



Transportation Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
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SENATE MEMBERS

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BECCA BROWN, Research Analyst
JOE CARROLL, Staff Attorney
MADDELYN PENNINGTON, Secretary

PANEL DISCUSSION

SJ 19: Interim Study on Public Transportation

Friday January 23, 2026

Room 102, State Capitol

Panelists:

- *Jacque Lavelle* *Western Project Manager, Rails To Trails Conservancy*
- *Chris Fox* *Chair, Board of Directors, Bike Walk Montana*
- *Shyla Patera* *North Central Independent Living Services (NCILS), Great Falls*
- *David Carlson* *Executive Director, Disability Rights MT (DR-MT)*
- *Meg Traci* *UM Rural Institute, MTDH*
- *Jacob Krissovich* *Legislative Director, National Federation of the Blind of Montana*
- *Cassie Wick* *Ability MT, Butte*

Discussion Prompts:

- Please give a brief overview of the existing public transit services, either in your area of focus, or in your area of the state.
 - What modalities of transit are offered? Bus, Rail, Air, Water, Veteran, Medical, Elderly?
 - How are these transit systems funded? Local, state or federal?
 - Who utilizes the transit services?
 - How can the transit services be improved?
- What are the impacts of tourism on transportation in your area? Does transportation availability affect tourism?
- Please describe any ongoing plans to increase public transit availability in your area.
- Have Automated Vehicles (AVs) been considered as a method of transport?
- Are MCA statutes and/or ARM rulemaking processes working as intended? Are updates needed to accommodate aspects of public transit?
- Would the establishment of a Passenger Transportation Commission benefit your stakeholders?

Public Comment

Questions from Committee



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Public Participation

The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol or provide public comment either using remote meeting technology or in writing.

To offer public comment via remote meeting technology, please submit the online form for remote participation at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting: <https://participate.legmt.gov/>.

Written public comment may be submitted either through the [online form](#) for written comment or by mailing the comments to Transportation Interim Committee, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

**Public comment provided in person or remotely at a legislative meeting is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the meeting.*

The Montana Legislative Services Division makes reasonable accommodations for person with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact the ADA coordinator, Leah Hibbs, at 406-444-3073 or leah.hibbs@legmt.gov as soon as possible before the meeting date.