

TOPIC	Nampa Service Proposal: FY2027
DATE	June 8, 2026
STAFF MEMBER	Elaine Clegg, CEO

Introduction

Valley Regional Transit improves service every year based on partnerships, community feedback, and industry best practices. During our partnership with Nampa, we have gotten requests to innovate, find efficiencies, and reduce costs. VRT has responded to these requests by changing routes and services, piloting new programs like VRT On-Demand, and expanding revenue streams.

Transit usage in Nampa has been growing. For example, boardings on Route 42 grew by 35% in FY2025 and are on track to grow another 20% in FY2026. We're also seeing an increase in regular riders. From October 1, 2025 to May 20, 2026, 1,281 riders booked at least one trip, 1,063 completed two or more bookings, and 746 riders completed five bookings or more.

Over 200 Canyon County residents participated in our Canyon County Transit Day community engagement effort in 2025. Of those surveyed, more than ninety percent supported local governments providing funding support for public transit. Eighty-five percent believed Nampa should expand or maintain transit service in Nampa. We also received support letters from seven different institutions serving Canyon County residents, representing health care, older adults, education, and persons with disabilities (see Appendix).

During last year's budget request, the Nampa City Council asked VRT to continue identifying ways to deliver local transit services in a more cost-effective way. In February we presented a service overview, recent changes, and cost-effective improvements for the new mayors and council members in Nampa and Caldwell. In May of 2026, we showed how Nampa could grow transit use by more than 70% with expanded weekday and Saturday on-demand service for the same cost as FY2026.

At that May meeting, the Nampa City Council requested that VRT look for ways to significantly reduce our funding request in FY2027 due to budget constraints. We shifted our efforts to find cost savings while maintaining ridership rather than expanding service within the existing budget. Outlined below are proposed changes to public transportation service for Nampa that maintain reliability and grow ridership within the reduced budget request.

Highlights

- The proposed budget request is below \$500,000, as requested by the Nampa City Council
- The budget reduction was achieved through changes to the VRT On-Demand service model and focused fixed route investments to reduce the overall cost per boarding by 48%
- The proposal leverages Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) to gain efficiencies and lower costs
- The proposal maintains Route 42 with local and regional connections and growing use
- The proposal eliminates Route 40 service in Nampa

- Service changes are proposed for October 1, 2026
- VRT will hold an open house and public hearing on Monday, June 22, 2026, from 3:30-6:00pm at the Nampa Civic Center

Proposed Service Changes

To continue in the spirit of innovation and adopting best practices, VRT is proposing to completely restructure how VRT On-Demand operates. VRT On-Demand is a transportation service that does not operate on a prescribed route or a fixed schedule but is responsive to rider demand. VRT launched VRT On-Demand in 2020 in response to low fixed-route ridership. The service dramatically increased transit accessibility, providing public transit options in lower density areas in Nampa where fixed route service would not operate. VRT On-Demand began as a pilot using existing vehicles and operators who travel stop-to-stop rather than curb-to-curb. At present, it serves lower density areas and makes longer trips with fewer people to destinations scattered throughout the service area. These factors have driven the cost per boarding higher than desired and caused many trip requests to go unfilled. As directed by the Nampa City Council, VRT analyzed how it could make the current VRT On-Demand model more efficient.

VRT's experience has not been unique. Recently, best practices have begun emerging within the transit industry for this type of service, including using partnerships with private transportation operators that use smaller, accessible minivans rather than larger transit vehicles. Additionally, TNCs like Uber and Lyft are used to provide lower cost overflow rides to supplement on-demand services. Adopting this model would allow VRT to significantly reduce operating costs and add curb-to-curb service. VRT has experience working with TNC's through our VRT Lyft Pass and Lyft Late Night program. In this evolving landscape we are discovering the best way to utilize TNCs to enhance cost effective and efficient public transportation services.

In analyzing a better On-Demand model, VRT found that 44% of VRT On-Demand trips are not shared (i.e. do not carry more than one passenger) and that the longest 25% of trips made up more than 40% of the total service hours. Although most mid-distance trips (between 2-9 miles) were shared, there is a significant role that private TNC's could play in reducing existing service hours needed to provide the 25,000 annual VRT On-Demand trips provided today. By leveraging the strengths of private operators to deliver a lower cost on-demand service and utilizing TNCs as overflow, VRT proposes to provide a similar number of on-demand trips in FY2027 at a much lower cost (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Forecast Outcomes of FY2027 Proposal

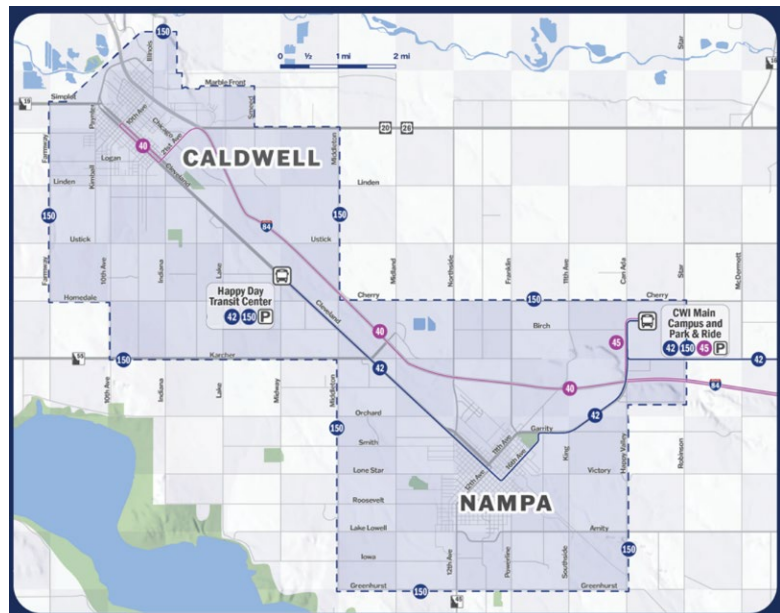
Forecast Outcomes (Nampa boardings)	FY2025	FY2027	% Change
VRT On-Demand			
Fixed Route	14,400	16,400	
Total	16,510	17,700	
	30,910	34,100	+10.3%
Riders	1,510	1,710	+13%
Cost/Boarding	\$27.92	\$14.62	-48%
Cost/Rider	\$571.49	\$291.53	-49%
Specialized Transit Boardings	10,500	10,500	0%
Cost/All Boardings	\$20.84	\$11.18	-46%

VRT On-Demand

The rider experience on the VRT On-Demand will remain similar to the experience today, but the new model will incorporate three primary changes. First, the vehicles VRT will be using for VRT On-Demand will take a “microtransit” approach, with accessible minivans rather than larger cut-away transit vehicles. Second, riders may be offered a trip on a TNC if it is determined that the TNC could provide the trip more efficiently. Third, riders may be able to pay for their trip within the VRT Booking app.

Riders will be able to travel within the same service area as the existing VRT On-Demand service zone (see Figure 2). Upon ride request, the database will determine whether the trip is best served through the new VRT On-Demand microtransit service or a TNC overflow service. If the trip is matched with the new VRT On-Demand, the only difference the rider will notice is the vehicle. The new model will provide curb-to-curb service rather than stop-to-stop. If the rider is matched with a TNC trip, it will be seamlessly booked with the TNC using the existing partnership model established by our booking partner, Via. For people without access to the app, VRT Customer Service will be able to book a trip on their behalf with a phone call. The fare for VRT On-Demand will remain \$1.50, while the cost for the TNC overflow will be \$2.00.

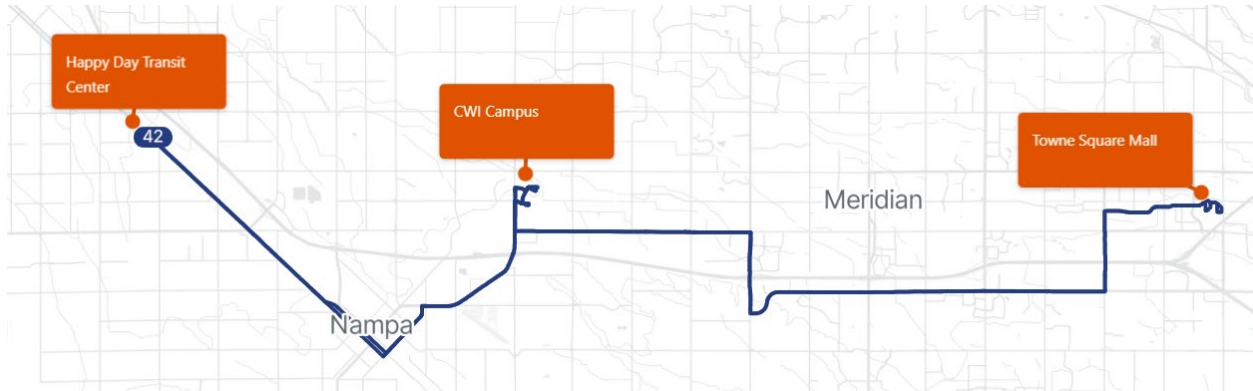
Figure 2: VRT On-Demand service area



Fixed Route

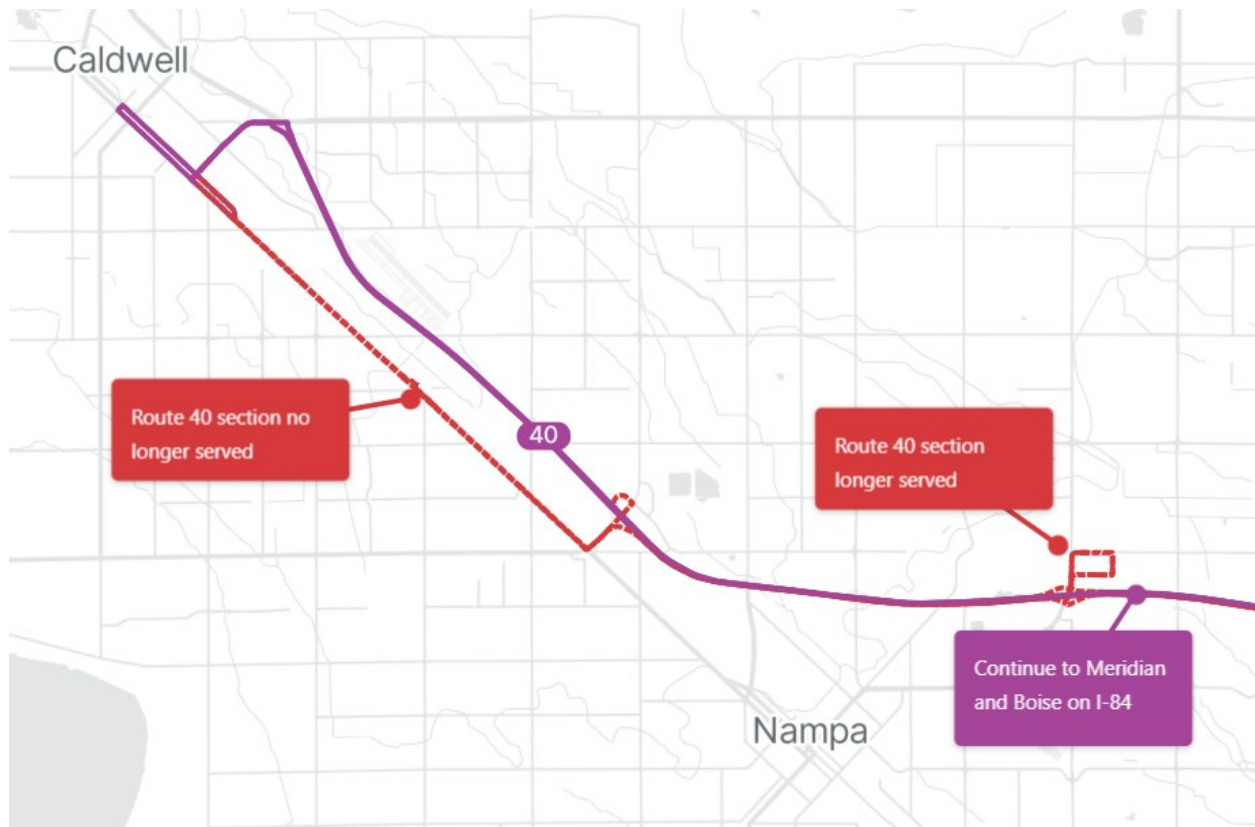
Fixed route services are essential in providing reliability for daily commutes, connections between cities and across counties, and as an alternative when gas prices are high. Route 42 continues to see a 20% increase of riders this year due to these reasons and offers all day service with access to key destinations. As result, VRT proposes maintaining service on Route 42 (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Route 42



VRT's Route 40 Caldwell/Boise Express has seen a 4% drop in ridership since we modified the route in 2023. Route 40 suffers from on-time performance issues due to congestion on I-84 and the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard. VRT is proposing to eliminate Route 40 stops in Nampa (see Figure 4). With this change, Route 40 would start in downtown Caldwell rather than at the Happy Day Transit Center in Caldwell, which shifts the route from the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard to I-84. This shift shortens the overall length of the route by approximately 25 minutes and has the potential to attract more Caldwell riders by providing more direct access. Nampa riders will still be able to utilize Route 42 or VRT On-Demand to reach the College of Western Idaho and the Amazon Fulfillment Center.

Figure 4: Route 40 changes



Budget Request

As a result of the service changes proposed above, VRT reduces Nampa's FY2027 request compared to FY2026 by 42% to \$498,522, as outlined below.

Assessment Category	FY2026	FY2027	% Change
General	\$72,175	\$53,726	-25.6%
Service	\$747,611	\$411,329	-45%
Capital	\$43,162	\$33,466	-22.5%
Total	\$862,948	\$498,522	-42.2%

Next Steps

The proposed service changes to the VRT On-Demand and Route 40 are proposed to take place on October 1, 2026. The change will require VRT to procure a turn-key contractor for the microtransit portion of VRT On-Demand and TNC provider by October within the proposed budget and ability to implement within the proposed timeline.

As required by the Federal Transit Administration and agency policy, VRT is holding an open house and public hearing to gather public input on the proposed service changes in the City of Nampa. We will also conduct a survey and seek rider testimonies to collect additional feedback.

The drop-in open house is scheduled for 3:30-5 p.m. on Monday, June 22, 2026, in the PacificSource North Room at the Nampa Civic Center. The public hearing will immediately follow.

Appendix: Letters of Support (2025)

We include last year's letters of support as a reminder of the impact that any service changes may have on the citizens and organizations of Nampa.

REVEREND BILL ROSCOE
PRESIDENT/CEO

PO Box 1494
Boise, ID 83701
208.343.2389
BoiseRM.org



BOISE RESCUE MISSION
MINISTRIES

Restoring Faith, Hope & Family since 1958

April 21, 2025

City of Nampa
411 3rd St S
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing on behalf of The Boise Rescue Mission in support of Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) funding request this year.

The Boise Rescue Mission is proud to partner with VRT as they support the transportation needs to residents in Nampa. The Boise Rescue Mission provides protective shelters to women and children, recovery centers and ministry services. VRT helps us by providing public transportation services to the men, women, and children of Nampa using three fixed-route bus line (Route 40, 42 & 45), the 150 VRT On-Demand, Beyond Access, and Rides2Wellness services.

It has been well documented that commute time plays a role in a person's ability to escape poverty. Additionally, a household can save an average of \$10,000 annually by taking public transit, while the price of car ownership ranges between \$9,000 and \$14,000 a year. In FY2024, VRT operated multiple fixed-route bus lines, a local on-demand service called the 150 VRT On-Demand zone; and specialized services to seniors and persons with disabilities. In FY2024, there were over 132,044 passenger boardings/de-boardings from services provided or supported by VRT in the City of Nampa.

As a major human service provider in the Treasure Valley, the primary mission of The Boise Rescue Mission is to reach out to the community by teaching the Word of God and providing food, shelter, clothing, and opportunities to recover from homelessness for men, women, and children in need. In 2024, the Boise Rescue Mission provided an average of 753 meals a day, 341 homeless individuals a place to sleep and 43,132 articles of clothing to those in need.

BOISE: CITY LIGHT HOME FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN • RIVER OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION • MINISTRY CENTER & WAREHOUSE
THE NEXT STEP, CURTIS ROAD: A CHRISTIAN TRANSITIONAL LIVING COMMUNITY
NAMPA: VALLEY WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SHELTER • RESCUE MISSION RECOVERY LODGE • THE LIGHTHOUSE
NEXT STEP TRANSITIONAL APARTMENTS

RESTORING FAITH, HOPE & FAMILY ACROSS THE
TREASURE VALLEY SINCE 1958



MISSION
MEMBER

Having access to public transportation for our shelter guests allows them to get to appointments and social activities that they would not normally be able to attend due to transportation constraints. Public transportation is a key asset in helping those staying with the Boise Rescue Mission to overcome homelessness. Transportation is one of the highest barriers to those who are trying to get and keep a job, those needing to make doctors appointments and take care of their health as well as those who need to safely be able to get around the city with their children. Having a reliable and consistent means of transportation for those who cannot afford a car is a necessity for those trying to move forward in their lives. If they cannot reliably get to their jobs and take care of their health, it is harder to overcome homelessness so it is a needed resource.

According to the 2019-2023 American Community Survey, there are 29,500 residents below 200% poverty in the City of Nampa (32%) of which 27,100 live or reside within the Nampa portion of the VRT On-Demand zone. This On-Demand zone provides direct access to the City of Caldwell and acts as a first-last mile connection to three VRT bus routes (Route 40, 42 and 45) which also serve the cities of Meridian, Garden City Boise to the east.

The impact of Nampa's contributions to VRT will provide a tremendous benefit to our customers and our organization by supporting better access to our services. In FY2024, there were 6,700 boardings/de-boardings at our Nampa facility (~26/weekday).

The Boise Rescue Mission strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the Treasure Valley. We hope to see their requested contribution reflected in your budget so Nampa residents can continue to have access to human services.

Sincerely,



Betsy Tewalt
Director of Business and Finance
Boise Rescue Mission

April 21, 2025

City of Nampa
411 3rd St S
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing on behalf of Parma Senior Center in support of Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) fiscal year 2026, funding request.

Parma Senior Center is proud to support VRT's efforts to provide transportation services to the residents of Canyon County. In addition to providing fixed-route and on-demand services, as the regional transportation authority for Ada and Canyon County, VRT provides federal funding and administrative support to Parma Senior Center.

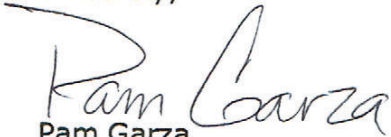
VRT is our source for federal funding and reimbursements for rides, we are a small rural farming community and there is no public transportation here. To get enough donations to cover our costs on fuel alone would be difficult, so without VRT we wouldn't have our program.

Parma Senior Center picks up seniors and disabled persons, many of them veterans, from their homes and take them where ever they need to go, the doctors, pharmacy, shopping, library and we also do fun trips to get them out of the house like to the aquarium, museum and zoo when they are done we take them to their home

The impact of your contribution to VRT as requested will provide a tremendous benefit to our customers and the residents of Canyon County.

Parma Senior Center strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout Canyon County. We hope to see the contribution they request reflected in your budget so all Canyon County residents can continue to contribute to the Canyon County community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Garza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "G".

Pam Garza

Director

Parma Senior Center

April 23, 2025

City of Nampa
411 3rd St S
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I'm writing on behalf of Terry Reilly Health Services in support of continued funding for Valley Regional Transit (VRT). VRT provides transportation for many of our patients who use services like 150 VRT On-Demand, Beyond Access, and Rides2Wellness to access our locations for medical, dental, and behavioral health appointments or pharmacy services.

As a major health provider in the Treasure Valley, the primary mission of Terry Reilly is to ensure health services are accessible to all residents. Lack of public transportation to reach an appointment can be a significant barrier. A 2024 poll found that one in ten Americans have delayed scheduling a medical appointment because it would take them too long to get to an appointment.*

In 2024, there were 9,910 VRT patrons who boarded/de-boarded at a Terry Reilly facility in Canyon County. That's roughly 35% of all Canyon County medical visits made via VRT!

So, you can see VRTs services are a significant factor in making Nampa a place where more residents can thrive and take better care of their health.

We strongly support VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the Treasure Valley. We hope to see their request reflected in your budget so Nampa residents can continue to have access to affordable health services.

Sincerely,

Tami Fife
COO/CIO
Terry Reilly Health Services

*Lynch, Joann, et al. "MDVIP/Ipsos Poll Shows Americans Are Struggling with the Healthcare System | Ipsos." *Some Americans Have Delayed Getting Medical Treatment for a Variety of Reasons*, IPSOS, 22 Aug. 2024, www.ipsos.com/en-us/mdvipipsos-poll-shows-americans-are-struggling-healthcare-system.

March 25, 2025

City of Nampa
411 3rd St S
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing on behalf of Witco Inc. in support of Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) fiscal year 2026, funding request.

Witco is proud to support VRT as they work with your city's staff on establishing a contribution that benefits both parties. Our organization has worked closely with VRT to secure federal funding for expansion of our fleet.

As a not-for-profit organization, the primary mission of Witco is to assist persons with disabilities to obtain and maintain viable employment. On any given day, Witco will be supporting several hundred persons with disabilities who have been placed in community employment, very few of whom can drive themselves. Witco provides transportation for these individuals as well as direct support on the job so that they may continue their employment despite significant disabilities. Generally, several participants may be transported at one time to a common job site.

Over the past few years, we have experienced such high demand for these services that we needed to secure funding for additional vehicles to help our members get to and from work trainings and other activities. We turned to VRT to see if they could assist us with this. When VRT let us know that they could provide federal funding for six additional vehicles, we were excited to partner with them to ensure that we could continue to provide services to the growing number of disabled members that lean on us for transportation.

The contribution that VRT is seeking is extremely impactful to us.

Witco strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the Treasure Valley and we hope to see the contribution they seek reflected in your budget so we can continue our work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Ptaszek".

David Ptaszek
Director of Commercial Operations
Witco Inc.



March 25, 2025

City of Nampa
411 3rd St S
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing to express St. Luke's strong support for Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) funding request this year.

St. Luke's is proud to partner with VRT in addressing the transportation needs of residents in Canyon County. Through VRT's On-Demand, Beyond Access, and Rides2Wellness services, residents can access St. Luke's medical facilities and other critical health clinics.

Our recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identified access to healthcare as a priority for the communities we serve, including Canyon County. Transportation emerged as a significant challenge in our community data collection through surveys, focus groups, and interviews.

In addition to our CHNA findings, our internal care management data highlights transportation as one of the top needs expressed by our patients during social determinant of health screenings. These insights consistently point to transportation as a critical factor in accessing care.

St. Luke's mission is to improve the health of people in the communities we serve. By supporting access to care through reliable transportation options, we are fulfilling our mission. Valley Regional Transit has been a key partner in delivering services that help us meet this need.

Therefore, St. Luke's strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the greater Treasure Valley region. We hope to see your support of their request, ensuring Nampa residents continue to have access to essential public health services. Your contribution to VRT will provide tremendous benefits to our community members.

Sincerely,

Angie Gribble
Senior Director of Community Health & Engagement
St. Luke's Health System

April 28, 2025

Valley Regional Transit
Attention: Elaine Clegg
700 E 2nd St., Suite 100
Meridian, ID 83642

Dear Ms. Clegg,

I am writing to express the College of Western Idaho's (CWI) enthusiastic support for Valley Regional Transit (VRT) as our public transportation partner.

CWI is committed to providing accessible, high-quality education to over 30,000 students annually. Our impact extends well beyond the classroom, helping to fuel the local economy with a skilled workforce and fostering a sense of community. Through our dedication to this mission, CWI delivers a significant return on investment for all stakeholders. In partnership with VRT, we provide more than 42,000 rides annually to our students, faculty, and staff, which is essential as our college continues to grow and expand.

For many students, transportation costs pose a significant barrier to both access and success in higher education. Studies show that transportation can account for nearly 20% of the total cost of attending college for commuting students. Additionally, many students who rely on public transportation face challenges with inconvenient routes, limited frequency, and distance from their homes or places of employment.

We remain committed to working with VRT to ensure that affordable and reliable transportation remains accessible to our community, supporting students in their pursuit of higher education.

Warm regards,

Nic Miller
Vice President, Strategy and Operations
nicmiller@cw.edu



April 4, 2025

City of Nampa
411 3rd St S
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing on behalf of Saint Alphonsus in support of Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) funding request this year.

Saint Alphonsus is proud to partner with VRT as they support the transportation needs of residents in Nampa. Residents of Nampa can access Saint Alphonsus medical facilities and many other critical health clinics using the 150 VRT On-Demand, Beyond Access, and Rides2Wellness services.

A recent poll in 2024 found that one in ten Americans have delayed scheduling a medical appointment because it would take them too long to get to an appointment. The poll finds that 6% of Americans cite the lack of public transportation a reason for delayed scheduling of an appointment, while 5% cite unreliable or infrequent transportation (ISPOS. 2024, August 22). In FY24, there were 28,357 passenger boardings/de-boardings on a VRT fixed-route, On-Demand, or Beyond Access vehicle within one-quarter mile of a health clinic in Canyon County (111 weekday average). In addition, VRT provides health-specific transportation services through their Rides2Wellness program. In the first quarter of FY24 the Rides2Wellness program transported 186 patients to clinics in Canyon County.

As a major health provider in the Treasure Valley, the primary mission of Saint Alphonsus is to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities. This means serving the whole person when they seek our care, and remaining deeply committed to being an organizational partner and anchor institution in addressing broader community needs.

Transportation is one of the greatest barriers we address with our patients and community members- as well as colleagues- we serve on a daily basis. Transportation needs our system contributes to are not just for healthcare, but for food, prescriptions, and to combat growing feelings of social isolation. Saint Alphonsus has been a significant financial contributor and partner in both the VRT Rides 2 Wellness and Beyond Access programs since their inception. In 2024, Saint Alphonsus Medical Center-Nampa provided the former Nampa Grocery Shuttle vehicle to VRT for greater use and impact in the Canyon County-based Beyond Access vehicle fleet. While we do what we can in terms of investments in programs like Rides2Wellness and Beyond Access, we also rely heavily on public transportation resources every day.

But we cannot do it alone, and we hope the City of Nampa will continue to prioritize the demands of our growing community for access to the resources and services most needed by its residents.

The impact of your contribution to VRT will provide a tremendous benefit to our patients and our organization by supporting better access to our services.



Saint Alphonsus strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the Treasure Valley. We hope to see their requested contribution reflected in your budget so Nampa residents can continue to have access to public health services.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lemmons

Rebecca Lemmons
Regional Director, Community Health & Well-Being
Saint Alphonsus Health System

Lynch, Joann, et al. "MDVIP/Ipsos Poll Shows Americans Are Struggling with the Healthcare System | Ipsos." *Some Americans Have Delayed Getting Medical Treatment for a Variety of Reasons*, IPSOS, 22 Aug. 2024, www.ipsos.com/en-us/mdvipipsos-poll-shows-americans-are-struggling-healthcare-system.

Hello there,

My name is Scott Pearl and I have lived in Nampa since 1999 and have worked in downtown Boise for many years. I have been riding VRT's bus 40 twice a day, five days a week since 2008.

I would like to thank the city of Nampa as well as other agencies for your support of VRT for many years. As a blind citizen of Nampa, I have had no other cost effective way of getting to work. Your support of VRT over the years has allowed me reliable transportation to commute from my house in Nampa to downtown Boise.

Once I heard this funding may be in jeopardy, I realize that I have been taking these funds for granted. I have not expressed my tremendous gratitude to local leadership as well as my equal need for this service. It is easy to take for granted something which has been so reliably present for years and I regret doing so.

The thought of a city the size of Nampa having little, if any, public transportation to Ada and other parts of Canyon County is difficult to imagine and would definitely have an impact on people like me who depend on it for their employment.

However, I recognize that I don't have all the information and I am a big supporter of fiscal responsibility—whether in the private or public sector—and will trust city and county leadership in this difficult decision. You are doing a wonderful job as I love living in Nampa and in Canyon County and—while I may be tremendously disappointed—you have given me good reason to trust your decision.

Let me just say I very much appreciate your support of VRT over the years and it is my strong hope that it continues and also that our community sees a strong ROI in the future!

Sincerely yours,

Scott Pearl

Dear officials of Nampa, Caldwell, and Canyon County,

I am writing to express my strong support for Valley Regional Transit's funding requests to the cities of Nampa, Caldwell, and Canyon County. As a concerned citizen and user of VRT services, I firmly believe that maintaining or increasing the current level of service is crucial to our communities.

VRT plays an essential role in connecting residents, workers, and students to vital destinations within and between our cities. By providing reliable transportation, VRT enables individuals who do not have access to personal vehicles to reach employment, education, healthcare, and other necessary services. Reducing or eliminating these services would be detrimental to the well-being and economic vitality of our communities.

I would like to address the issue of low usage in Nampa specifically. Although usage may currently be lower than expected, it is essential to consider the long-term implications of reducing or eliminating these services. Public transportation is a vital component of a city's infrastructure, providing mobility and access to opportunities for citizens who may not have other means of transportation. Reducing or eliminating services could disproportionately impact the most vulnerable residents in Nampa, such as low-income individuals, seniors, and people with disabilities, who often rely heavily on public transit for their daily needs. By maintaining or improving the service, VRT can continue to support these individuals in accessing essential services, employment opportunities, and a better quality of life.

Furthermore, investing in public transportation is crucial for the city's growth and development. As Nampa continues to grow and evolve, the demand for reliable and efficient public transportation is likely to increase. Reducing or eliminating VRT services may hinder the city's ability to accommodate future growth and the evolving needs of its residents. Additionally, public transportation is an environmentally friendly alternative to personal vehicle use. Encouraging the use of public transit can help mitigate traffic congestion and reduce carbon emissions, contributing to a more sustainable and livable city.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support VRT's funding requests and implore you to make decisions that prioritize the needs of our citizens. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or input regarding this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Whitney Kent
Sent from my iPhone

May 2025

VRT Regional Advisory Council: Nampa Service Contributions

Dear Mayor Kling and Nampa City Council Members,

The Regional Advisory Council (RAC) is a standing committee of the Valley Regional Transit (VRT) Board. The members of the council represent a variety of agencies and riders who use the services, or are in need of the services, that VRT provides Treasure Valley residents.

The Regional Advisory Council would like to ask that the City of Nampa mayor and city council members consider voting in favor of expanding service in Nampa.

In Idaho, we hear a lot of talk about freedom. Freedom of speech, freedom to gather, freedom to live the life we choose. But there is another aspect to freedom that is too often overlooked – the freedom to go where you want, when you want. Many of us realize this freedom by purchasing a car or truck. For others, freedom is a bicycle or scooter ride. But for many, however, the only option to realize this freedom means public transportation.

Public transportation provides people with the ability to move freely and conveniently without the need for a personal vehicle. This is especially beneficial for individuals who may not have access to a car or prefer not to drive. Public transportation allows them to travel to work, school, social events, or any other destination without relying on a private vehicle.

Public transportation can offer a sense of independence by reducing dependence on others for transportation needs. It enables people to have more control over their daily activities and schedules, allowing them to explore new places, pursue opportunities, and engage in various activities without being restricted by the availability or cost of private transportation.

Public transportation contributes to economic freedom by providing affordable transportation options. It can help individuals save money on fuel, parking fees, and vehicle maintenance costs. By choosing public transportation, people can allocate their resources to other priorities, such as education, healthcare, or leisure activities. This is particularly important today with the high cost of housing, food, healthcare, and more.

Finally, public transportation plays a vital role in promoting social inclusion and accessibility. It enhances mobility for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and those who cannot drive for various reasons.

Please consider expanding services in Nampa so that the residents of Nampa will have the freedom to travel to services and opportunities in the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

VRT Regional Advisory Council Members

