

Executive Board Meeting Agenda

October 19, 2026

11:00 AM

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

This is an in-person meeting.

If you are unable to participate in the meeting in person, you may join via Microsoft Teams at http://ridevrt.org/VRTEB_Oct26 or via phone at 323-484-8960

Conference ID: 431 177 510#

I. Calling of the Roll

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 an Executive Board Member requests the item be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed under Action Items.

**A. ACTION: Minutes from the July 21, 2026, Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Pages 3-4 | Deborah Johnson**

The Executive Board is asked to accept the minutes from the July 21, 2026, Regional Advisory Council meeting.

**B. ACTION: Minutes from the August 3, 2026, Executive Board meeting
Pages 5-6 | Deborah Johnson**

The Executive Board is asked to consider approval of the minutes from the August 3, 2026, meeting.

**C. ACTION: New Regional Advisory Council Member, Elizabeth Norton
Page 7 | Jason Rose**

The Executive Board is asked to approve the appointment of Elizabeth Norton to the Regional Advisory Council. VRT Regional Advisory Council and staff recommend approval.

IV. Special Item(s)

V. Public Comments (Comments will be limited to no more than three (3) minutes).

VI. Public Hearing

VII. Finance Committee

VIII. Executive Board - Action Items

IX. Executive Board - Information Items

A. INFORMATION: Youth Ride Free Update

Pages 8-10 | Jason Rose

Staff will discuss VRT's inaugural Youth Ride Free summer pilot initiative, which provided free, unlimited rides to youth 18 and under across the Treasure Valley from May 1 to August 31, 2026.

X. Executive Session

The Executive Board may convene into Executive Session at this time Pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206, identifying one or more of the specific paragraphs a) Personnel Hiring, b) Personnel Issues, c) Land Acquisition, d) Records Exempt from Public Disclosure, e) Trade Negotiations, f) Pending/Probable Litigation, i) Insurance Claims, j) Labor Contract, I.C. 74-206(1)

XI. Department/Staff Reports

XII. Adjournment

Agenda order is subject to change.

Next VRT Executive Board Meeting:

December 7, 2026

VRT Boardroom

700 NE 2nd Street

Meridian, ID 83642

Mission Statement: Valley Regional Transit's mission is to leverage, develop, provide, and manage transportation resources and to coordinate the effective and efficient delivery of comprehensive transportation choices to the region's citizens. (ValleyConnect 2.0 Plan approved 04/02/18)

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 [Email](#) or by calling 208-258-2739.

Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2026

9:00 AM

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

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS
Susan Bradley (at 9:04)	Theresa Vawter	Brad Alvaro, VRT
Laylo Hamud (at 9:15)		Carrie Applegate, VRT
Andrew Mills		Elaine Clegg, VRT
Mary Beth Nutting		Jeannette Ezell, VRT
Deeann Solis		Andrew Gallardo, VRT
Walter Steed		Kathleen Godfrey, VRT
David White		Stephen Hunt, VRT
		Jason Jedry, VRT
		Deborah Johnson, VRT
		Hailee Lenhart-Wees, VRT
		Mike Magette, VRT
		Nick Moore, VRT
		Jason Rose, VRT
		Kyle Street, VRT
		Alissa Taysom, VRT
		Olivia McKinnon, COMPASS
		Austin Miller, COMPASS
		Brent Moore, COMPASS

- I. **Calling of the Roll** - Chair Walter Steed called the meeting to order at 9:01, with a quorum present by phone and in person.
- II. **Agenda Additions/Changes** - Add Budget/Funding Update and Nampa Update
- III. **Consent Agenda**
Items on the Consent Agenda consisted of the following:
 - A. **ACTION: Minutes of the May 19, 2026, Regional Advisory Council Meeting**
Andrew Mills moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; DeeAnn Solis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Action Items** - None
- V. **Information Items**
 - A. **INFORMATION: Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update**

Brent Moore of COMPASS provided an update on the development of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, discussing demographic trends, service needs, and feedback from providers.

B. INFORMATION: Rides2Wellness Budget and Expansion update

Elaine Clegg presented a detailed update on the Rides2Wellness program, describing increased demand, funding challenges, expanded contributions from hospital partners, and the program's operational structure.

C. INFORMATION: Budget Update

Stephen Hunt and Elaine Clegg discussed the annual budget process, local funding pressures, and the significant impact of the Nampa City Council's decision to remove all funding for Valley Regional Transit, detailing service reductions, public outreach, and implications for neighboring communities.

Jason Rose shared web links to news stories and reports regarding the proposed changes.

VI. Department/Staff Reports

A. INFORMATION: Department/Staff Reports

The most current department/staff reports were included in the packet for information. Staff reviewed monthly activity reports, discussed service changes, vanpool pilot implementation, capital projects, and addressed questions about on-time performance and customer service call handling.

VII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 10:29

Next Regional Advisory Council Meeting:

September 15, 2026

VRT Boardroom

700 NE 2nd Street

Meridian, ID 83642

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

August 03, 2026

11:00 AM

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

MEMBERS ATTENDING	MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Tom Dayley, Ada County	Leslie Van Beek, Canyon County	Brad Alvaro, VRT
Lantz McGinnis-Brown, Boise State	Todd Lavoie, City of Meridian	Carrie Applewood, VRT
Lauren McLean, City of Boise		Mark Christiansen, City of Middleton
Jordan Morales, City of Boise		Elaine Clegg, VRT
Eric Phillips, City of Caldwell		Kate Dahl, VRT
Alexis Pickering, ACHD		Joe Guenther, VRT
Dale Reynolds, City of Nampa		Caleb Hood, City of Meridian
Joe Stear, City of Kuna		Natalie Hilde, Thompson Consulting
		Stephen Hunt, VRT
		Jason Jedry, VRT
		Deborah Johnson, VRT
		Nick Leonardson, VRT
		Hailee Lenhart-Wees, VRT
		Mike Magette, VRT
		James Mundell, VRT
		Leslie Pedrosa, VRT
		Jason Rose, VRT
		Kyle Street, VRT
		Alissa Taysom, VRT
		Martin Ward, VRT

I. **Calling of the Roll** – Chair Alexis Pickering called the meeting to order, with a quorum present by phone and in-person at 11:01 a.m.

II. **Agenda Additions/Changes** - None

III. **Consent Agenda**

Items on the Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. **ACTION: Meeting Minutes from the May 19, 2026, Regional Advisory Council Meeting**
- B. **ACTION: Minutes of the June 1, 2026, Executive Board Meeting**
- C. **ACTION: Payment Register 5-16-26 through 6-30-26**

Lantz McGinnis-Brown moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; Lauren McLean seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Executive Board - Action Items**

- A. **ACTION: Proposed Executive Board and Board of Directors Meeting Dates for 2027 and 2028**

Elaine Clegg presented the proposed dates for the 2027/2028 executive board and board of director's meetings noting that some meetings are scheduled as remote and some may be cancelled if unnecessary.

Jordan Morales moved to approve the proposed 2027/2028 executive board and board of directors meeting dates, Lantz McGinnis-Brown seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Executive Board - Information Items

A. INFORMATION: Transit Design Guidelines & Bus Stop Typology Update

Kate Dahl provided a summary of proposed revisions to the Transit Design Guidelines and Bus Stop Typology documents and addressed questions regarding bust stop pad sizes.

VI. Executive Session

The Executive Board convened into Executive Session at 11:17 a.m. Pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206, identifying specific paragraph b) Personnel Issues by a motion from Jordan Morales and seconded by Eric Phillips.

Board members present were Chair Alexis Pickering, Lauren McLean, Jordan Morales, Joe Stear, Eric Phillips, Dale Reynolds, Lantz McGinnis-Brown and Tom Dayley.

The Executive Session closed at 11:57 a.m. with no actions taken during the meeting.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Next VRT Executive Board Meeting:

September 14, 2026

VRT Boardroom

700 NE 2nd Street

Meridian, ID 83642

Regional Advisory Council Application

Name: Elizabeth Norton

Organization: Idaho Office for Refugees

Job Title within that organization: Events & Partnerships Manager

Date: 7/23/26

Please describe your professional experience working in human service and/or transportation agencies?

I have been in this role for about 4 years and as part of it, served as the co-chair for the Neighbor's United Transportation Committee. Within the committee we have worked closely with VRT, ACHD, Boise State Transportation and other stakeholders.

What populations would you be representing on the Regional Advisory Council?

Resettled populations, non-profit client serving organizations, city-go client and general customers.

How will your professional background complement the work of the Regional Advisory Council?

I have served on various advisory boards including Idaho Voices for Children, Thriving Families and Department of Health and Welfare's Child Welfare Advisory board. I have also been involved with City of Boise's e-mobile task force. I also have an MPA and am in the process of getting PMP certified; these frame works and their philosophies would inform my perspective.

What do you see as the most pressing issues for the populations you would be representing on the Regional Advisory Council?

Affordability, ease of access for users, partnerships with local client serving organizations and perceived or real bias toward refugee populations.

TOPIC	Youth Ride Free Update
DATE	January 20, 2025
STAFF MEMBER	Jason Rose

Summary

This memo outlines VRT's inaugural Youth Ride Free summer pilot initiative, which provided free, unlimited rides to youth 18 and under across the Treasure Valley from May 1 to August 31, 2026.

Highlights

Youth Ride Free is VRT's youth-focused ridership program. The first iteration was a summer pilot from May 1 to August 31, 2026. Youth Ride Free provided free, unlimited rides to youth 18 and under on all VRT services. Youth Ride Free did not include Boise School District high school students, who are provided with a bus pass by the school district.

Youth Ride Free is a collaboration between VRT and the City of Boise, enabled by a grant from the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation. It directly advances the City's 2025 Youth Roadmap by reducing transportation barriers for young people.

YRF gives youth 18 and under the ability to ride VRT services free all summer, fostering independence, confidence, and safe mobility to jobs, parks, libraries, pools, malls, and community "third spaces." It reduces costs for families and introduces lifelong transit habits. Other goals include:

- Access & Independence: Enable youth to reach jobs, libraries, parks, schools, and "third spaces" via reliable transit without cost barriers.
- Skill-building: Teach youth to navigate public transit safely and confidently; normalize transit in family travel habits.
- Equity & Inclusion: Align with the City's Youth Roadmap to lower mobility barriers across communities.
- Ridership Culture: Cultivate future riders by introducing transit early, especially in Boise School District contexts where high-schoolers already ride free with student ID.

Impacts

This summer, VRT's Youth Ride Free pilot program delivered nearly 9,000 rides across the Treasure Valley to 1,500 youth 18 or under that didn't already have a bus pass with the Boise School District. This represents a 217% increase in non-Boise School District high school youth compared to the same timeframe last year. In total, due to a decrease in Boise School District high school ridership, we saw an 18% growth in ridership for all youth 18 and under

in the Treasure Valley. Combined with the existing pass program with Boise School District high schools, youth took nearly 18,000 trips this summer.

We saw new habitual youth ridership systemwide, with continued ridership into the fall, consistent with program goals to build lasting transit habits. Staff observed popular youth corridors including Route 7 Fairview, Route 9 State Street, and Route 42 Happy Day – Towne Square Mall, consistent with typical summer travel patterns.

Communications & Engagement

We created a website hub for the program at ridevrt.org/youth, which linked to rider information, a sign-up form, a youth focused How to Ride guide, a Q&A page, a partner toolkit, and an option to sign up for sponsorship opportunities.

In addition to the website, we developed a poster set, complete with a new youth ridership mascot – Li'l Rider – to grab attention and give the initiative an exciting anchor. These posters were distributed by VRT and with Idaho Poster Distribution to dozens of locations around the Treasure Valley.

We also kicked off the summer with three virtual information sessions to onboard families and partners, promoted the initiative at every event we attended during the summer, ran consistent social media content, and placed sponsored content with From Boise.

Partnerships were crucial to ensure this program's success. With the City of Boise as the primary partner, we also worked with the Boise School District, Boise Public Library, and other community organizations like Communities for Youth to get the word out.

Umo Accounts & Signups

We utilized Umo for easy program creation, to get riders used to using our standard payment system, and to provide the most granular ridership data possible. Participants could choose between using a Umo card or mobile app. If they signed up on our website, we either sent a Umo code via email or coordinated pick-ups at VRT's Customer Service desks. We also implemented a walk-up option for Umo cards at customer service desks or with the Boise Library – an incredibly helpful partnership.

Next Steps

This was the first of a two-summer agreement with the City of Boise. Staff are using lessons learned from this year to prepare for summer 2027 as we anticipate a new farebox system and the possible need for additional staff capacity. Staff is also preparing competitive proposals for FTA/CCAM-TAC and related programs to evolve Youth Ride Free into a year-round program.



For detailed information, contact:

Jason Rose, Chief Communications Officer/PIO, jrose@ridevrt.org, (208)803-5183

Jason has the pleasure of leading the Communications & Engagement Team, which is comprised of:

- Rich Marks: Account & Sales Manager
- Kathleen Godfrey: Business Development Manager
- Melody Roper: Marketing & Creative Projects Manager
- Hailee Lenhart-Wees: Community Outreach Manager
- Nick Moore: Communications Specialist II

