



Transportation Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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JOE CARROLL, Staff Attorney
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TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE (TIC)

Meeting – Friday, January 23rd, 2026

Room 102, State Capitol – 8:00am-5:00pm

PLEASE NOTE:

- All times are approximate; some agenda items may require more or less time than indicated.
- The agenda may be adjusted or paused for breaks at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- See the end of this agenda for information on accessibility and public participation.

8:00am

Call to order – roll call

Chair Russ Tempel

8:05am

1. Administrative rule review

Joe Carroll, Staff Attorney

8:10am

2. Agency Oversight: Motor Vehicles Division (MVD) of the Dept of Justice

Laurie Bakri, Administrator

- Division updates
- Questions from committee

8:40am

3. Agency Oversight: Montana Dept of Transportation (MDT)

- Department updates – *Larry Flynn, Deputy Director*
- Railroad crossings – *Tricia Burke*
- Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) synopsis, rulemaking, study – *Russ Christoferson*
- GVW fees in Montana and neighboring states
- Questions from committee

9:30am

Western Transportation Institute (WTI) introductions and overview

- *Dr. Lee Spangler, Interim Director*
- *David Kack, Program Manager for Mobility and Public Transportation focus area, Principal Investigator of WTI's Safe Streets for All (SS4A) projects FY24 and FY25*
- *Laura Fay, Research Scientist, Program Manager for the Cold Climate Operations and Systems focus area, and the Infrastructure Longevity and Sustainability focus area*
- *Natalie Villwock-Witte, Research Engineer, Safety Operations and Mobility*
- *Karalyn Clouser, Research Associate, GIS and Planning Specialist*
- *Susan Gallagher, Education and Workforce Program Manager, Principal Investigator of WTI's Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) project*

9:40am

Public comment* regarding agency oversight / administrative rules

- 9:45am** **BREAK** (15 minutes)
- 10:00am** **4. SJ 19: Interim study on public transportation**
Chair Tempel
- Panel discussion
See handout for panelist information
 - Research update
Committee Staff
 - Public survey review, approve to post/send
Rep. Denise Baum
 - Questions from committee
- 11:45am** **Public comment*** regarding public transportation
- 12:00pm** **RECESS** for MT Heritage Center and inclusive, interdisciplinary walk/move audit
- 1:15pm** **LUNCH** (30 minutes, on your own)
- 1:45pm** **Debrief** from the MT Heritage Center and i2 walk/move audit
- 1:55pm** **Public comment*** regarding MT Heritage Center and i2 walk/move audit
- 2:00pm** **Discussion of proposed railroad merger**
Lockiel Edwards, Ag producer – Big Sandy, MT
- 2:15pm** **Public comment*** regarding proposed railroad merger
- 2:20pm** **5. Wreckers / tow trucks**
Chair Tempel
- Panel discussion
See handout for panelist information
 - Questions from committee
- 3:50pm** **Public comment*** regarding wreckers / tow trucks
- 4:00pm** **BREAK** (15 minutes)
- 4:15pm** **Public comment*** on any other topic within the TIC's jurisdiction
- 4:25pm** **6. Committee work session**
Chair Tempel
- Reflections and discussion
 - GVW fees
 - MDT contracting and alternative contracting processes
 - Highway 212
 - Proposed railroad merger
 - Any further directions to staff
- 4:45pm** **Final public comment*** on any other topic within the TIC's jurisdiction

5:00pm

Adjourn

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.*

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