

June 6, 2023

Mark Carnopis  
Public Information Officer  
Valley Regional Transit  
700 NE 2nd St.  
Meridian, ID 83642



Dear Mark Carnopis and the Valley Regional Transit Executive Board of Directors,

The Barber Valley Neighborhood Association opposes Valley Regional Transit's plan to eliminate the Route 1 bus service to Harris Ranch as outlined in VRT's Bus Network Redesign.

BVNA acknowledges that Route 1 ranks among the system's bottom 25% in terms of ridership. However, BVNA wishes to remind VRT that Harris Ranch, as a master planned community, remains under construction. Several high-density, multi-family apartment complexes totaling more than 300 units remain scheduled for completion along VRT Route 1 in the next 6 months.

Before the first rooftops appeared in Harris Ranch, Idaho Smart Growth awarded the community its 2007 Mixed Use award for its "diversity in housing" and its "well-connected transportation system that encourages walking, biking, and transit."

Sixteen years later, Harris Ranch's diversity in housing is finally taking shape. Developers have several multi-family projects designed and under construction along East Warm Springs Avenue. These projects will bring hundreds of renters to Harris Ranch; many may seek bus transportation to downtown Boise. We cannot know the true demand for Route 1 until our new neighbors settle in. We hope the service remains available as they establish commuting habits to downtown.

In the best interests of our future neighbors, BVNA asks VRT to preserve Route 1 to Harris Ranch until our community achieves full buildout so that we may know the true demand for ridership. Thank you for your service to the community and thank you for considering our feedback on the proposed VRT route changes.

Barber Valley Neighborhood Association Board

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