

# MVRTD Board of Commissioners Minutes

*Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 10:00AM*

*Commissioners, In-Person Attendance:*

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

*Commissioners, Virtual Attendance:*

Billy Gillam, Secretary  
Chris Condon, Treasurer

*Guests, Virtual Attendance:*

Dan Currier, VTRANS

*MVRTD Staff, In-Person Attendance:*

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

**Call to Order** Call to order at 10:04AM by Devon Neary. Jade suggests switching the order of the schedule so that the Vote on Service Reductions is acted upon prior to the Vote on CTO.

**Motion to Approve** Motion to approved amended Agenda by Jim, seconded by Ethan. Amended agenda passes with none opposed.

**Open to the Public** None present.

**Vote on Service Reductions** Jade gives an overview of the revisions on proposed service reductions. The Manchester route's afternoon runtime will shift from 4:15pm to 4:30pm to link up with the Orange Line in Manchester. Saturday service will be reinstated at a cost of approximately \$10,900. Fair Haven and RKC will now service the 3 summer holidays, reducing savings by approximately \$5,000. The AM/PM City Backup service will now run between 7am-8am on weekdays, reducing savings by approximately \$10,500. The Proctor loop will run an additional mid-day loop at a cost of \$10,400. Finally, the weekday city-fixed schedule will now have West Route and South Route running hourly in place of the previously proposed Hospital Route and West Routes running hourly.

Jim appreciates MVRTD listening to the public and questions which exact holidays that RKC and Fair Haven routes will be running. Jade clarifies that the holidays are Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Labor Day before continuing her overview.

Jade shares that the current local match deficit is approximately \$314,000. After the ending of the employee PTO buyback program at a cost of approximately \$50,000, \$37,000 of internal reductions, as well as \$165,000 of service reductions, the deficit is projected to be approximately -\$95,700 by the end of FY27. At that point the local match balance is projected to approximately \$343,000.

Jade explains that in years past, MVRTD has spent capital on technology, fleet procurement, and maintenance. Approximately \$5.3m of capital projects were slated in FY26 which would necessitate a local match of at least \$700,000 which would deplete our current reserves. Therefore, MVRTD will be focusing on fleet procurement and maintenance while holding off on other aspects for at least the next two years.

There is contention on the accuracy of the financial figures presented for service reductions. Jim and Chris ask to revisit the financial aspect in next month's board meeting as well as a a breakdown on future financial spreadsheets to curb confusion.

**Motion to approve** Motion to approve Service Reductions as presented by Jim. Chris opposes. The motion passes with one opposed. Service reductions are set to take effect on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

**Vote on CTO Policy** Jade gives an overview of the current (front-loaded PTO at start of fiscal year) and proposed CTO policies (accrued CTO over time with separate pre-loaded bank for holidays). She explains that the reasoning behind this is to reduce the strain on the Finance department as well as to make the system more equitable for all employees. Jade goes on to explain that the accrual rates are equivalent to the same amount of pre-loaded hours given to an employee based on the current system.

Chris questions if sick leave is included in this accrual and if that's compliant with Vermont law. Stacy replies yes to both questions. However he argues that this would be removing a large amount of holidays from employee's earned time off to which Jim agrees. Devon asks what the rationale is behind eliminating holidays. Stacy replies that the 5 holidays being removed would be included within the updated CTO policy. The impetus behind this change is reduce internal spending by removing the holiday pay shift differential.

Devon asks plainly if any employees would lose time off with these proposed changes to which Jade replies that part-time employees may lose approximately 1 day of PTO.

Ron contends that it is unfair to go to an accrual system as employees who have remaining time off in June would lose the time at the start of July. Jim argues that the system is equitable as it is the responsibility of the employee to use their earned time off. Ron furthers his point by saying that long-term employees will only receive 50% of PTO hours pre-loaded in FY27 at which point they would have previously received 100% of their PTO hours. He advocates for removing the buy back option for unused PTO but is against the accrual system.

A conversation is had revolving around the board members' current time off policy systems and which one may be most effective at MVRTD. Devon and Chet ask Jade if the policy proposal has been reviewed by an attorney to which Stacy replies no as that has not been standard practice. However, it can be done. Devon suggests that we return to this discussion in February.

**Other Business** Albert asks for clarification on Proctor Route runtimes. Ron replies that effective

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, they are 8am, 12pm (from 12:30pm), and 4:30pm.

**Adjournment** Meeting is adjourned at 11:42AM by Devon Neary.