

MVRTD Board of Commissioners Minutes

Tuesday 1/13/2026, 10:00AM

Commissioners, In-Person Attendance:

Devon Neary, Chair of Board, Executive Director, RRPC
Ethan Pepin, Transportation Planner, RRPC
Albert Wenta, Town of Proctor Representative
Chester Brown, Town of West Rutland Representative
Jim Haff, Town of Killington Representative

Commissioners, Virtual Attendance:

*Chris Condon, Treasurer
Billy Gillam, Secretary
Jeremy Whiting, VTRANS*

MVRTD Staff In-Person Attendance:

Patti Johnson, Finance Director, MVRTD
Jade McClallen, Executive Director, MVRTD
Stacy Newman, HR Manager, MVRTD
Tyler D'Ambrosio, Sr. Marketing Coordinator, MVRTD
Ron Euber, Operations Manager, MVRTD

Call to Order Called to Order by Devon Neary at 10:06AM. Devon asks for to add the Executive Committee Vacancy on Agenda prior to approval. Add Executive Committee vacancy by Devon. Motion presented by Jim. Seconded by Albert. Motion approved.

Motion to Approve Motion to approve the amended Agenda by Jim, seconded by Albert. Motion passes with none opposed.

Motion to Approve Motion to approve December 9th minutes by Jim. Ethan requests an amendment to Jeremy's title from VPTA to VTRANS. Motion to approve by Jim, seconded by Albert. Motion passes with none opposed.

Open to Public Albert Wenta speaks as member of public. He wanted to attend the December public hearings but could not physically or virtually. He shares that based on results from last year's Proctor Route survey, the main purpose of the trips were shopping, medical appointments, and transportation to and from work. He has received two phone calls thus far detailing the need of public transportation in Proctor from working residents. He contends that for some, "The Bus is a necessity" and people may choose to live in Proctor because of consistent access to public transit.

Albert fears that ridership will be too low to sustain the route. Then it will snowball into dis-servicing Proctor as a whole. Albert would like the board to consider a third proctor route run between the morning and evening runs so that all users are accommodated.

Jim speaks as a member of the public: he has received phone calls from residents of Killington about the federal holiday schedule. He is confused about what federal holidays are included in the proposed

reductions and if these reductions are just for the remainder of the fiscal year or if they are permanent. Jade replies that everything shared thus far publicly is relevant to at least the remainder of the fiscal year. She clarifies that there will be bus service on president's week and the federal holidays being discussed are only the big 6 federal holidays: New Years, 4th of July, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Jim contends that the \$11,000 holiday savings are too low to justify reducing service on holidays and that the figure is too high when positioned in accordance with the \$103/hour bus rate. Jade clarifies that the \$11,000 savings includes internal reductions as well.

Jade replies that unanimous on all surveys and feedback that fares are in favor. MVRTD is exploring fare revenue. Only 50% can go to local match and 50% goes to operations but that latter 50% would reduce the amount of federal funding that MVRTD has access to.

Public Hearing Reception Jade gives an overview of the December public hearings: approx. 40 participants in the first hearing and about 8 participants attended the second hearing. After taking in all feedback, MVRTD is taking a solid look at reductions as proposed to see what changes can be made. Therefore, Jade requests a second January board meeting next week to vote on the updated service reductions so that public outreach efforts may begin immediately after the second meeting.

Jim contends that if we are proposing service reductions then MVRTD is not fulfilling its duty as a municipal transit provider and argues that fare reimplementation does not require updated payment systems. Moreover, businesses in Killington would be more willing to pay for fares and passes rather than an overarching donation for general transit services.

Jade adds that connections to adjacent commuter routes like TVT's Burlington link and SSTA's Orange Line in Manchester was brought up in public hearing. As well as Hospital Route concerns over hourly service. Ron adds that he is working on developing the schedule forward based on this feedback.

Devon agrees that fares are a good stepping stone and is pleased that there is clear support from the community. Tyler gives an overview of survey feedback from the Fair Haven, Proctor, Manchester, and City-Fixed route surveys that detail trip frequency, purpose, and ideal schedule times. Pattis asks if we are able to inquire where people are working on surveys as it could generate good leads on what businesses to contact to request donations. Tyler replies that we can but did not include that question on these surveys due to concerns about privacy.

Chris advocates for getting ahead of the timing on fare reimplantation. He says that he needs a level of transparency when it comes to service costs and requests a lo-med-high scenario on grant funding and how it would impact other businesses. Jade replies that deployment of fares and preparation for it are necessary for businesses and individuals will therefore take time. Thus, fares are looked at being implemented in May, a push from the previous March proposal. Chris asks for impact on contracted services. Jade replies that prior agreements are not affected by the proposed service reductions.

Jade reiterates the need for another service reduction vote in a second January meeting as the updated policy changes would save the district \$56,000 annually. It is a unanimous yes among the board members to meet again on January 20th, at 10AM.

Jim furthers his earlier point in stating that he is incredulous that the 26 townships that MVRTD serves

are not able to come up with funding to offset the service reductions. He contends that 1,000 people would buy a \$365 pass. Ron replies that it is difficult for townships beyond Rutland County to contribute as they already support the public transit agencies in their counties. However, both Jade and Ron clarify that despite this, requests will be made.

Ridership Comparison Jade gives an overview of ridership month by month, year over year. She displays a statistically significant drop from 2022 on the Rutland-Killington Connector route (excluding contracted services). Patti adds that the lack of a World Cup would drop ridership and could be the cause of this approx. 4k difference in ridership. Jim and Chris both add that the ski season was quite fruitless that year and that this data is no surprise.

Jade points out that Proctor's ridership has changed substantially. Even though Proctor was close to being out of the acceptable range it is now looking to be considered in the successful range as rated by VTRANS. Jade adds that Devon pointed out in the previous Executive Committee meeting that South Route Extension consolidation was able to be absorbed handsomely by the South & Hospital Routes. All other routes have remained relatively stable.

Budget Patti gives budget overview up to the end of November 2025. She is currently working her way through December now and has a long-term projection that she is working on as well for the February board meeting. MVRTD is currently seeing a -\$900k budget but Patti has a meeting on Friday with the state to discuss additional funding for the end of the fiscal year.

Patti adds that beyond the service reductions we have reduced staff in finance & scheduling, been keeping a tighter eye on overtime, on-call policies, etc. in an effort to become more sustainable internally.

Executive Committee Vacancy Devon shares that Traci Upton is okay with recusing herself from her Executive Committee duties and replacing her with Albert Wenta.

Motion to Approve Jim motions to approve Albert's induction into the MVRTD Executive Committee. This is seconded by Ethan. Motion passes with none opposed: Albert Wenta is now a member of the MVRTD Executive Committee.

Other Business

Jade shares that we will be ordering new signage soon as there is federal/state funding pocketed away for that already. Jade also shares an update on potential CTO changes for employees (continued internal reductions). She will be sending out new policy by Thursday EOD and will the presented pages will be in-situ in the employee manual.

Adjournment Meeting is adjourned by Devon Neary at 11:17 AM