to the same time span of last fiscal year.

#### **Highlights**

#### **Contracted Transportation**

#### **Canyon County Highlights**

- Two preventable accidents in March
- Intercounty on-time performance 79% for March
- On-demand on-time performance 86% for March
- ACCESS on-time performance 92% for March

#### Ada County Highlights

- One preventable accident in March
- Fixed-route on-time performance 84% for March
- ACCESS on-time performance 97% for March

#### **Compliance**

- Staff continues to work on updates to VRT policies and procedures as needed
- Staff began scoring assets for annual Transit Asset Management scoring

#### **Customer Service Support**

- Customer service handled 3,337 of 3,594 phone calls for information, with 256 calls abandoned. The average call time was 2 minutes, 57 seconds and the average hold time was 17 seconds in March.
- Reservationist handled 1,794 of 1,930 phone calls to change or schedule a ride on ACCESS, with 103 calls abandoned. The average call time was 4 minutes, 1 second and the average hold time was 13 seconds in March.
- On-demand services handled 1,558 of 1,717 phone calls to schedule a ride, with 158 calls abandoned. The average call time was 2 minutes, 46 seconds and the average hold time was 19 seconds in March.
- March City Go Pay mobile ticket sales totaled \$11,597.75.

#### More Information

Leslie Pedrosa, Chief Operating Officer, 208.258.2713, <a href="mailto:lpedrosa@ridevrt.org">lpedrosa@ridevrt.org</a>



TOPIC	Finance and Administration Activity Report
DATE	May 6, 2024
STAFF MEMBER	Cameron Wells, Chief Financial Officer

This memo provides an update on the accomplishments of the Finance Department.

#### **Highlights**

#### **Budget/Finance**

- The CFO continues working with planning staff on FY2025 budget planning
- A significant portion of the finance team's efforts are dedicated to the implementation of the Oracle Fusion enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. The go-live date is June 3.
- The finance staff is down one position, and the CFO is recruiting for a Senior Accountant to fill in the vacancy.

#### **Grant Management**

- Grants and Compliance Administrator is working on the following:
  - FTA grant applications
  - Active grant revisions/amendments
  - FY2024 Project funding
  - o Federal grant reconciling

#### **Procurement**

- Procurement and Contracts Specialist is working on:
  - Phase 1 Nampa/Caldwell TOD Study
  - Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
  - Ada and Canyon County Operating Contract

<u>For detailed information contact:</u> Cameron Wells, Chief Financial Officer, 208-258-2709, <a href="mailto:cwells@ridevrt.org">cwells@ridevrt.org</a>



TOPIC	Communications Update
DATE	May 6, 2024
STAFF MEMBER	Jason Rose

This memo provides updates on current and future communications, engagement, and marketing efforts, including those related to the Valley Regional Transit (VRT) Strategic Plan goals.

#### **Highlights**

Communications and Marketing

- Staff is working on a multi-faceted marketing and communications strategy for 2024-2026 to elevate the visibility of the VRT brand, complement service changes and bus stop updates, and align with upcoming agency strategic work; we are coordinating early creative work, including a robust video and visual campaign to roll out with service changes this summer; the campaign is set to launch late June or early July.
- VRT had a very successful Treefort this year, with thousands of rides on the Treeline and more than two hundred attendees at the first Underground Disco Derby hosted at Main Street Station.
- Staff is currently preparing for outreach and communications efforts around service changes for the FY24 network redesigned – dubbed Change Day – to create a day of activation and attention around the system improvements; May (with May in Motion in particular) and June will be dedicated to rider education, and we'll shift efforts to promotion in July with the new marketing campaign.
- We continue to build website and social media content and are working with our
  marketing partners on creating additional website tools for new content types; with
  feedback from the UI/UX website review, we have updated individual route pages
  and are working on home page and menu navigation updates this spring.
- The new Main Street Station sign will be installed in the coming months, which will help increase visibility at the transit center.
- VRT has radio and TV broadcast ad partnerships; on the radio side, we submit content to three outlets for airtime on two-week cycles and align content with the Communications Strategy

#### Advertising

- Onboard infotainment screens have been installed across most of the VRT bus fleet;
   we will begin selling advertising on those assets this spring.
- As of 4/17/24, we have sold \$682,849 since the start of the fiscal year, and project to finish the fiscal year at \$950,000.

#### **More Information**

Attachments: None

**For detailed information contact:** Jason Rose, Communications Director, 208-258-2739, <a href="mailto:jrose@valleyregionaltransit.org">jrose@valleyregionaltransit.org</a>



TOPIC	Information Technology Activity Report
DATE	May 6, 2024
STAFF MEMBER	Brad Alvaro

This memo provides an update on the accomplishments of the Information Technology Department and the status of IT related projects and services.

#### **Highlights**

#### **Projects**

- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) replacement Oracle ERP
- ERP Data Conversion
- ERP UAT testing (User Acceptance Testing)
- Infotainment phase II equipment and install planning.
- BSU CAD/AVL (Computer Aided Dispatch, Automatic Vehicle Locator)

#### **Support Services**

- Monthly Ridership Reports
- Resolved 119 of 131 tickets received for March.
- Assisted with National Transit Data (NTD)
- Assisted with Treeline routes during TreeFort event
- Camera upgrades with vendor for Orchard and Main Street Station projects
- Google General Transit Real-time (GTFS) feed feedback to Estimate Time of Arrival (ETA)
- Automatic Passenger Counter (APC) analytic report changes and adjustments
- Coordinate Orchard expansion project work related to IT systems

**For detailed information contact:** Brad Alvaro, Information Technology Director, 208-258-2726, <a href="mailto:balvaro@rideVRT.org">balvaro@rideVRT.org</a>