valleyregionaltransit

# Regional Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

**November 17, 2026**

**9:00 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/VRTRAC_Nov26 or via phone at 323-484-8960
**Conference ID:** 815 091 130#

**I. Calling of the Roll - Chair Walter Steed**

**II. Agenda Additions, Changes, and Announcements**

**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.

A. **ACTION: Minutes from the September 15, 2026, Regional Advisory Council Meeting**
**Pages 3-4 | Deborah Johnson**
The Regional Advisory Council is asked to consider approval of the minutes of the September 15, 2026, meeting.

**IV. Action Items**

**V. Information Items**

A. **INFORMATION: Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan Update**
**Pages 5-6 | Stephen Hunt**
COMPASS staff will present an update on the development of the coordinated human service transportation plan for the information and discussion of the council.

B. **INFORMATION: FY2027 Funding Requests and Cooperative Agreements**
**Pages 7-8 | Stephen Hunt**
Staff will present an update on local funding requests and the cooperative agreements for FY2027 that are fully executed for the information of and discussion by the Regional Advisory Council.

C. **INFORMATION: Micron Transit Investment**
**Stephen Hunt**
Staff will share information about Micron's multi-year investment in public transit, including on-demand service, fixed route service and shoulder-running transit pilot.

D. **RAC Member Renewal**
**Page 9 | Jason Rose**
This is an information item. Regional Advisory Council (RAC) members whose terms are up for renewal may request membership renewal.

E. **INFORMATION: Keep Idaho Moving**
**Page 10 | Elaine Clegg**
Elaine will share the presentation she gave to the Keep Idaho Moving group and lead a discussion.

F. **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 11-25 | Staff**
The most current department/staff reports have been included in the packet for information. Regional Advisory Council members are encouraged to read them as they contain valuable information not presented elsewhere.

## VII. Adjournment

Agenda order is subject to change.

Next Regional Advisory Council Meeting:
January 19, 2027
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, Chief Communications Officer, at Email or by calling 208-258-2739.

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# Regional Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

## September 15, 2026

## 9:00 AM

Happy Day Transit Center - 5907 Cleveland Blvd., Caldwell, ID

| MEMBERS PRESENT | MEMBERS ABSENT | OTHERS |
|---|---|---|
| Susan Bradley | | Brad Alvaro, VRT |
| Laylo Hamud | | Carrie Applegate, VRT |
| Andrew Mills | | Stephen Hunt, VRT |
| Mary Beth Nutting | | Jason Jedry, VRT |
| Deeann Solis | | Deborah Johnson, VRT |
| Walter Steed | | Hailee Lenhart-Wees, VRT |
| Theresa Vawter | | Mike Magette, VRT |
| David White | | Nick Moore, VRT |
| | | Leslie Pedrosa, VRT |
| | | Jason Rose, VRT |
| | | Alissa Taysom, VRT |
| | | Olivia McKinnon, COMPASS |
| | | Brent Moore, COMPASS |

I. **Calling of the Roll** - Chair Walter Steed called the meeting to order at 9:01, with a quorum present online and in person.

II. Consent Agenda

A. ACTION: Minutes of the July 21, 2026, Regional Advisory Council Meeting

B. ACTION: Regional Advisory Council 2027 Meeting Calendar

Theresa Vawter to approve the consent agenda as presented; Andrew Mills seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Action Items** - None

IV. Information Items

A. INFORMATION: FY2026 2nd Quarter Performance Report

Stephen Hunt presented the FY 2026 2nd Quarter Performance Report, highlighting a 2% overall ridership decline, with continued growth on inter-county routes. Construction, weather, and route-specific changes affected ridership. The Youth Ride Free program contributed to strong summer ridership. Q3 ridership rebounded to flat overall, with upcoming Nampa service changes and a Canyon County vanpool program discussed.

B. INFORMATION: Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Brent Moore provided an update on the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, focusing on transportation needs for seniors and individuals with disabilities, reviewing past priorities, soliciting feedback on priority rankings, and discussing strategies for improving service. Group input was given on adjusting priorities and addressing gaps.

V. Department/Staff Reports

A. INFORMATION: Department/Staff Reports

The most current department/staff reports were included in the packet for information. Regional Advisory Council members were encouraged to read them as they contain valuable information that may not be presented elsewhere.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 and was followed by a tour of the Happy Day facilities.

Next Regional Advisory Council Meeting:
November 17, 2026
VRT Boardroom
700 NE 2nd Street
Meridian, ID 83642

# Memorandum

**To:** Valley Regional Transit Regional Advisory Council

**From:** Olivia Vielstich McKinnon, COMPASS

**Date:** November 17, 2026

**RE:** Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is currently developing a Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) for Ada, Boise, Canyon and Elmore Counties. This plan will identify transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, low incomes and residents aged sixty-five or older. The plan will provide strategies for meeting identified needs and prioritize services for funding and implementation. Coordinated Plans are required to receive federal funding through the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program.

The following vision, goals, strategies, and implementation plan have been designed to incorporate the needs identified through transportation providers, target population riders, and other stakeholders.

**Vision:**

As a region of Ada, Boise, Canyon, and Elmore Counties, commit to working together toward comprehensive transportation options for older adults, persons with disabilities, and persons with low incomes.

**Goals:**

1. Expand transportation service availability and accessibility
    - Is there a service that can get you from your desired point A to point B within a reasonable timeframe and can you access it financially, physically, etc.? Is the scheduling process user friendly?
2. Improve transportation service hours and travel times
    - Is there a service that runs when needed for scheduled appointments? Are there excessive wait times after appointments or travel time after procedures?
3. Grow collaboration with transportation providers and key partners
    - As a passenger, do you know who to call to get a ride from point A to point B? Is there one place to call to get a trip scheduled no matter the origin or

destination? For service providers, is there coordination among other providers or partners that could expand your ability to provide transportation?

**Strategies:**

1. Expand transportation service availability and accessibility
    a. Assess funding spending to ensure transportation services are consistently provided throughout the year
    b. Increase the geographic coverage of demand response services and improve intercounty connectivity
    c. Optimize the scheduling process for riders such as options for same day rides, consistent scheduling format, and ability to make changes to rides?
2. Improve transportation service hours and travel times
    a. Increase the availability of qualified transit drivers and accessible vehicles through alternate programs providing cost effective training, vehicles, and insurance
    b. Provide transportation service hours that meet the needs for medical appointments and other critical trips
    c. Optimize routing and scheduling appointment times to shorten trips and wait times
3. Grow collaboration with transportation providers and key partners
    a. Simplify scheduling and information for passengers region-wide through a central information system
    b. Expand access to necessary social services and medical providers
    c. Work with the state to improve the efficiency of the state Medicare broker system

**Implementation:**

Short Term (1 year)

- Build a collaborative group of transportation and other service providers for older adults, persons with disabilities, and persons with low incomes.
    - Gather contact information
    - Establish relationships
- Gain a baseline understanding of the service areas, providers, and funding

Medium Term (2-5 years)

- Regular communication with the group to move forward with strategies in the coordinated plan

Long Term

- Maintain relationships and work together to review priorities for the next plan update

| | |
|---|---|
| TOPIC | FY2027 Funding Requests and Cooperative Agreements |
| DATE | November 17, 2026 |
| STAFF MEMBER | Stephen Hunt |

## Staff Recommendation/Request

This is an information item for RAC discussion.

## Summary

Every year, Valley Regional Transit (VRT) makes funding requests of all jurisdictions and funding partners within its service area. Those jurisdictions and funding partners consider VRT's requests alongside other funding needs during the budget process. After all budgets are complete, VRT executes cooperative agreements with funding partners as appropriate. This report provides a brief update on the status of VRT's funding requests and the associated cooperative agreements.

In total VRT anticipates funding partners will contribute 97.4% of the funding requests. Ada County partners will meet 99.6% of VRT's funding requests and Canyon County partners will meet 74.6% of VRT's funding requests.

Fifteen of the twenty-five funding partners were able to contribute at least a portion of the VRT funding request.

In Canyon County, VRT had to implement service reductions to balance the FY2027 budget. Those changes went into effect October 1, 2026.

All funding partners have been sent cooperative agreements. Nine funding partners (or 53% of partners we expect to participate) have already fully executed those cooperative agreements, another eight are in progress or review. VRT will continue to process cooperative agreements to ensure they are promptly executed.

## Implication

Local funding is essential for public transit operations in Ada and Canyon County. Without local funding, VRT would not be able to operate. Timely completion of the cooperative agreements is vital to all VRT functions.

## More Information

### Attachments

FY27 Funding Request and Cooperative Agreement Update

### For detailed information, contact:

Stephen Hunt
Chief Development Officer
shunt@ridevrt.org
(208) 258-2701

## VRT 2027 Funding Request Update
## Ada and Canyon County Requests

| Member Agency | VRT Request General | Service | Capital | Special | Total | Anticipated Member Budget | Difference | Cooperative Agreement Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ada County | $ 31,384 | $ 130,435 | $ 1,863 | $ - | $ 163,682 | $ 133,003.00 | $ (30,679) | In Progress |
| ACHD | $ 6,401 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 6,401 | $ 6,401 | $ - | Fully Executed |
| Boise State University | $ 5,030 | $ 169,171 | $ 1,880 | $ 55,746 | $ 231,827 | $ 231,827 | $ - | Agreement Sent |
| Capital City Development Corp. | $ 6,401 | $ - | $ 42,400 | $ 60,000 | $ 108,801 | $ 108,801 | $ - | Fully Executed |
| City of Boise | $ 111,707 | $ 10,050,984 | $ 605,035 | $ 30,000 | $ 10,797,726 | $ 10,797,726 | $ - | Fully Executed |
| City of Eagle | $ 21,534 | $ - | $ - | $ 17,346 | $ 38,880 | $ 38,880 | $ - | Fully Executed |
| City of Garden City | $ 6,300 | $ 8,700 | $ - | $ - | $ 15,000 | $ 15,000 | $ - | Fully Executed |
| City of Kuna | $ 18,059 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 18,059 | $ 18,059 | $ - | Fully Executed |
| City of Meridian | $ 64,366 | $ 454,574 | $ 6,202 | $ 266,421 | $ 791,563 | $ 791,563 | $ - | Fully Executed |
| City of Star | $ 11,424 | $ - | $ - | $ 7,184 | $ 18,608 | $ - | $ (18,608) | N/A |
| Meridian Development Coro. | $ 6,401 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 6,401 | $ 6,401 | $ - | Agreement Sent |
| **Ada County Total** | **$ 289,007** | **$ 10,813,864** | **$ 657,380** | **$ 436,697** | **$ 12,196,948** | **$ 12,147,661** | **$ (49,287)** | 99.6% |

| Member Agency | VRT Request General | Service | Capital | Special | Total | Anticipated Member Budget | Difference | Cooperative Agreement Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canyon County | $ 23,835 | $ 46,899 | $ 2,969 | $ - | $ 73,703 | $ - | $ (73,703.00) | N/A |
| Canyon County Highway Dist. #4 | $ 1,838 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 1,838 | $ 1,838 | $ - | Agreement Sent |
| City of Caldwell | $ 33,087 | $ 288,927 | $ 45,668 | $ - | $ 367,682 | $ 367,682 | $ - | In Review |
| City of Greenleaf | $ 470 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 470 | $ 470 | $ - | Agreement Sent |
| City of Melba | $ 401 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 401 | $ 401 | $ - | Fully Executed |
| City of Middleton | $ 7,564 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 7,564 | | $ (7,564) | N/A |
| City of Nampa | $ 53,726 | $ 411,330 | $ 33,466 | $ - | $ 498,522 | $ 283,193 | $ (215,329) | In Review |
| City of Notus | $ 361 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 361 | $ - | $ (361) | N/A |
| City of Parma | $ 1,273 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 1,273 | $ - | $ (1,273) | N/A |
| City of Wilder | $ 1,009 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 1,009 | $ - | $ (1,009) | N/A |
| College of Western Idaho | $ 5,030 | $ 162,540 | $ 27,102 | $ 37,453 | $ 232,125 | $ 232,125 | $ - | Fully Executed |
| Golden Gate Highway District #3 | $ 1,301 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 1,301 | $ - | $ (1,301) | N/A |
| Nampa Highway District #1 | $ 2,122 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 2,122 | $ 2,122 | $ - | Agreement Sent |
| Notus/Parma Highway District | $ 1,140 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 1,140 | $ - | $ (1,140) | N/A |
| **Canyon County Total** | **$ 133,157** | **$ 909,696** | **$ 109,205** | **$ 37,453** | **$ 1,189,511** | **$ 887,831** | **$ (301,680)** | 74.6% |
| **Grand Total** | **$ 422,164** | **$ 11,723,560** | **$ 766,585** | **$ 474,150** | **$ 13,386,459** | **$ 13,035,492** | **$ (350,967)** | 97.4% |

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|---|---|
| TOPIC | RAC Member Renewal |
| DATE | November 17, 2026 |
| STAFF MEMBER | Jason Rose |

## Staff Recommendation/Request

This is an information item. Regional Advisory Council (RAC) members whose terms are up for renewal may request membership renewal.

## Background

RAC member terms are the mechanism to establish continuity and are staggered so no more than one-third of the membership terms are set to expire in any given year. There are no limits on the number of terms a RAC member may serve; however, at the end of the term, members must notify the chair that they wish to renew their term.

- Members are selected for three-year terms.
- Staff will notify members with expiring terms one month before the term expires.
- Members must submit a request for reappointment before the next regularly scheduled RAC meeting.
- Members can be reappointed after a completed term by a request to the chair.
- New members appointed to complete the term of a RAC member who resigns before their term expires, will finish the remainder of that term and then would follow the reappointment process for the expiring term.

## Summary

RAC members with expiring terms this year include:

- **Susan Bradley**, who has agreed to renew membership on the council.
- **Andrew Mills,** who has agreed to renew membership on the council.
- **Theresa Vawter,** who has agreed to renew membership on the council.
- **Mary Beth Nutting**, who has decided to discontinue membership on the council. This meeting will be her last on council. The RAC will hold an election to fill Mary Beth's vice-chair position at the next regularly scheduled RAC meeting, which is currently scheduled for January 19, 2027.

Additionally, **David White's** role at the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has changed and he will discontinue council membership. This meeting will be his last on council.

### For detailed information, contact:

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

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|---|---|
| TOPIC | Keep Idaho Moving |
| DATE | November 17, 2026 |
| STAFF MEMBER | Elaine Clegg |

## Staff Recommendation/Request

This is an information item for RAC discussion.

## Summary

Valley Regional Transit (VRT) is a founding member of a group organized by the Boise Chamber of Commerce, Keep Idaho Moving. This is an effort to gather information about all transportation needs in the valley and support opportunities to grow funding and services in all sectors. It grew out of an effort by private sector companies in partnership with public entities working toward the same interests.

Keep Idaho Moving (KIM) has had four meetings to date. The participants include a broad range of private and public sector representatives who are interested in helping the transportation sector comprehensively in the region keep up with growth.

The first meeting was presentations by COMPASS and ITD with a broad overview of needs and current plans and the resources available to meet them. The next meeting was presentations by VRT and ACHD that drilled down into those topics as they relate to each of our organizations. The third meeting talked about current initiatives including the ACHD and Canyon County ballot measures on registration fees and concluded to support those and participate in education efforts around them. The fourth meeting focused on the possible funding action that is being talked about in the upcoming legislative session, including conversations about the conceptual draft legislation that VRT has prepared and actions that could bring back the Strategic Initiatives Program.

## Implication

As a member of this group, VRT can offer information and ideas about how to grow resources for transit. The group may take positions that we support, like any public agency VRT cannot act on those beyond educational efforts.

## More Information

We have also begun preparing for next year's long-range planning update. In support of these efforts, I am sharing the presentation provided to KIM to offer additional context on these discussions

### For detailed information, contact:

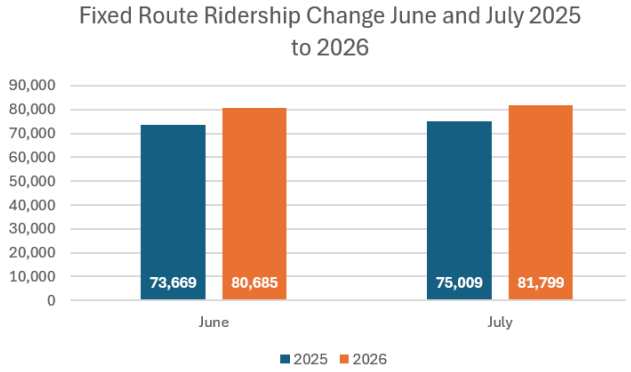
Elaine Clegg
Chief Executive
eclegg@ridevrt.org
(208) 258-2712

| | |
|---|---|
| CEO Activity Report | CEO Activity Report |
| DATE | October 19, 2026 |
| STAFF MEMBER | Elaine Clegg |

## Summary

Information only, no action needed.

## Highlights




We have begun to see an increase in ridership; driven we believe by the increase in gas prices. Contributing to the ridership growth is the completion of large construction projects such as on Capitol Boulevard as well as ridership programs such as Youth Ride Free and our expanded Route Reach outreach program. Summer is typically a bit lower ridership. Systemwide Fixed Route ridership surged past 2025 ridership in June and July, exceeding June and July 2025 ridership by over 9%. Prior to June 2026 ridership had been trending slightly lower than 2025, following a general downward trend in gas prices.



Valley Regional Transit (VRT) attended the Idaho Transportation Department's Public Transportation Summit as a team and took home some hardware in their Hall of Fame inductions. We had seven nominations and were recognized in six categories. Congratulations to everyone who did the work to earn these awards and those who contributed to the nominations. VRTs success rests with the strong team we have in place across all departments.

VRT hosted the Northwest Transit Exchange in September. A free 2-day regional conference started by, and attended by, local transit agency staff in the northwest where staff can make connections and explore new ideas The emphasis is on engaging in discussion and activities on relevant challenges and innovations for public transit in urban hubs and smaller communities across the Northwest. It is the first time we have hosted. Please thank the VRT staff for the hard work they put into planning and conducting the Exchange, it was well received. We conducted four mobile tours during the exchange and in addition to VRT staff, some of your staff members also contributed to those tours. Thank you for lending their time.

NORTHWEST TRANSIT EXCHANGE
BOISE, ID • 2026

Supplemental Services continue to shine, we will bring a full report in January but have seen a growth in ridership on the Hyde Park Street Fair service and a successful start to the football season and the Game Day Bus service. As noted last month we are already looking for additional opportunities to provide special services this winter.

## Meetings/Presentations/Travel

### Meetings

With budget hearings wrapped up, there were fewer meetings to attend this month. I still found myself busy with a number of community and out-of-town events.

- Attended the **ITD Public Transportation Summit** where we heard from new ITD Director Gonzales, had interesting presentations and a great legislative panel.
- **Keep Idaho Moving** met for a third time and agreed to support the referendums in Ada and Canyon counties for registration fees.
- Attended the **Kerosene** all-day meeting focused on beneficial and productive use of AI tools. We are working to bring forward a policy early next year.
- Met again **with CWI staff** to understand better how transit can fit into their new campus master plans and plan for that integration.
- Attended a **Roundtable with Canadian Ambassador to the US** hosted by PNWER, in partnership with Simplot and the Consulate General of Canada-Seattle We heard directly from Ambassador Wiseman on the key issues, opportunities, and challenges facing transportation, as well as the broader U.S.–Canada trading relationship.

### Travel/Presentations

Traveled twice regionally and nationally and attended the Idaho Transportation department Public Transportation Summit in Boise.

- By combining with Amtrak duties, I was able to attend the **Mpact** annual conference in Toronto. The conference focuses on integrating transit and community and offers many mobile tours so you can see success on the ground. I learned directly from a variety of cities that have been able to expand service after successful funding initiatives.
- Attended the September Board Meeting for **Amtrak** and was able to keep our transit issues in front of the Idaho congressional delegation while in DC. I also participated in the launch of the new trains on the Cascades route from Seattle to Portland. They are beautiful modern trains and begin the process of Amtrak having more trains and more capacity to expand as a result. Remember all Amtrak travel is paid for by Amtrak.

There has been a lot of media activity. Please see the communications update for a full list.

## Internal Activities

It has been an incredibly busy few months internally. We successfully implemented a significant **Service Change** October 1. Hats off to Operations, Development and Communications for completing their parts of the tasks needed to make the changes smoothly

and successfully and to let riders know how to find a ride where they are available. We are excited about the new model for On-demand and will be watching it and making adjustments as needed to optimize the services.

In addition to the service change, every team has been stepping up on other big projects. The Operations team has done a great job of managing through some changes with our contractor, completing the contract details needed to begin the new on-demand service model and completing the procurements for Beyond Access and Rides2Wellness. And as always this is done while running the customer service and other daily service needs with exceptional professionalism. Having all of these fall at the same time has been challenging and they have stepped up in a big way.

Development was tasked with all of the logistics of preparing for route changes, procuring the signage, stickers, new brochures and then was tasked with the physical work of installing most of it. They supported operations on determining the new contract provisions for the changes in the on-demand services, managing continued projects at the Orchard site and preparing for the next phase of work that we anticipate starting next year on State Street while updating the TDOP and CAM based on this year's contributions.

Communications developed the signage, brochures and other items needed to support the service change and updated the website to ensure riders had accurate, timely information. These efforts were completed while simultaneously launching the new outreach program, "Route Reach." You will start to see more locale specific branded items as part of this effort. The team is also working with our marketing group on a new campaign and have secured record numbers of advertising sales and program passes.

The Finance team has been finalizing the cooperative agreements and getting them signed, getting year end grant reports completed, preparing and completing procurement processes, and uploading this year's budget in preparation for the start of the new fiscal year. They have also been busy getting the financial reporting completed, closing out this fiscal year and preparing for the audit which will start mid- October.

Information Technology is in the middle of installing our new fareboxes for Ada County and the hardware needed to make them fully functional. They are updating ITS software, keeping up with data needs for supplemental services and performance metrics, completed a full security assessment, and implemented Multi-Factor Authentication across the organization rather than limited. We will respond to the security assessment and bring any findings; changes we have made, and policy updates to you next year

As I said it has been an incredibly busy time with stellar response and performance. Please tell all our administrative staff thank you if you get a chance.

**For detailed information, contact:**

Elaine Clegg, CEO

eclegg@ridevrt.org,

(208) 258-2712

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|---|---|
| TOPIC | Development Department Monthly Report |
| DATE | October 19, 2026 |
| STAFF MEMBER | Stephen Hunt |

## Summary

Development Department activities for the October 2026 report.

## Highlights

### Valley Regional Transit (VRT) Strategic Plan: Goal 1 – Demonstrate responsible stewardship of public resources

#### Performance Based Decision-making

- **FY2027 Budget Development** – Staff is working through cooperative agreements for FY2027 with funding partners.
- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Database** – Staff worked with Transpo to review the database schema that will be used to manage bus stop amenities, conditions, repairs etc.
- **October 2026 Service Change** – Staff coordinated and conducted field work to update passenger information at bus stop signs. Data was provided for website and digital updates. Changes took place on October 1 and include changes to on-demand service in Canyon County, revising route 40, discontinuing route 30, and minor stop changes.

### VRT Strategic Plan: Goal 2 – Increase Ridership and Revenue

#### Planning

- **Bus Stop Improvements** – Staff is continuing its work with a consultant to develop preliminary designs bus stop investments over the next five years.
- **Valley Connect 3.0 (VC 3.0)** – VRT leadership is reviewing the draft of VC3.0, focusing on key messages and how to position this plan for greatest impact over the next several years. This process has taken longer than anticipated and we do not yet have an expected date for finalization.
- **Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan** – Staff is continuing to work with COMPASS on the next Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. COMPASS presented an update to the Regional Advisory Council in August.

#### Mobility Integration

- **Canyon County Vanpool Pilot** – Staff continued planning a kickoff event in October. Staff confirmed funding and reporting strategies with FTA and coordinated with COMPASS.

## VRT Strategic Plan: Goal 3 - Build Institutional and Regional Capacity

### Regional Capital Enhancements

- **Nampa Pedestrian Improvements** – This project has resumed since Nampa finalized their budget for FY2027. VRT staff met with City of Nampa and FTA staff to determine next steps.
- **Bus Stop Improvements** – Staff conducted market research and issued an RFP to determine which firm is best suited to continue fulfilling VRT's shelter needs. After evaluating several vendors, staff determined that Tolar Manufacturing best meets VRT's needs.
- **Orchard Facility** – Anderson Construction Company LLC began construction on the expansion of the Orchard facility. This expansion will improve bus flow within the Orchard yard while providing additional space to manage advertising benches and other bus stop amenities.

### Regional Corridor Planning/Corridor Capital Investments

- **State Street Corridor Projects** – Staff has continued working with the Idaho congressional delegation to push for approval of the 2022 Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant Paper Grant Agreement. Staff also submitted a revised Paper Grant Agreement in response to concern regarding project scope to FTA for their consideration.

  VRT staff has resumed coordination activity to cover the Boise Valley Canal from Saxton to Bogart on State Street until the future of RAISE grant funding is clarified. Staff have been working with Federal partners to ensure progress is as timely as possible.

# More Information

### For detailed information, contact:

Stephen Hunt, Chief Development Officer, 208.258.2701, shunt@rideVRT.org
Joe Guenther, Capital Projects Manager, 208.258.2705, jguenther@rideVRT.org
Kate Dahl, Principal Planner. 208.258.2715, kdahl@ridevrt.org
Alissa Taysom, Associate Planner, 208.258.2717, ataysom@rideVRT.org
Kyle Street, Programming Planner, 208.258.270, kstreet@rideVRT.org

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|---|---|
| TOPIC | Operations Department Staff Report |
| DATE | October 19, 2026 |
| STAFF MEMBER | Leslie Pedrosa |

## Summary

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

## Regional Highlights

Ada County Charging and Battery Electric Bus Update

Valley Regional Transit (VRT) has had no luck trying to work with Phoenix Motors, Inc. to get four buses back on the road. Three buses are down due to battery issues, and one is down due to delayed replacement parts. VRT will continue to secure available parts from Power Parts or ABC Companies

Zenobe, the company which holds the battery leases for the Proterra buses, described a plan to replace the batteries in all Proterra buses and resolve battery issues. Zenobe is in the final stages of contracting with vendors to implement a battery replacement plan. Once agreements are finalized, VRT will be provided with details.

Miscellaneous

- As of October 5, VRT has operated the Game Day Bus for three games. Ridership for the first two games is shown on the table below.

| 9/12/2026 | 9/19/2026 | Grand Total |
|---|---|---|
| 1,018 | 1,242 | 2,260 |

- VRT operated extra service on Route 16 for the Hyde Park Street Faire on September 18 and 19. Ridership for the event is shown on the table below.

| 9/18/2026 | 9/19/2026 | Grand Total |
|---|---|---|
| 83 | 910 | 993 |

- Following the reduction of local match from local jurisdictions, a service change was implemented on October 1. The service change affected the on-demand service, Route 30, and Route 40.
    - Route 40 no longer operates in Nampa. It starts at the Happy Day Transit Center and has several stops in Caldwell before going into Ada County.
    - Route 30 in Meridian was eliminated.
    - The on-demand service now only operates in Caldwell, except for a few locations in Nampa for CWI, St. Luke's, and Saint Alphonsus.
    - On November 2, the operation of the on-demand service will transition from MV Transportation to VIA Mobility Solutions, the software provider for on-demand services. This transition has been vetted to provide significant savings.

- Following a protest for the Acquisition of Service procurement for Beyond Access service, the initial start date with the new service providers has been delayed. It is not known at this time when it will transition.

## September Service Highlights

Canyon County

- One preventable safety event
- Intercounty on-time performance 68%
    - Low due to Route 40 detour with closure of Main Street in Boise
- On-Demand on-time performance 85%
- ACCESS on-time performance 95%

Ada County Highlights

- Three preventable safety events
- Fixed-route on-time performance 68%
    - Low due to Route 7 and 8 detours with closure of Main Street in Boise
- ACCESS on-time performance 97%

Beyond Access Service

- Zero preventable safety events
- On-time performance 96%

Compliance

- Completed validation testing for automatic passenger counters
- Preparing to complete audits for the operating contract with MV Transportation in Ada and Canyon County

Customer Service

- Customer service answered 92% of 8,521 incoming calls. There were 648 abandoned calls. The average call time was 2 minutes and 53 seconds. The average hold-time was 21 seconds.
- City Go Pay mobile ticket sales totaled $13,891.25.

## More Information

### For detailed information, contact:

Leslie Pedrosa
Chief Operating Officer
lpedrosa@ridevrt.org
(208) 258-2713

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|---|---|
| TOPIC | Finance and Administration Activity Report |
| DATE | October 19, 2026 |
| STAFF MEMBER | Jason Jedry |

## Staff Recommendation/Request

This information item provides an update on the finance department.

## Highlights

Budget/Finance

- Finance staff continue to work with contractors on the Oracle ERP system implementation and configuration issues
- Finance and Operations continue to work with contractors on the Oracle EAM system configuration
- Finance staff are sending FY2027 Cooperative Agreements to local jurisdictions
- Finance staff are preparing for annual audits that begin October 12

Grant Management

- Grants and Compliance Administrator is working on the following:
    - FTA grant applications
    - Active grant revisions/amendments
    - FY2027 Projects
    - Federal grant reconciling and reporting

Procurement

- Procurement and Contracts Specialist is working on:
    - East Lot Development – Phase Two
    - Acquisition of Services Beyond Access

**For detailed information, contact:**

Jason Jedry
Chief Financial Officer
jjedry@ridevrt.org
208-258-2709

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|---|---|
| TOPIC | Communications & Engagement Update |
| DATE | October 6, 2026 |
| STAFF MEMBER | Jason Rose |

## Summary

This memo provides updates on current and future communications, engagement, and marketing efforts.

## Highlights

During September, the Communications & Engagement Team led public information and stakeholder engagement around service changes, coordinated media inquiries, advanced branding and signage updates, coordinated social media content, supported supplemental services, strengthened relationships with business and community partners, and more.

**Strategy:** Staff continues to work with our marketing partner, Stoltz, to outline a multi-year strategy to parallel with various partner campaigns and create a blueprint for what's to come.

**Key destination and route promotion**: Advertising agreements continue with Boise State Athletics to promote service to campus, with additional route-level promotions planned in the coming year. Staff are preparing a campaign to focus on select routes on rotation over the next few years.

**Service changes**: We rolled out this fall's service change with direct outreach on buses and at major destinations and rolled out service change information, including website updates, social media content, and design files for bus stop decals and informational inserts.

**Youth Ride Free**: Valley Regional Transit (VRT) had the distinct fortune to work with the City of Boise on Youth Ride Free, a pass program designed to provide free bus and paratransit access to youth 18 and under across the region. The program was made possible by funding from the City of Boise, secured by a grant from the Blue Cross Foundation. The team has been hard at work processing applications and providing rider instruction, distributing outreach materials, promoting sign-ups, distributing passes, and getting people on board! The benefits extend to both youth and their parents or caregivers. In addition to providing transportation, we're able to provide independence for youth in the region and relieve parents and caregivers of the task of chauffeuring! Ultimately, this program has the potential to make a significant shift in the perception of transit in the region and hopefully shape culture to be more transit friendly. We've been able to address some of the perceived of the barriers we've heard about – usefulness and safety chief among them.

This summer, the Youth Ride Free pilot program — funded by the City of Boise and the Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation — delivered nearly 9,000 rides across the Treasure Valley to 1,500 youth ages 18 and under who did not already have a Boise School District bus pass. That's three times the ridership from the same period last year! When combined with the existing

Boise School District high schools pass program, youth took nearly 18,000 trips this summer.

**Northwest Transit Exchange:** VRT hosted the 2026 Northwest Transit Exchange (NWTX) at the Idaho State Museum in Boise. This free, three-day conference brought together more than 60 transit planning and operations professionals from across the Northwest to share successes, discuss common challenges, and exchange ideas about the evolving mobility landscape.

The conference featured many presentations, four technical tours, and three evening activities, showcasing VRT and the Treasure Valley while strengthening connections and VRT's reputation among transit peers across the region.

**Supplemental services:** We promoted and helped coordinate this fall's supplemental services, including Game Day Bus and Hyde Park Street Fair.

**Main Street Station 10-year anniversary event**: We're working on an event to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Main Street Station opening, which lands on October 24, 2026. More information will follow.

## EARNED MEDIA

- **10/1/26:** Valley Regional Transit reshapes local routes, ending Route 30 and cutting Nampa service (Idaho News)
- **10/1/26:** Valley Regional Transit announces service changes, adds Lyft option (KTVB)
- **10/1/26:** Nampa transit routes cut after city council reduces funding, Lyft added to VRT On-Demand (KTVB)
- **10/1/26:** Nampa's deep cuts to public transit funding take effect (Idaho Press)

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

VRT has attended 153 outreach events so far this year, from large-scale appearances to smaller sign-up tablings. At these events, we spoke with more than 5,000 people and were in front of more than 19,000. Seeing VRT in the community builds trust in our brand and mission. Our popularity is growing in the Treasure Valley.

Events can be found at ridevrt.org/events. Organizations may request customized group trainings by contacting navigation@ridevrt.org.

## BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Our pass programs and City Go memberships billed $272,922 in FY26 from 41 partners, 9 of which also have a City Go commitment.

VRT is in the process of updating the relationship between the regional pass program and City Go, and we look forward to introducing a realigned brand in the months to come.

Revenue generated from our pass programs and City Go partnerships becomes part of the funding we use to operate our bus system. It feeds directly back to our operations budget to keep the wheels turning, maintain vehicles, pay salaries, and more.

## SOCIAL MEDIA (August)

[*this month*, *last month*, *last year*]

| Platform | Total Followers | Total Views | Reach | Engagement Rate | Posts Published |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Instagram | 1,959<br>1,920<br>1,550 | 17,449<br>29,437<br>17,522 | 8,794<br>14,277<br>13,110 | 5.82%<br>6.18%<br>6.15% | 11<br>10<br>12 |
| Facebook | 2,592<br>2,575<br>2,430 | 20,552<br>30,006<br>8,090 | 13,278<br>16,771<br>4,960 | 1.85%<br>3.04%<br>5.64% | 12<br>15<br>11 |
| LinkedIn | 805<br>792 | 1,202<br>1,737 | 806<br>1,113 | 6.09%<br>7.35% | 4<br>4 |

## SOCIAL MEDIA (September)

[*this month*, *last month*, *last year*]

| Platform | Total Followers | Total Views | Reach | Engagement Rate | Posts Published |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Instagram | 1,983<br>1,959<br>1,575 | 28,962<br>17,449<br>35,197 | 17,758<br>8,794<br>20,563 | 5.06%<br>5.82%<br>7.94% | 19<br>11<br>14 |
| Facebook | 2,622<br>2,592<br>2,446 | 46,924<br>20,552<br>13,662 | 37,168<br>13,278<br>8,207 | 2.76%<br>1.85%<br>4.68% | 26<br>12<br>25 |
| LinkedIn | 822<br>805 | 3,155<br>1,202 | 2,140<br>806 | 4.61%<br>6.09% | 11<br>4 |

August and September offered a useful contrast between a quieter month and one of the busiest periods of the year. August saw a relative lull following the significant attention around Nampa service decisions in July. Banana Ball kicked off the month with its strongest-performing content, generating around 11,000 combined views across Facebook and Instagram. A service alert related to the Garrity water main break also received significant reach, although its lower engagement rate suggests broader interest in the breaking news story may have helped drive visibility. The Nampa City Council decision to partially fund VRT ultimately generated the highest engagement rate of the month across Facebook and Instagram.

August also marked the conclusion of a successful first year of Youth Ride Free and introduced a new animated video style to promote Route 21 service to the Western Idaho Fair. Positive feedback encouraged us to continue experimenting with this format in September, where it became particularly effective for event transportation and wayfinding.

September was one of the busiest event and posting months of the year, with Boise Pride, Hyde Park Street Fair, Spirit of Boise Balloon Classic, Change Day preparation, and other community-focused content happening simultaneously. Hyde Park Street Fair was a particular standout. Two videos explaining the shuttle and Park & Ride options generated more than 21,000 Facebook views, accounting for nearly half of the platform's views for the entire month. The videos were also highly shared, suggesting audiences found the information genuinely useful. One viewer specifically noted that seeing the route visualized on a map made them feel more comfortable and confident using the bus, providing valuable feedback on how this animation style can make unfamiliar transit services feel more approachable.

September also included a well-received CWI student tour of the Orchard facility featuring Josh Smith, VRT's Maintenance Manager. At the same time, significant effort went toward preparing riders for the October 1 Change Day through explanatory carousels and video. The initial Change Day carousel became the most-viewed Instagram post of the month, while the quick route-change video was the strongest Change Day post on Facebook.

Overall, September reinforced the value of adapting information to different formats, particularly visual wayfinding, concise carousels, and short-form video, during periods when VRT has a large amount of information to communicate.

## SALES

VRT ended FY2026 with strong advertising revenue, with $710,507.00 total revenue, with $968,681.00 in signed agreements (which includes both revenue and production and labor costs).

This year was the first full year we implemented new contract types that include supplemental service (event) advertising packages and annual Premier Advertising Partnerships, which include a full year of advertising, multiple supplemental service advertising opportunities, and value-add options.

Most bus advertising is a tool for branding and top-of-mind awareness. By leveraging the "Events" audience as an advertising & marketing tool, we can pitch the demographics, psychographics, age, income levels, and education levels that are most appealing to advertisers. We can now put a specific targeted message to specific desired groups and become more targeted in our capabilities. Through this process, we have been able to secure clients such as Micron, Bank of the West, Saint Alphonsus, Select Health, Boise State Alumni Association, CWI, and even the PAC-12 Conference.

The revenue generated from advertising in FY26 was enough to completely support Route 5 Emerald, a full season of Game Day Bus, and a full season of AC Boise Matchday Ride. Route 5 connects VRT's Main Street Station in downtown Boise to the Boise Towne Square Mall via Emerald Street, serving downtown Boise, the Boise Art Museum, Ann Morrison Park, Saint Alphonsus, Full Circle Health, and more. Last year, we provided 48,789 trips on Route 5.

## 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
- Carrie Applegate: Marketing & Creative Projects Manager
- Hailee Lenhart-Wees: Community Outreach Manager
- Nick Moore: Communications Specialist II

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|---|---|
| TOPIC | Information Technology Monthly Report |
| DATE | October 19, 2026 |
| STAFF MEMBER | Brad Alvaro |

## Summary

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

## Projects

- Continued Multi Factor Authentication project with Right Systems
- Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system: Staff continue to work with Creoal for production support issues and troubleshooting and have attended weekly meetings regarding bug fixes and service request.
- Staff continue supporting Oracle Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) system.
- Started IT security assessment project with FR Secure

## Support Services

- Hyde Park, Banana Ball, and game day service
- Conducted user training for Genfare Cash Link application
- Work on October service change
- Continue conversations regarding our Automatic Passenger Counter (APC)
- Fixed Verizon data plans
- Monthly service change meetings
- Conducted Genfare system audits
- Planning ridership meetings

## More Information

### For detailed information, contact:

Brad Alvaro
Information Technology Director
balvaro@ridevrt.org
(208) 258-2726