TIC Public Transportation Survey 2025-26

The 69th Montana Legislature's Transportation Interim Committee (TIC) is conducting an interim study on ways to improve passenger transportation service and public transit, pursuant to 2025 SJ 19.

The TIC wants a broad-based perspective on how Montanans and their families utilize various forms of public transportation, both within local communities as well as traveling across the state.
The information gathered from this survey will play a vital role in helping the TIC assess current transit services and identify areas of improvement. By analyzing community feedback, the committee can pinpoint gaps in service, evaluate demand for new or expanded transportation options, and prioritize enhancements to existing systems. Your input will directly inform strategic planning, and will ensure that future public transportation initiatives align with the needs of the communities we serve.

We greatly appreciate your time in filling out this survey (approx. 10 minutes or less).

* 1. What county do you reside in? (Please choose from drop-down menu)

2. What community / town do you reside in? (Please type your answer)

* 3. What is your age group?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

4. What is your household's approximate annual income?

- Under $25,000
- Between $25,000 and $49,999
- Between $50,000 and $69,999
- Between $70,000 and $99,999
- Over $100,000

Local community transportation

The questions below are specific to transportation within your local community / town.

* 5. Does your local community / town offer public transportation options?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ I'm not sure

6. If you answered yes, please select which forms of public transportation are **currently** available in your community.

- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Rideshare (Lyft, Uber, etc)
- ☐ Taxi
- ☐ Bike sharing or Scooter sharing (available for hourly rental)
- ☐ Rail / train
- ☐ Essential Air Service (EAS) or other air/flight
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- ☐ None of the above

* 7. Which forms of public transportation would you use **if they were available** in your community?

- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Rideshare (Lyft, Uber, etc)
- ☐ Taxi
- ☐ Bike sharing or Scooter sharing (available for hourly rental)
- ☐ Rail / train
- ☐ Essential Air Service (EAS) or other air/flight
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- ☐ None of the above; I would not use any public transportation even if it was available in my area.

* 8. How do you travel WITHIN your local community / town? (Please check all that apply)

- [ ] Walk
- [ ] Personal bike or scooter
- [ ] Bike or scooter sharing (available for hourly rental)
- [ ] Personal motor vehicle
- [ ] Taxi service
- [ ] Rideshare (Lyft, Uber, etc)
- [ ] Bus
- [ ] Rail / train
- [ ] Essential Air Service (EAS) or other air/flight
- [ ] Other resources such as a community center, assisted living, IHS, or VA transit (please specify)

* 9. Do you own a personal motor vehicle?

- ◯ Yes, I own a personal motor vehicle
- ◯ No, I do not own or have access to a motor vehicle
- ◯ I don't own a vehicle, but I do have access to one for personal use

* 10. Do you think the public transportation within your community is affordable?

- ◯ Yes, the public transport in my community is affordable.
- ◯ No, the public transport in my community is not affordable.
- ◯ N/A, I do not have public transport in my community.

Statewide transportation

* 11. Do you use **public transportation** to travel OUTSIDE your community but WITHIN the state?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

* 12. When you travel OUTSIDE your community but WITHIN the state, is the travel usually for **work** or for **personal** travel?

- ◯ Work - when I travel outside my community but within MT, it's usually for work.
- ◯ Personal - when I travel outside my community but within MT, it's usually personal travel.

* 13. How often in a calendar year do you travel OUTSIDE your community but WITHIN the state?
(*Regardless of public transportation*)

- ◯ Never
- ◯ 1-2 times per year
- ◯ 3-5 times per year
- ◯ 6-11 times per year
- ◯ Monthly (12 times per year)
- ◯ Weekly or more often

* 14. How do you travel OUTSIDE your community but WITHIN the state? (Please check all that apply)

- ☐ Walk
- ☐ Personal bike or scooter
- ☐ Bike or scooter sharing (available for hourly rental)
- ☐ Personal motor vehicle
- ☐ Taxi service
- ☐ Rideshare (Lyft, Uber, etc)
- ☐ Bus
- ☐ Essential Air Service (EAS)
- ☐ Air / flight other than EAS
- ☐ Rail / train
- ☐ Other resources such as assisted living or VA transit (please specify)

* 15. How often in a calendar year do you use **public transportation** to travel OUTSIDE your community but WITHIN the state?

- ◯ Never
- ◯ 1-2 times per year
- ◯ 3-5 times per year
- ◯ 6-11 times per year
- ◯ Monthly (12 times per year)
- ◯ Weekly or more often

Further thoughts

The Transportation Interim Committee (TIC) wants to hear your thoughts on public transportation in Montana.

* 16. For what reasons do you **currently** use public transportation?
(Check all that apply)

- [ ] Medical care access
- [ ] Employment / jobsite access
- [ ] Education access (trade school, community college, university, etc)
- [ ] Recreation access
- [ ] Other (please specify)
- [ ] None of the above

* 17. Even if you are **not** currently utilizing public transportation, how would you utilize it if it were an option?
(Check all that apply)

- [ ] Medical care access
- [ ] Employment / jobsite access
- [ ] Education access (trade school, community college, university, etc)
- [ ] Recreation access
- [ ] Other (please specify)
- [ ] None of the above, I don't plan to use public transportation

* 18. What do you see as the **most important improvement** that is needed for public transportation service(s) in the state?
(Please type your answer)

* 19. What public transportation service(s) do you want to see **added** to your community, or to the state overall?
(Please type your answer)

20. Are there specific **locations, destinations, or facilities** you would recommend the TIC visit to better understand opportunities for improving Montana's public transportation network?

21. Do you have any **information, insights, or presentations** you would like to share with the TIC as the committee evaluates opportunities for enhancing public transportation?

* 22. There are efforts to restore passenger rail service through southern Montana along the current freight route (*Glendive, Miles City, Billings, Livingston, Bozeman, Helena, Missoula*). **Would this expanded availability be a benefit for you and/or your family?**

(Please type your answer. Feel free to provide more detail than simply 'yes' or 'no'.)

If you'd like to learn more about the ongoing efforts to restore passenger rail along the southern route, there are links on the TIC webpage at: https://committees.legmt.gov/#/nonStandingCommittees/32?tab=Studies+%2F+Topics
Or, you can contact the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA) for more information: https://www.bigskyrail.org/

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey on Public Transportation in Montana.
The Transportation Interim Committee (TIC) appreciates your input toward the ongoing study on Public Transportation.

If you have any further comments or questions, please visit the TIC's webpage at: https://committees.legmt.gov/#/nonStandingCommittees/32

You can submit public comment in writing, attend TIC meetings virtually, or join the TIC in person in Helena at an interim meeting.