



Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority

3773 N. Kaspar Drive • Flagstaff, AZ 86004 • 928-679-8900 • FAX 928-779-6868 • www.naipta.az.gov

NEWS RELEASE

NAIPTA: Mountain Line Due for a Check-Up

The Arizona economy is impacting both the need for transit service and the amount of tax revenues available to meet those needs. The Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority (NAIPTA) wants to stay on top of those trends so it can continue to deliver the best Mountain Line service possible given Flagstaff’s priorities and current economic realities.

“Our ‘getting you where you want to go’ mission at NAIPTA includes being proactive and staying ahead of the curve in dealing with any potential funding shortfalls in the coming years,” explains Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA general manager. “Although these issues will likely not affect service until 2012, we want to be ready to address the real concerns of the Flagstaff community in any decisions we make.”

Faced with uncertainty about economic conditions, NAIPTA is initiating a planning effort that will begin with an analysis of the system’s funding sources including City of Flagstaff tax revenue projections, user fees, State funding cuts, and restructured Federal funding policy.

NAIPTA’s first step will be to reconvene the Mountain Line Citizen Review Commission (CRC) to report on progress, share financial projections, and develop various service options. The CRC, first established in 2008, includes representatives of the business sector, the environmental community, social service agencies, and transit riders.

The CRC was integrally involved in shaping the 2008 “Flagstaff Five” ballot initiatives that were approved by Flagstaff residents. The five initiatives addressed funding for continuing fixed route service, purchasing hybrid buses, adding an express route to connect the Northern Arizona University campus, downtown Flagstaff and Woodlands Village shopping centers, extending service into new areas, and increasing service frequency.

“The Citizen Review Commission was invaluable to us in charting the appropriate course for the most effective transit service for Flagstaff,” says Meilbeck, “Right now NAIPTA, like just about every other transit system in the country, is facing potential funding shortfalls as the result of reduced sales tax revenue. While we don’t envision any immediate need to change service, it is critical that we plan for the long-term.”

As they did in 2008 leading up to the ballot initiatives, NAIPTA will keep the public well-informed about the potential service options they are considering by conducting civic presentations and public meetings to encourage discussion.

Meilbeck explains, “We’re not only developing strategies that incorporate the best efficiencies in both costs and services, but we’re also anxious to engage the Flagstaff community in dialog and hear their stories first-hand. We will consider and review every avenue available to fully deliver all five transit propositions as approved by voters in 2008”



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The Mountain Line Citizen Review Commission will reconvene within the next month and NAIPTA will conduct their community outreach efforts throughout the summer and fall. A revised service plan will be presented early next year so that everyone knows what to expect in terms of service levels, costs and timelines.

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NAIPTA is the transit agency in Northern Arizona operating the Mountain Line and Mountain Lift systems in Flagstaff, 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 and Cottonwood Area Transit in Cottonwood. Contact 928-779-6624 or www.naipta.az.gov for more information.