

New Canyon bus service proposed

Transportation: Route covers Middleton, Star, Eagle, Boise with commuter run in morning, afternoon

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TREASURE VALLEY — Valley Regional Transit has proposed a commuter bus route that would provide service between the cities of Middleton, Star, Eagle and Boise, and would like to know what the public thinks about the proposal.

The route being proposed would provide one morning run and one afternoon run every weekday. It would operate from 6:15 to 7:45 a.m. and from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Now, the cities of Middleton, Star and Eagle receive no public transit services. These cities would have to provide local funding to help pay the capital and operating costs of implementing the new route.

There are several ways for the public to comment:

Fill out a survey form on the Valley Regional Transit Web site at www.valleyregionaltransit.org. Click on the "Surveys" link.

Call the VRT customer service RideLine at 345-RIDE.

Attend one of three informational open houses:

Star: From 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Star Public Library, 10706 State St.

Middleton: From 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 15 at the Middleton Civic Center, 314 E. Main St.

Eagle: From 5 to 7 p.m. Aug. 16 at the Eagle City Library, 100 N. Stierman Way.

Current bus service in Canyon-Ada: ValleyRide now operates three inter-county routes. Information about each route is listed below.

No. 40 — Nampa Express

This peak express service originates at the Karcher Mall. It provides connections to Caldwell from the express system when the Caldwell express, Route 43, is not in service. Service turns north on Nampa Boulevard and east on I-84, exiting only to serve the Idaho Center in Nampa and Gold's Gym Park & Ride in Meridian. It stops in downtown Boise and Boise State University.

No. 42 — Nampa Limited Stop

This two-way service runs every 60 minutes during peak hours and every 3 hours during the midday. The service is identical to the No. 40 beginning in Nampa up to the Idaho Center. From there, the route exits Interstate 84 at Meridian Road, heads north, and services the Meridian Business Park. From there, it goes to Franklin Road and then Eagle Road, where it serves St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center. It continues south to Overland Road, serving Silverstone, the Social Security office (from Maple Grove Road) and the Towne Square Mall. From the mall, it continues into downtown Boise on I-184. Service is two-way at all times.

No. 43 — Caldwell Express

A single express trip operates in each direction from Caldwell to Boise. Stops include Jefferson Middle School, the park-and-ride lot near the Franklin Road interchange, downtown Boise, Boise State University and the Boise Airport.