

**TLU-10 Comments**  
**Recommendation 35**  
**Transportation system management**

The economic impacts of any legislation must be determined and be a part of the decision.

Expand public transportation and provide bike lanes. And, if bike lanes are provided there needs to be education for bicylists on how to use them, as well as motorists.

May not be possible in Montana (distance, winter) but use where applicable. How about sidewalks required for all neighborhoods on at least one side of the street?

While policies are good, this kind of planning should be conducted at the local rather than the state level.

Transportation is key

Support for light rail in high traffic corridors.

Excellent.

I have no desire to pay for this proposal.

And the Net Benefit is???

All these already should be part of the free market system. Instead, bad behavior has been subsidized for decade. Remove the subsidies, and people will force government to choose what make sense, which is an end to subsidies for behavior that damage the environment and threaten public health.

New lights contain too much mercury.

Enough with the roundabouts! All they do is create one long continuously slow-moving line of traffic. There are no breaks for pedestrians, or cross-traffic to enter prior to, or just after roundabouts. With all the money already spent on studies, six overpasses could have been built in Missoula alone!

Especially promote bike lanes and pedestrian facilities.

Portland has saved a countless amount of money and energy through these simple steps (ie, LED, transit, etc.)

Could you make everything down hill?

individuals can only do so much with this issue, we need strong and numerous government action of many forms and formats...

Use full cut off lighting with low wattage and less street lighting overall. Roundabouts are confusing and dangerous in many settings, do not mandate them. Require sidewalks in subdivisions.

Everytime I see "resources" it means dollars. Do we have a goal that for every \$1.00 we spend, that we can quantify a savings of \$1.00+  
Roundabouts do not always work well, and with Montana winters may cause more problems than they hel.  
The other suggestions are sound.

Stimulate the local food systems so our food does not have to be flown or truck all over the country. Help local markets develop and help farmers make a living off of farming.

Yes, yes, yes.

impractical inconvenience with questionable results.

Why not???

Well, that's a start. About building intelligent interconnects and bypasses? Additional interstate interchanges to get traffic out of the city faster (like at Russell St. and I-90). Get Russell St. rebuilt so that traffic flows. How about expand bus hours and days? Small rail link up and down US-93 corridor? Amtrak along southern route?

We know far too little about greenhouse gases and their effect on the environment to go crazy legislating on this subject. Facts and not emotions should be behind any legislation.

Yes. Improving public transportation and other non-car modes of transport is essential.

By all means LED lamps wherever possible.

These are all easy and effective ways to reduce carbon and bike and ped. facilities have health benefits also.

More local trains for freight and have the state own them. Enough of the power mad greed heads sucking off of us.

Additionally, changes to public lighting should also be designed to simultaneously address issues of light pollution - there is simply too much light in certain areas. Montanans should be able to see the stars on a clear night.

Better Passenger Rail needs to be re-developed on old Northern Pacific mainline through Missoula, Helena, Butte, Bozeman, Billings toward Minneapolis and/or Wyoming Denver and from Seattle/Portland/Idaho - get people off the highways as much as possible!

more bike paths and synchronized lights could save millions per year. great idea.

Excellent idea. Roundabouts in Montana?? Wow. Will never happen!

excellent!

Very important. This goes under planning, in my opinion. Engineered traffic calming will also greatly enhance safety.

Fine except for the roundabouts

I'm not convinced of the advantages of roundabouts (I know as a driver I find them confusing and annoying), but I support the rest of the ideas in the example.

On yeah, roundabouts, go drive for a couple of years back east and then tell me how you like roundabouts.

We need to develop intercity passenger rail between major population centers in MT, so that people can travel by train rather than driving individual vehicles.

maybe rail service does make sense?

Improving transit will improve the entire transportation system.

How about armed enforcement of the 55 MPH speed limit by the MT National Guard?

Include railroads and air travel - it will be good for Montana's economy that way.

Many states and cities elsewhere are already here. What are we waiting for?

I would be ten times more likely to use a bike if there were bike lanes everywhere (or almost everywhere) I needed to go.

Major cost savings.

A decent passenger rail system between the major towns in MT would be great. Think about jobs and investment.

This isn't going to save much energy but it is going to cost a lot of money.

Not for GHG reasons. For conservation of energy only.

What will these policies and resources cost? Who is paying for expanded transit services?

NEVER!!! ROUNDABOUTS ARE DANGEROUS. IF YOU ARE GOING TO BUILD BIKE PATHS DO IT WITH BIKER MONEY. WHEN I WAS A KID YOU HAD TO HAVE A LICENSE ON YOUR BIKE. THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE TOO HARD TO SEE NOW AND YOU WANT TO USE LEDS? I SUPPOSE IF WE REDUCE THE POPULATION AT BUSY INTERSECTIONS BY MEANS OF FATAL CAR ACCIDENTS MANY OF OUR PROBLEMS MIGHT BE REDUCED OR GO AWAY BUT I FOR ONE THINK THAT IS AN INHUMAN APPROACH.

Not enough effort or focus on encouraging alternatives to private vehicles.

That should include efficient, well-planned public transportation in every medium and large town by 2015.

Rural areas would benefit from transportation via buses, vans, etc. This is in the planning stages in the Havre area.

YES

Great ideas.

Yes. Make cities more bike/pedestrian friendly, and then provide rail for transportation between cities.

Expand transit...in Montana dumb, dumb, dumb! The rest are fine.

I am all in favor of the types of traffic controls mentioned above. I am in favor of people riding bicycles to the extent possible. But I suggest bicyclists adhere to the rules of the road and that police ticket offenders.

We need better systems to allow people to ride bikes. Roads/highways with lanes to accommodate bikes. More paths/sidewalks for people to walk on

As long as these ideas are sensible and workable without hardship to our public.

Many studies of Roundabouts have proven these intersections to cause more accidents than any other kind of intersection. Due to our winters, bike and pedestrian facilities do not make sense. LED Traffic lamps is a good idea though.

This is just common sense. Why aren't we doing this now?

good idea for a change

I've used roundabouts, I hate them. When someone messes up, it's a big one, not just a fender bender.

roundabouts suck. Are you trying to increase my insurance policies?

Great as long as you can come up with the money. All this sounds good on paper but again, who is going to pay and who is going to reap the benefit? I am willing to look at a break even down the road even if the up-front cost is higher, but here needs to be a break even or a cost savings somewhere.

Great! Start with Missoula as a poster city!

This Action Plan was not a Montana grassroots Plan. It was the same plan written for California and other states.

<http://www.righttalk.com/asx/ggws.aspx>

POLICE EVERYTHING?

What about the 7 months per year that this isn't practical?

Greenhouse gas reductions in transportation planning comes at an extreme cost eventually to the consumer. Policies to encourage the use of new technology is on the right track.

I hate the Idea of Roundabouts, as do most people from area that have roundabouts in general use. If we had a whole city of roundabout, we would only save a small amount by increasing MPG. But what about the green grass and trees that are replaced by concrete, concrete absorbs no CO2.

Greenhouse gases are a by-product of global warming, not a cause.

This should already be taking place.

Roundabouts have their part but are not a cure all nor are they always the best option. Bike and pedestrian facilities should have significant emphasis in state and local government transportation planning. Private approaches and impacts on the state system should be evaluated for effect on pedestrian and bicycle functionality. Mitigation should be mandatory for negative impacts.

I am not convinced that this will help with the global warming problem but I think that if we go to LED's when the old bulbs go out it might be a good idea.

SOME GOOD IDEAS, BUT ONCE AGAIN, AT WHAT COST TO THE TAXPAYER?

I think we should improve transportation systems management. Coordination of traffic signals, improvements to system, but do not always agree that roundabouts are the most safe and efficient method of doing this.

This is already happening.

I think we should improve transportation systems management. Coordination of traffic signals, improvements to system, but do not always agree that roundabouts are the most safe and efficient method of doing this.

I wish you people lived on the moon. Maybe you should move to California.

Beware - transit expansion promotes and encourages sprawl.

What about street lights? How about shutting off 50% of them after 2 AM.

Public education needed on why this will improve the lives of our children!

Roundabouts are just the opposite of what the vast majority of Montanans have been taught regarding traffic law & should be banned from use in Montana.

YES!! Don't just talk about it. Do it. Right now, Missoula is in the process of deciding on traffic lights (instead of roundabouts) on Russell and 3rd and on down Russell for whatever reasons. Also they are thinking of making it 4-5 lanes. This is not going with progressive thinking that we know works in other communities. We're still doing it the old polluting unsafe way!

About time.

Im not sure roundabouts are that efficient

I don't have a clue how you are going to do the roundabouts. There is not enough ample space in Montana's cities to convert most if not all intersections to roundabouts, and most municipalities are not going to want to part with the extra property to build a roundabout as opposed to a conventional intersection.

I don't know what roundabouts can do for us besides cause confusion, especially where trucks have to use them. Need more information here.

raise taxes for urban transit and bike paths see if govt. wants to ride a bike.

Just do it with no policing but rather what is, is and thus will be used. Just like those techs that are ready but not available.

No!

Again, for things like LED lighting, why in heaven's name wouldn't we do this?

Bikes are a great way to get around even in large towns. The problem in Montana is that towns are not bike or pedestrisn friendly.

Light synchronization would be nice. Also, in Billings, if they would make the cycling time shorter of lights at many of the intersections might help in the deadly, epidemic of running red lights that is so prevalent in this city.

This must be accompanied by improving walkability and bikeability of our communities.

convert traffic lights to LED lamps is a good idea. the remainder ideas are not so great.

Bike paths should be a top priority!  
except the roundabouts, they don't work

This must be done as a cost-return decision, not a feel good decision. Go ask the rich environmentalists to pay for all this out of their own fortunes if they want it so badly.

Roundabouts? Are you kidding? The roundabout recently built north of Kalispell appears to be the very model of how to inefficiently move traffic, and to encourage use of alternate routes to avoid it.

As long as it is not too costly and taxes increase.

super!

Again, this sounds good as long as we don't get an expensive, ineffective program. Management and oversight are key.

Nice work!

expanded transit services can be one of the biggest ways to reduce GHG. The state should have real state-level funding for transit.

Build bike facilities & they will come. Build bigger vehicle facilities & you will get more drivers.

State rail passenger transportation needed, Billings to Missoula via Helena with a spur to Butte and Great Falls

Every little bit helps. Any way to curb emissions should be looked at and implemented if possible. The net reduction will be amazing as so worth it.

Another policy that doesn't have any use in Eastern Montana. Who pays for all of this?

other states are already ahead, so use some of their policies for a starting point.

Urgently needed

Needs more study.

Yes! I'd like to see a commuter train from the Bitterroot Valley to Missoula, and maybe in other parts of Montana as well. It makes a ton of sense!

The planning should already be in place for this. Smaller communities will find it hard to afford such technology at this time. This should not be regulated but instead be encouraged.

These types of efforts should be city by city. The state should not become involved, nor set out any mandates.

YES!

Add: Plan municipal lighting and residence lighting standards to minimize destroying night sky visibility, minimize killing migratory birds, and to conserve energy.

Roundabouts will disappear as they get congested in the future. Not necessarily an energy efficient means of moving traffic in urban areas. Need to promote more bike/pedestrian facilities in Helena. Need a permanent and separate bike coordinator for MDT.

I like this one a lot.

I'm OK with this, if you give up the greenhouse gas reductions. We don't know if there really are any.

Good idea, but again too costly. Might just start with all this in new planning, and slowly change old things as time progresses.

These options are important because they both contribute to GHG reduction and promote quality of life and a sustainable lifestyle.

We need to address infrastructure problems now because most of the changes required to reduce GHG emissions to target levels will necessitate changes in the way we get around. Barring a huge and sweeping change in the transportation options we can choose from to travel the existing system of roads in cities people will eventually turn more to bikes, scooters, trains, buses, even horses and other obscurer modes of transport. Roads, in their current state, will likely become unnecessary (possibly unsafe) in many of the places they currently exist. Furthermore reduced gasoline sales will reduce the amount of taxes available to keep roads in the good shape and will become even more a liability in the future. Changes should be immediately considered to compensate for this obvious problem.

Get real! All companies do that now.

synchronized traffic lights would be a really good energy saver.

This can all be done without passing any new laws except the greenhouse gas farce. Why mess with an imaginary problem.

support of walking and biking around town would not only reduce emissions, but help combat obesity and other health issues.

All of these are 'feel good' expensive bulls\*\*t legislation. Global warming is NOT a fact (cold records set last winter in the southern hemisphere) so it might be Northern hemisphere warming, but not global. Secondly, latest studies of the sun spots (that control global temperatures more than humans) indicate that within 20 years we will be back in a 'mini-ice age'. Not politically correct, but MUCH more accurate.

Weak in effect. How about adding a program to challenge business's to donate bus passes (larger cities) to people who drive SUV's to work.

Everything but roundabouts because they are ineffective and confusing and posing public safety concerns.

These are nice.

Been there,,,,seen that. Sell it to the cops and firemen who risk their lives for us. Geeze, are you people really nuts?

Roundabouts are a waste of land.

So long as I see every government employee riding their bikes first, snow or rain. Then maybe we the citizens will follow suit.

I would encourage the concept of "Transportation Demand Management", which creates systems to move people, goods and services - NOT ONLY MORE CARS

WHO PAYS FOR THIS

If this is taxpayer friendly?

This goal makes excellent sense and ought to be priority one!

NO ROUNDABOUTS!!!

The roundabouts in the Montana City area are great!

Too many street lights

Roundabouts are not a traffic problem solver, and can create more problems. LED lamps cannot be easily seen in bright daylight. There should be some other workable alternative.

bring back the passenger train to southern Montana

Who going to pay for it?

Montana needs bike lanes! Few roads have them. I would use my bicycle more often but the highway speed limits are too high and roads too narrow. Dangerous!

good one.

Just synchronizing traffic signals would accomplish much. We have the technology for that, just need the desire to spend the dollars to get it done.

This sounds like one of those feel good measures that either will not have much of CO2 reduction, will be done without additional assistance because it will save money (LED lights), or will be demanded by folks at the local city level. Face it, bike paths in rural eastern Montana will not see much use.

Oh, yes, yes, yes. You have come up with so many good, workable, important ideas that will HELP, REALLY HELP!

It's all a cost/benefit scenario. What you've done is left out convenience, economics, & personal choice.

more pavement, more money. If your going to spend money like that put a bike trail along side highways and many more people will use bikes to safely get to where they are going. traffic lights should be replaced with LED when they wear out.

You expect everyone to park their vehicle and walk. what about the old and crippled?

Where does the money come from to pay for this?

It would be great if all cities could synchronize their traffic signals. Roundabouts are good, but need to build double lanes instead of single.



The greenhouse gas reductions don't belong in this item. Guidelines are better than policies.

light rail or something similar utilizing the track easements south & north of Missoula. also recreate rail travel for passengers throughout the state and out of state.

Roundabouts are not safe. Talk to fire departments opposed to them in new subdivisions and so forth.  
NOT GOOD.

Establish time frame.

This actually might help. MDOT sucks in regards to timing and synchro issues.

This is perfect...does anyone actually believe, (outside the U of Montana) that converting to LED lights is going to make a wit's difference???

You had me OK until you got to the "green-house reductions" phrase.

There isn't a need for this proposal in Eastern Montana. Why should the taxpayers pay for all of this in the more populated areas.

Good stuff!

Yes, bike and pedestrian facilities; again, already happening

We need more statewide public transportation: BUSES.

right now, this entire state is very bike and pedestrian UNfriendly!

Some good ideas here, except for the round-a-bouts. I have driven in England, and believe the improved safety of traffic lights far out weighs the energy conservation benefit of round-a-bouts.

We need massive reeducation on auto use, encourage mass transit & educate motorists, cyclists & pedestrians on how to share the road.

better ideas

roundabouts haven't worked back East, can't believe we are discussing them here.

This should be at the local level.

Again, please be considering the costs this would be implementing from ALL sides.

DOING THAT ALREADY!!!

REestablishing a train system between cities would be fantastic.

already being done. anything further would be repetition or just blue sky

One caution: the impact of roundabouts on big trucks and goods movement needs to be considered when planning the placement of roundabouts.

Work with MDT on this before racing off.

Strongly support

Oh God give me a break. I love it when the crazies are riding their bikes on the road when it is below zero and they are a total traffic hazard. Lets have more of this crap put into law. Get real

Especially focus on bike, pedestrian and public transport.

Holcim supports re-investment in and expansion of roads and highways systems as well as other transportation infrastructure.

very important component

Yes!

Get out of the greenhouse gas madness. Keeping the environment as clean as possible is one thing but adopting a program based on highly contended scientific evidence is quite another.

never worked before

Fine for city folks. What about rural folks?

very important

The goals in TLU-10 are completely unambitious. MDT already synchronizes traffic signals and does traffic planning. The number of roundabouts, LED conversions, and pedestrian facilities also simply reflect the status quo. This is a good goal and good methods, but not a very ambitious project. MDT simply listed their current programs and put it into CCAC, without any attempt for new recommendations. We need a much stronger program in order to acheive any sort of real progress.

This is smart, needed investment in our infrastructure that will benefit Montana residents.

Need a conservation speed limit to conserve petroleum and reduce green house gases.