

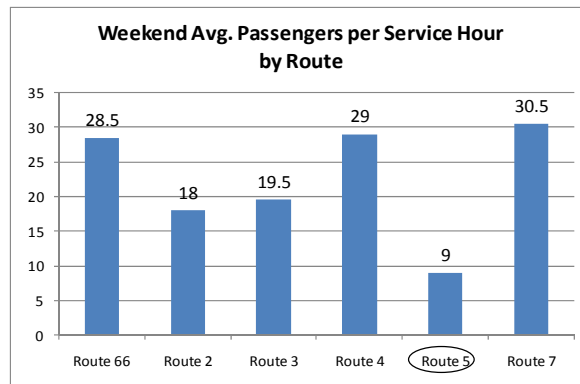


# NEWS RELEASE

## Mountain Line Cutting Rt. 5 Weekend Service Effective July 1

**Flagstaff**—Because of extremely low ridership, NAIPTA will suspend weekend service on Route 5, effective July 1, 2011. Weekday service on the route, which serves northwest Flagstaff via Fort Valley Road, will remain unchanged.

Route 5’s weekend ridership is currently the lowest of any Mountain Line Route with a 70% drop off compared to weekday ridership. The low ridership translates to a cost of \$9.00 per passenger trip on the route.



Prior to reaching the decision, NAIPTA held public meetings in March, where citizens could provide input about the effects the service change would have on them. Input was also encouraged on the Mountain Line website.

NAIPTA General Manager, Jeff Meilbeck, said, "This was a tough decision because we know some riders depend on week-end service. But at the end of the day, we can actually provide private taxi service for less." The NAIPTA board is currently developing a taxi voucher program to mitigate the impact of the Route 5 service reduction on those most in need.

"We made the decision only after weighing all available options," said Meilbeck. "Transit can do a lot, but sometimes it makes more sense for the private sector to meet the need. Such a partnership will allow Mountain Line to use limited resources in the most productive way possible".

For more information about Mountain Line service, please visit [www.mountainline.az.gov](http://www.mountainline.az.gov) or [www.naipta.az.gov](http://www.naipta.az.gov).

*NAIPTA is the transit agency in Northern Arizona operating the Mountain Line and Mountain Lift systems in Flagstaff, Cottonwood Area Transit (CAT) in Cottonwood, the Sedona RoadRunner in Sedona, and the Verde Lynx between Cottonwood and Sedona. NAIPTA also coordinates services with Mountain Campus Transit at Northern Arizona University Contact 928-779-6624 or [www.naipta.az.gov](http://www.naipta.az.gov) for more information.*

