



Public Transportation Advisory Council Spotlight

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**“PTAC is a wonderful council that creates an environment to collaborate, coordinate and connect public transportation stakeholders across Idaho to expand and improve public transportation across the state.” -
*Michael Lefevor, District 5.***

The Public Transportation Advisory Council (PTAC) was created in Idaho Code 40-154 to advise the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) on issues and policies regarding public transportation in Idaho. PTAC participates in planning activities, identifying transportation needs and promotes coordinated transportation systems. PTAC gathers pertinent information, facts and data from local governments, agencies, and providers regarding rural public transportation issues. PTAC advises the department in making funding recommendations to the Idaho Transportation Board.

PTAC is made up of six members appointed by ITD’s Board. Each appointed member represents local governments and agencies, private organizations, citizens groups and private providers that have an interest in public transportation, the elderly, and people with disabilities in their district. The members of PTAC are listed below with their district, email, and phone number.

Chair: Ryan Luttmann

Vice Chair: Michelle Ziel-Dingman

Members:

- District 1: Ryan Luttmann, rluttmann@centurywest.com, (208) 627-7775
- District 2: Alisa Anderson, aanderson@ci.moscow.id.us, (208) 883-7600
- District 3: Allan Schneider, aaschneider@hotmail.com, (208) 870-4831
- District 4: Jeff McCurdy, jmccurdy@csi.edu, (208) 731-5938
- District 5: Michael Lefevor, mlefevor@idlife.org, (208) 232-2747
- District 6: Michelle Ziel-Dingman, mdingman@idahofalls.gov, (208) 206-4735

Each PTAC member keeps in touch with the transit agencies in their district to lend support or bring issues, concerns, wins, or needs to the ITD's Public Transportation section.

"PTAC is the conduit between ITD-PT and the people," said District 3 rep Al Schneider. "Numbers are what drive us, but people are why we drive."

One of the standing agenda items for PTAC's quarterly meetings is to report out concerning the agencies in their district and any trends or commonalities they may be seeing. They have a forum to discuss problems and brainstorm with peers and their PTAC representative.

"As a transportation engineer, I appreciate how public transit can move people from place to place," said PTAC Chairman Ryan Luttmann. "However, as a member of PTAC, I am amazed at the impact public transit has on independent living and freedom when our community members in need discover this safe, efficient, and affordable means of transportation."

PTAC works with the transit agencies endeavors to get the word out to their local communities with the services they provide. Since the work they do is rural, one means of communication isn't always the answer.

"Serving on the Public Transportation Advisory Council is an honor and a privilege," said Jeff McCurdy in District 4. "As we work with ITD's PT Team, together, we strive to support all public transportation providers as they deliver

safe, reliable and assessable transportation options throughout the great State of Idaho." So, through collaboration with PTAC an agency can bring their concern to every region of Idaho.

"Public transit is the cornerstone of a vibrant community," explained PTAC Vice Chair Michelle Ziel-Dingman of District 6. "It provides the opportunity for employment, healthcare, independence, and commerce. Each representative on PTAC serves because they believe in the power of public transit to better lives and support the business they serve."

Alisa Anderson of District 2 also points to community impact. "I have proudly served on the PTAC representing District 2 for many years, which has given me the opportunity to advocate and be a part of a collaborative engagement to support public transportation options to better connect people with mobility and access to employment, schooling, community resources, medical care, and shopping. This in turn helps support an economically thriving community and its businesses and individuals choosing to work or live in them."

"PTAC is a crucial bridge between our public transit agencies and our office." said Shauna Miller of ITD's Public Transportation section. They are instrumental in aiding our agencies and our office in not only establishing but also maintaining a collaborative and constructive approach in combating the challenges and barriers to public transportation. The current representatives are by far some of the most engaged, passionate, and committed individuals that I have had the privilege to work with."

If you would like to know more about or get involved with PTAC please see our website at itd.idaho.gov/PT/ under "Advisory" you can find the times for upcoming meetings, minutes from past meetings, the PTAC charter and operational guidelines.



PTAC members, L to R: Allan Schneider of D3, Ryan Luttmann of D1, Michael Lefevor of D5, Alisa Anderson of D2, Michelle Ziel-Dingman of D6, and Jeff McCurdy of D4.



