



## **Public Transportation Advisory Council (PTAC) Meeting Minutes**

April 3, 2025 10:30 am MT

Idaho Transportation Department

Conference Room: Lake Coeur d'Alene 11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Boise, ID 83714

Chair: Ryan Luttmann

Vice Chair: Michelle Ziel-Dingman

1. Call to Order (Chair)
2. Roll Call (Chair)

<b>PTAC Representatives</b>	<b>ITD-PT Staff</b>	<b>Other</b>
D1 PTAC – Ryan Luttmann, Chair	Shauna Miller	Suzanne Seigneur, LTS
D2 PTAC – Alisa Anderson	Connie Edwards	Terri Lindenberg, TVT
D3 PTAC – Allan Schneider	Ben Schumacker	Wally Morgus, MRTA
D4 PTAC – Jeff McCurdy	Savannah DeMeritt	
D5 PTAC – Michael Lefevor	Melinda McAlister	
D6 PTAC—Michelle Ziel-Dingman	John Seuss	

3. Approval of Minutes (Chair) Vote – Approved
  - Member McCurdy made a motion to approve, Member Lefevor seconded
4. Safety Share (ITD-DeMeritt) – Distracted Driving
5. PTAC District Report Outs (Chair)
  - District 6:
    - GIFT
      - Looking forward to obtaining their 5310 funding.
      - 5307 budget for next year has been turned in for TRAM submittal.
      - New 14 passenger ADA van being added to the fleet sometime in April.
      - Looking at adding more vehicles as the bid came back for the carbon reduction programs.
      - Continuing to work on expanding service area within Bonneville County, into the City of Ammon.
      - Has put together a community discussion on accessible transportation on the 7<sup>th</sup> at College of Eastern Idaho.
  - District 5:
    - PRT
      - In February attended a human services public transportation plan committee stakeholder meeting where improvement of access to public transportation and enhanced mobility infrastructure was highlighted.
      - Was able to complete the ISU bus stop.



- TripSpark route program implementation going well and the community is excited to use this new real time bus tracker.
- City of Pocatello & PRT just did some rebranding which included the roll out of new and replaced bus stops, new benches and updated maps.
- Excitement as some of the orders of buses have come in and 2 of the 6 buses have arrived, including a heavy duty that should arrive in July.
- District 4:
  - MRTA
    - Garage building project is going smoothly and on schedule and below budget. Should be completed by May.
    - Played a key role in the recent ski world cup finals event in that on average in a week they had about 20,000 riders, and one week they had 33,000.
  - LINC
    - Wanted to share that within Idaho those with disabilities who want to get a driver's license there is no place to do your driver's training, so they are working with getting assistance on obtaining a van that can help with drivers training for those who have a disability. They were advised about possible funding options.
  - Ride TFT
    - The MPO did hire an executive director and things are moving forward in Magic Valley and going well.
- District 3:
  - WITCO
    - Now serving some eastern Oregon providers. Their focus is to get employment for persons with disabilities through employer match.
    - Any reduction in funding would be a major concern as they have several federal contracts that if cut or eliminated would have a major impact on persons with disability in the Treasure Valley area.
  - ACHD
    - Commuter ride reports they are working on May In Motion to seek engagement from local business. 37 business have signed up, and they are trying to get their employees to try green or alternative forms of transportation.
    - Developing the scope for their Walk Ride Bike program.
    - Deploying 8 more vans which will serve the VA Medical Center, downtown federal employees, West Ada & Boise School District.
    - Adding a program called School Pool, which is where students visit job sites as they end their final phase of their education. School Pool is operated by the faculty and students as a part of the job access program. This provides a link between different school sites and employment sites. The TripSpark rideshare app is utilized as this increases visibility to the younger population on the different transit options available.
    - Limited effect at this time and if the pretax benefit with federal employees would go away there could be a large drop in van pool ridership, vehicle procurement is going to be



affected in the future because vans and replacement assets would be affected with the loss of grant monies.

- TVT
  - Does any EMT service for Canyon County as well as the City of Mountain Home, for the Mountain Home Community Transit, and Snake River Transit, which is Fruitland and Payette, with a connection to Ontario Oregon.
  - States that any loss of capital grants could significantly impact the cost of buses and the cost of their new bus line.
- COMPASS
  - Completed a 50-state funding study on how transportation is funded. Idaho and West Virginia are the only two states without a dedicated form of funding to pay for public transportation.
  - Let's Ride Treasure Valley is upcoming which is a future high-capacity transit study to identify future high-capacity transit line in the Treasure Valley. Regarding this, the environmental laws have been changed so there is some uncertainty on what will be required should the removal of environmental justice as a concept of reference to climate change.
  - Stated there have been changes in the criteria for different grant programs and there's concern about active transportation projects going away. There is an expectation to have more emphasis on formula funding rather than discretionary or competitive grant funding and a larger emphasis on economic benefit of various transportation projects rather than the demographic emphasis.
- City of McCall
  - They have been asked to assist with the Hwy 95 closure.
  - Had some complications with the installation of their new TripSpark technology.
  - Partnership with Tamarac Ski Resort that started on Nov. 29 and working through route adjustments and ridership.
- Provided update from the board meeting for the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired regarding being moved Federally out of the Department of Education and over to either the Department of Labor or the Department of Health and Human Services.
- District 2:
  - Member Anderson's last PTAC meeting. Nominated new member for this district, Suzanne Seigneur, who is currently with Lewiston Transit. She is retiring from Lewiston Transit in about 90 days, and she will be available to take over Member Anderson's PTAC board appointment.
  - There is a new provider in this area that is just starting out and huge appreciation to Member Miller for assisting them through this start up process.



- COAST
  - Obtained a Washington grant that allows them to do some fixed trips to Colfax, Pullman and Moscow. They did go to the City of Moscow to ask for a small amount of match money, but not sure if that has gone through yet.
  - COAST does transportation for the Disability Action Center on a purchase of service agreement.
- SMART
  - Has the transit tracking program Passio up and running well on their website.
  - Since they send buses to that go from Spokane to Lewiston and one to Moscow, the new tracking system will help.
- Lewiston
  - Meets up along with Appaloosa Express several times a day at their Community Center to exchange riders. They have just made a new area on the west side of the Community Center that will be opening in 2 weeks. It has a nice shelter, along with benches and windcreens, and public restrooms. Much safer now instead of meeting up in the middle of the parking lot.
  - They have also implemented using the Passio rider notification program.
  - They are hoping to hear that the FTA funding will be happening soon as they are looking forward to the new provider being able to start soon.
- District 1:
  - Addressed that there are missing connections between District 1 & District 2.
  - SPOT
    - Ridership has increased to over 15,000 rides in the last 2 years for the fixed routes.
    - They are getting more requests for connectivity and expansions of service, more stops and moving into more areas. However the challenge is the local match, it's not solid and that's where SPOT is looking at creative ways to fill the gap. They are looking at advertising on buses.
    - They are on pace to run out of their CARES funds by the end of this year. If funding isn't found, they may need to consider reduction of service. With some of that up to 1/3 of their routes.
- Kootenai County:
  - The Silver Valley Express has done a great job this year of providing service all over and including into Shoshone County.
  - Kootenai County Transit providing the link that serves city into rural areas within the county, and in certain areas ridership is up about 17%.
  - They are getting connectivity requests to expand and increase later hours.
  - Starting to explore some advertising options to try to fill in some of the funding gaps with match and as CARES funding runs out.



6. PT Update (ITD-Miller)
  - New employees John and Melinda fully staffed in 2 years.
  - Onboarding for new hires, Connie developed Training
  - Transit Day at the Capital was held on February 10.
  - Provider outreach video ride TFT, GIFT, TVT, VRT, Link in phase 2
  - Fed issues, layoffs, started rehiring, FTA has no grant rep, everything is going to general inbox, very slow process, 5-6 grants still waiting for approval.
  - Not received full FY 25 amount, not in need yet, waiting on certs and assurances
  - State Management Review:
    - RIR Packet submitted early
    - Training April 28-29
    - Review June 23-27
  - Attending the Idaho Commerce Conference-Idaho Rural Success Summit being held in Worley on April 30 - May 1.
  - Shoshone county-FTA possible funding sources, 5304 funding dollars
  - Grant management software update. Ben is the current lead. Planning on having it launched in September.
  - Texas A&M and NCHRP requested an Idaho DOT representative in DC on a project regarding a statewide DOT toolkit for counteracting against human trafficking and Miller will be attending.
7. Operations & Capital Update (ITD-Miller)
  - Working on 2<sup>nd</sup> year of agreement & getting grants approved.
  - Currently have 73 active capital projects, 3 under NEPA review.
  - JFAC approved a \$5 million spending authority increase this year and a \$10 million for next year
8. September Meeting Date Change (ITD-Miller)
  - Currently Scheduled: September 18
  - Proposed Date: September 5
    - Member Schneider made a motion to approve, Member Anderson seconded.
9. PTAC Annual Applications (D2 & D6) (ITD-Miller) Vote – D2 Approved, D6 No Action
  - Member McCurdy made a motion to approve the application of Suzanne Seigneur to be the D2 PTAC representative, Vice Chair Ziel-Dingman seconded the motion.
  - D6 representative has made a request to step down. Currently there has not been an application for a D6 replacement. Deadline to apply has been extended to 4/25/2025.
10. Chair and Vice Chair Elections (Chair) Vote – Chair Luttmann Approved, Vice Chair Schneider Approved
  - Member Lefevor nominated for Chair by Vice Chair Ziel-Dingman. Member Anderson seconded. Roll call vote called, motion carried, and approved.
  - Member Schneider nominated for Vice Chair by Member McCurdy. Member Anderson seconded. Roll call vote called, motion carried, and approved.



11. Annual Training & RTAP Update (ITD-Miller)
  - Monthly outreach webinars given to providers by ITD-PT.
  - There will be no 2025 trainings.
12. 2024 Site Review Program Update (ITD-Edwards)
  - Technical Assistance Guide
  - FY24 had 16 site reviews, only 3 had findings.
  - FY25 will have 13 site reviews, and 4 providers training.
13. 2025 Public Transportation Summit (ITD-Miller)
  - September 3-4 in Boise.
  - PTAC summer meeting September 5
  - Public Transportation Hall of Fame.
    - Nominations close June 20.
    - 4 Nominations
  - Public Transportation Calendar Contest
    - Nominations close June 20
    - No submissions
  - 10 Vendors currently registered
14. 2022-2025 PTAC Goal Review (ITD-Miller) – No Action
15. 2026-2029 PTAC Goal Workshop (Chair)
  - See summary on next 3 pages
16. PTAC Guidance (ITD-Miller) – No Action
17. Next Meeting Agenda Review (ITD-Miller)
18. Adjourn (Chair)
  - Member Lefevor motioned to adjourn, Member Schneider seconded.



## **2026 – 2029 PTAC Goals – DRAFT**

- **Safety**
  - Goal 1: Statewide Continuation of Human Trafficking Awareness & Outreach
    - Aid in supporting January awareness
    - Annual Summit Training
    - Annual refresher training to PTAC
    - Quarterly meeting standing agenda item
  - Goal 2: Serve as a conduit of training resource needs from our providers to ITD-PT.
    - Quarterly meeting standing agenda item
      - Identifying provider needs
      - Best venue (Summit, local, district, online, video recordings)
        - In-person safety trainings locally to minimize service impacts
          - Multiple sessions
          - After hours
          - Weekends
    - Review training attendance and outcome trends presented by ITD-PT annually
      - ITD-PT to include outcome trends at annual presentation
  - Goal 3: Serve as a conduit of safety campaigns throughout the year to our providers with materials provided from ITD-PT.
    - Safety Monthly Themes:
      - January: Teen Driving
      - February: Aggressive Driving
      - April: Distracted Driver
      - May: Motorcycle Safety
      - June: National Safety Month
      - July: Vehicle Theft Prevention
      - August: Traffic Safety Awareness
      - September: Driver Appreciation
      - October: Pedestrian Safety
      - November: Drowsy Driving Prevention
      - December: Impaired Driving



## **2026 – 2029 PTAC Goals – DRAFT**

### ○ **Mobility**

- Goal 1: PTAC to identify and assist with service-to-service connectivity.
  - Standing agenda item at quarterly meeting to identify:
    - Barriers
    - Opportunities to share successes/challenges across districts
    - How are providers integrating technology
    - PTAC to support the creation and dispensation of GTFS dataset to enable Statewide PT service delivery chains to operate more efficiently and better inform policy development.
- Goal 2: PTAC to identify and support agency initiatives to connecting the traveling public with services.
  - Standing agenda item at quarterly meeting to identify:
    - How are these initiatives being funded?
    - Barriers
    - Opportunities to share successes/challenges across districts
    - How are providers integrating technology
- Goal 3: PTAC to support providers with their efforts in education, transition, and/or implementation of Electric Vehicles
  - Standing topic at ITD-PT Annual Summit





## **2026 – 2029 PTAC Goals – DRAFT**

### ○ **Economic Opportunity**

- Goal 1: PTAC to continually solicit and gather feedback from providers within their district, to advise the PT Office on funding allocation.
  - Quarterly provider meeting standing agenda item
    - Barriers/threats to local match for awards? Are local match sources sustainable?
    - What are the provider needs in regards to funding? Operating funds? Capital funds?
    - Provider success stories?
    - Alternative forms of match being used?
  - ITD-PT to provide what is allowable in the CARES Program.
- Goal 2: PTAC to continually explore and gather information on additional funding sources to support sustainability in public transportation.
  - PTAC to remain cognizant of transit related barriers outside of PT such as driver shortages and housing issues and look for opportunities to integrate other local, state, and/or federal programs.
- Goal 3: PTAC to serve as a conduit of feedback to and from our providers on local match sustainability to ITD-PT.
- Goal 4: PTAC to explore ways Public Transportation can be showcased as an economic solution.