

REVEREND BILL ROSCOE  
PRESIDENT/CEO

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BoiseRM.org



BOISE RESCUE MISSION  
MINISTRIES

*Restoring Faith, Hope & Family since 1958*

April 21, 2025

City of Nampa  
411 3rd St S  
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing on behalf of The Boise Rescue Mission in support of Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) funding request this year.

The Boise Rescue Mission is proud to partner with VRT as they support the transportation needs to residents in Nampa. The Boise Rescue Mission provides protective shelters to women and children, recovery centers and ministry services. VRT helps us by providing public transportation services to the men, women, and children of Nampa using three fixed-route bus line (Route 40, 42 & 45), the 150 VRT On-Demand, Beyond Access, and Rides2Wellness services.

It has been well documented that commute time plays a role in a person's ability to escape poverty. Additionally, a household can save an average of \$10,000 annually by taking public transit, while the price of car ownership ranges between \$9,000 and \$14,000 a year. In FY2024, VRT operated multiple fixed-route bus lines, a local on-demand service called the 150 VRT On-Demand zone; and specialized services to seniors and persons with disabilities. In FY2024, there were over 132,044 passenger boardings/de-boardings from services provided or supported by VRT in the City of Nampa.

As a major human service provider in the Treasure Valley, the primary mission of The Boise Rescue Mission is to reach out to the community by teaching the Word of God and providing food, shelter, clothing, and opportunities to recover from homelessness for men, women, and children in need. In 2024, the Boise Rescue Mission provided an average of 753 meals a day, 341 homeless individuals a place to sleep and 43,132 articles of clothing to those in need.

**BOISE:** CITY LIGHT HOME FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN • RIVER OF LIFE RESCUE MISSION • MINISTRY CENTER & WAREHOUSE  
THE NEXT STEP, CURTIS ROAD: A CHRISTIAN TRANSITIONAL LIVING COMMUNITY  
**NAMPA:** VALLEY WOMEN & CHILDREN'S SHELTER • RESCUE MISSION RECOVERY LODGE • THE LIGHTHOUSE  
NEXT STEP TRANSITIONAL APARTMENTS

RESTORING FAITH, HOPE & FAMILY ACROSS THE  
TREASURE VALLEY SINCE 1958



CITYGATE<sup>™</sup> MISSION  
NETWORK MEMBER

Having access to public transportation for our shelter guests allows them to get to appointments and social activities that they would not normally be able to attend due to transportation constraints. Public transportation is a key asset in helping those staying with the Boise Rescue Mission to overcome homelessness. Transportation is one of the highest barriers to those who are trying to get and keep a job, those needing to make doctors appointments and take care of their health as well as those who need to safely be able to get around the city with their children. Having a reliable and consistent means of transportation for those who cannot afford a car is a necessity for those trying to move forward in their lives. If they cannot reliably get to their jobs and take care of their health, it is harder to overcome homelessness so it is a needed resource.

According to the 2019-2023 American Community Survey, there are 29,500 residents below 200% poverty in the City of Nampa (32%) of which 27,100 live or reside within the Nampa portion of the VRT On-Demand zone. This On-Demand zone provides direct access to the City of Caldwell and acts as a first-last mile connection to three VRT bus routes (Route 40, 42 and 45) which also serve the cities of Meridian, Garden City Boise to the east.

The impact of Nampa's contributions to VRT will provide a tremendous benefit to our customers and our organization by supporting better access to our services. In FY2024, there were 6,700 boardings/de-boardings at our Nampa facility (~26/weekday).

The Boise Rescue Mission strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the Treasure Valley. We hope to see their requested contribution reflected in your budget so Nampa residents can continue to have access to human services.

Sincerely,



Betsy Tewalt  
Director of Business and Finance  
Boise Rescue Mission

April 21, 2025

City of Nampa  
411 3rd St S  
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing on behalf of Parma Senior Center in support of Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) fiscal year 2026, funding request.

Parma Senior Center is proud to support VRT's efforts to provide transportation services to the residents of Canyon County. In addition to providing fixed-route and on-demand services, as the regional transportation authority for Ada and Canyon County, VRT provides federal funding and administrative support to Parma Senior Center.

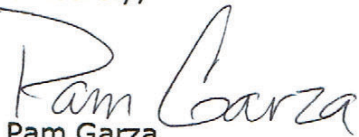
VRT is our source for federal funding and reimbursements for rides, we are a small rural farming community and there is no public transportation here. To get enough donations to cover our costs on fuel alone would be difficult, so without VRT we wouldn't have our program.

Parma Senior Center picks up seniors and disabled persons, many of them veterans, from their homes and take them where ever they need to go, the doctors, pharmacy, shopping, library and we also do fun trips to get them out of the house like to the aquarium, museum and zoo when they are done we take them to their home

The impact of your contribution to VRT as requested will provide a tremendous benefit to our customers and the residents of Canyon County.

Parma Senior Center strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout Canyon County. We hope to see the contribution they request reflected in your budget so all Canyon County residents can continue to contribute to the Canyon County community.

Sincerely,



Pam Garza

Director

Parma Senior Center

April 23, 2025

City of Nampa  
411 3rd St S  
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I'm writing on behalf of Terry Reilly Health Services in support of continued funding for Valley Regional Transit (VRT). VRT provides transportation for many of our patients who use services like 150 VRT On-Demand, Beyond Access, and Rides2Wellness to access our locations for medical, dental, and behavioral health appointments or pharmacy services.

As a major health provider in the Treasure Valley, the primary mission of Terry Reilly is to ensure health services are accessible to all residents. Lack of public transportation to reach an appointment can be a significant barrier. A 2024 poll found that one in ten Americans have delayed scheduling a medical appointment because it would take them too long to get to an appointment.\*

In 2024, there were 9,910 VRT patrons who boarded/de-boarded at a Terry Reilly facility in Canyon County. That's roughly 35% of all Canyon County medical visits made via VRT!

So, you can see VRTs services are a significant factor in making Nampa a place where more residents can thrive and take better care of their health.

We strongly support VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the Treasure Valley. We hope to see their request reflected in your budget so Nampa residents can continue to have access to affordable health services.

Sincerely,

Tami Fife  
COO/CIO  
Terry Reilly Health Services

\*Lynch, Joann, et al. "MDVIP/Ipsos Poll Shows Americans Are Struggling with the Healthcare System | Ipsos." *Some Americans Have Delayed Getting Medical Treatment for a Variety of Reasons*, IPSOS, 22 Aug. 2024, [www.ipsos.com/en-us/mdvipipsos-poll-shows-americans-are-struggling-healthcare-system](http://www.ipsos.com/en-us/mdvipipsos-poll-shows-americans-are-struggling-healthcare-system).

March 25, 2025

City of Nampa  
411 3rd St S  
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing on behalf of Witco Inc. in support of Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) fiscal year 2026, funding request.

Witco is proud to support VRT as they work with your city's staff on establishing a contribution that benefits both parties. Our organization has worked closely with VRT to secure federal funding for expansion of our fleet.

As a not-for-profit organization, the primary mission of Witco is to assist persons with disabilities to obtain and maintain viable employment. On any given day, Witco will be supporting several hundred persons with disabilities who have been placed in community employment, very few of whom can drive themselves. Witco provides transportation for these individuals as well as direct support on the job so that they may continue their employment despite significant disabilities. Generally, several participants may be transported at one time to a common job site.

Over the past few years, we have experienced such high demand for these services that we needed to secure funding for additional vehicles to help our members get to and from work trainings and other activities. We turned to VRT to see if they could assist us with this. When VRT let us know that they could provide federal funding for six additional vehicles, we were excited to partner with them to ensure that we could continue to provide services to the growing number of disabled members that lean on us for transportation.

The contribution that VRT is seeking is extremely impactful to us.

Witco strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the Treasure Valley and we hope to see the contribution they seek reflected in your budget so we can continue our work.

Sincerely,



David Ptaszek  
Director of Commercial Operations  
Witco Inc.



March 25, 2025

City of Nampa  
411 3rd St S  
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing to express St. Luke's strong support for Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) funding request this year.

St. Luke's is proud to partner with VRT in addressing the transportation needs of residents in Canyon County. Through VRT's On-Demand, Beyond Access, and Rides2Wellness services, residents can access St. Luke's medical facilities and other critical health clinics.

Our recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identified access to healthcare as a priority for the communities we serve, including Canyon County. Transportation emerged as a significant challenge in our community data collection through surveys, focus groups, and interviews.

In addition to our CHNA findings, our internal care management data highlights transportation as one of the top needs expressed by our patients during social determinant of health screenings. These insights consistently point to transportation as a critical factor in accessing care.

St. Luke's mission is to improve the health of people in the communities we serve. By supporting access to care through reliable transportation options, we are fulfilling our mission. Valley Regional Transit has been a key partner in delivering services that help us meet this need.

Therefore, St. Luke's strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the greater Treasure Valley region. We hope to see your support of their request, ensuring Nampa residents continue to have access to essential public health services. Your contribution to VRT will provide tremendous benefits to our community members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angie Gribble".

Angie Gribble  
Senior Director of Community Health & Engagement  
St. Luke's Health System

April 28, 2025

Valley Regional Transit  
Attention: Elaine Clegg  
700 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Suite 100  
Meridian, ID 83642

Dear Ms. Clegg,

I am writing to express the College of Western Idaho's (CWI) enthusiastic support for Valley Regional Transit (VRT) as our public transportation partner.

CWI is committed to providing accessible, high-quality education to over 30,000 students annually. Our impact extends well beyond the classroom, helping to fuel the local economy with a skilled workforce and fostering a sense of community. Through our dedication to this mission, CWI delivers a significant return on investment for all stakeholders. In partnership with VRT, we provide more than 42,000 rides annually to our students, faculty, and staff, which is essential as our college continues to grow and expand.

For many students, transportation costs pose a significant barrier to both access and success in higher education. Studies show that transportation can account for nearly 20% of the total cost of attending college for commuting students. Additionally, many students who rely on public transportation face challenges with inconvenient routes, limited frequency, and distance from their homes or places of employment.

We remain committed to working with VRT to ensure that affordable and reliable transportation remains accessible to our community, supporting students in their pursuit of higher education.

Warm regards,

Nic Miller  
Vice President, Strategy and Operations  
[nicmiller@cw.edu](mailto:nicmiller@cw.edu)



April 4, 2025

City of Nampa  
411 3rd St S  
Nampa, ID 83651

Dear Mayor Kling:

I am writing on behalf of Saint Alphonus in support of Valley Regional Transit's (VRT) funding request this year.

Saint Alphonus is proud to partner with VRT as they support the transportation needs of residents in Nampa. Residents of Nampa can access Saint Alphonus medical facilities and many other critical health clinics using the 150 VRT On-Demand, Beyond Access, and Rides2Wellness services.

A recent poll in 2024 found that one in ten Americans have delayed scheduling a medical appointment because it would take them too long to get to an appointment. The poll finds that 6% of Americans cite the lack of public transportation a reason for delayed scheduling of an appointment, while 5% cite unreliable or infrequent transportation (ISPOS. 2024, August 22). In FY24, there were 28,357 passenger boardings/de-boardings on a VRT fixed-route, On-Demand, or Beyond Access vehicle within one-quarter mile of a health clinic in Canyon County (111 weekday average). In addition, VRT provides health-specific transportation services through their Rides2Wellness program. In the first quarter of FY24 the Rides2Wellness program transported 186 patients to clinics in Canyon County.

As a major health provider in the Treasure Valley, the primary mission of Saint Alphonus is to serve together in the spirit of the Gospel as a compassionate and transforming healing presence within our communities. This means serving the whole person when they seek our care, and remaining deeply committed to being an organizational partner and anchor institution in addressing broader community needs.

Transportation is one of the greatest barriers we address with our patients and community members- as well as colleagues- we serve on a daily basis. Transportation needs our system contributes to are not just for healthcare, but for food, prescriptions, and to combat growing feelings of social isolation. Saint Alphonus has been a significant financial contributor and partner in both the VRT Rides 2 Wellness and Beyond Access programs since their inception. In 2024, Saint Alphonus Medical Center-Nampa provided the former Nampa Grocery Shuttle vehicle to VRT for greater use and impact in the Canyon County-based Beyond Access vehicle fleet. While we do what we can in terms of investments in programs like Rides2Wellness and Beyond Access, we also rely heavily on public transportation resources every day.

But we cannot do it alone, and we hope the City of Nampa will continue to prioritize the demands of our growing community for access to the resources and services most needed by its residents.

The impact of your contribution to VRT will provide a tremendous benefit to our patients and our organization by supporting better access to our services.



Saint Alphonsus strongly supports VRT's efforts to maintain public transportation throughout the Treasure Valley. We hope to see their requested contribution reflected in your budget so Nampa residents can continue to have access to public health services.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Lemmons*

Rebecca Lemmons  
Regional Director, Community Health & Well-Being  
Saint Alphonsus Health System

Lynch, Joann, et al. "MDVIP/Ipsos Poll Shows Americans Are Struggling with the Healthcare System | Ipsos." *Some Americans Have Delayed Getting Medical Treatment for a Variety of Reasons*, IPSOS, 22 Aug. 2024, [www.ipsos.com/en-us/mdvipipsos-poll-shows-americans-are-struggling-healthcare-system](https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/mdvipipsos-poll-shows-americans-are-struggling-healthcare-system).

Hello there,

My name is Scott Pearl and I have lived in Nampa since 1999 and have worked in downtown Boise for many years. I have been riding VRT's bus 40 twice a day, five days a week since 2008.

I would like to thank the city of Nampa as well as other agencies for your support of VRT for many years. As a blind citizen of Nampa, I have had no other cost effective way of getting to work. Your support of VRT over the years has allowed me reliable transportation to commute from my house in Nampa to downtown Boise.

Once I heard this funding may be in jeopardy, I realize that I have been taking these funds for granted. I have not expressed my tremendous gratitude to local leadership as well as my equal need for this service. It is easy to take for granted something which has been so reliably present for years and I regret doing so.

The thought of a city the size of Nampa having little, if any, public transportation to Ada and other parts of Canyon County is difficult to imagine and would definitely have an impact on people like me who depend on it for their employment.

However, I recognize that I don't have all the information and I am a big supporter of fiscal responsibility—whether in the private or public sector—and will trust city and county leadership in this difficult decision. You are doing a wonderful job as I love living in Nampa and in Canyon County and—while I may be tremendously disappointed—you have given me good reason to trust your decision.

Let me just say I very much appreciate your support of VRT over the years and it is my strong hope that it continues and also that our community sees a strong ROI in the future!

Sincerely yours,

Scott Pearl

Dear officials of Nampa, Caldwell, and Canyon County,

I am writing to express my strong support for Valley Regional Transit's funding requests to the cities of Nampa, Caldwell, and Canyon County. As a concerned citizen and user of VRT services, I firmly believe that maintaining or increasing the current level of service is crucial to our communities.

VRT plays an essential role in connecting residents, workers, and students to vital destinations within and between our cities. By providing reliable transportation, VRT enables individuals who do not have access to personal vehicles to reach employment, education, healthcare, and other necessary services. Reducing or eliminating these services would be detrimental to the well-being and economic vitality of our communities.

I would like to address the issue of low usage in Nampa specifically. Although usage may currently be lower than expected, it is essential to consider the long-term implications of reducing or eliminating these services. Public transportation is a vital component of a city's infrastructure, providing mobility and access to opportunities for citizens who may not have other means of transportation. Reducing or eliminating services could disproportionately impact the most vulnerable residents in Nampa, such as low-income individuals, seniors, and people with disabilities, who often rely heavily on public transit for their daily needs. By maintaining or improving the service, VRT can continue to support these individuals in accessing essential services, employment opportunities, and a better quality of life.

Furthermore, investing in public transportation is crucial for the city's growth and development. As Nampa continues to grow and evolve, the demand for reliable and efficient public transportation is likely to increase. Reducing or eliminating VRT services may hinder the city's ability to accommodate future growth and the evolving needs of its residents. Additionally, public transportation is an environmentally friendly alternative to personal vehicle use. Encouraging the use of public transit can help mitigate traffic congestion and reduce carbon emissions, contributing to a more sustainable and livable city.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support VRT's funding requests and implore you to make decisions that prioritize the needs of our citizens. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or input regarding this matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Whitney Kent  
Sent from my iPhone

May 2025

## VRT Regional Advisory Council: Nampa Service Contributions

**Dear Mayor Kling and Nampa City Council Members,**

The Regional Advisory Council (RAC) is a standing committee of the Valley Regional Transit (VRT) Board. The members of the council represent a variety of agencies and riders who use the services, or are in need of the services, that VRT provides Treasure Valley residents.

The Regional Advisory Council would like to ask that the City of Nampa mayor and city council members consider voting in favor of expanding service in Nampa.

In Idaho, we hear a lot of talk about freedom. Freedom of speech, freedom to gather, freedom to live the life we choose. But there is another aspect to freedom that is too often overlooked – the freedom to go where you want, when you want. Many of us realize this freedom by purchasing a car or truck. For others, freedom is a bicycle or scooter ride. But for many, however, the only option to realize this freedom means public transportation.

Public transportation provides people with the ability to move freely and conveniently without the need for a personal vehicle. This is especially beneficial for individuals who may not have access to a car or prefer not to drive. Public transportation allows them to travel to work, school, social events, or any other destination without relying on a private vehicle.

Public transportation can offer a sense of independence by reducing dependence on others for transportation needs. It enables people to have more control over their daily activities and schedules, allowing them to explore new places, pursue opportunities, and engage in various activities without being restricted by the availability or cost of private transportation.

Public transportation contributes to economic freedom by providing affordable transportation options. It can help individuals save money on fuel, parking fees, and vehicle maintenance costs. By choosing public transportation, people can allocate their resources to other priorities, such as education, healthcare, or leisure activities. This is particularly important today with the high cost of housing, food, healthcare, and more.

Finally, public transportation plays a vital role in promoting social inclusion and accessibility. It enhances mobility for individuals with disabilities, seniors, and those who cannot drive for various reasons.

Please consider expanding services in Nampa so that the residents of Nampa will have the freedom to travel to services and opportunities in the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

**VRT Regional Advisory Council Members**

