Spring 2013

SB61-12/13: ASUM Transportation Fee

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The Associated Students of The University of Montana
Resolution Regarding ASUM Transportation Fee
February 20, 2013
SB61-12/13
Authored by: Topher Williams, ASUM OT Chair
and Benjamin Courteau, ASUM OT Director
Sponsored by: Alex Rich, ASUM Senator

Whereas, 94% of students in a 2012 survey value the transportation options provided by The
Associated Students of The University of Montana Office of Transportation (ASUM OT);

Whereas, 32% of students in a 2012 survey reported that they bike to campus every day, and
over 4,500 bike commuters to campus were counted in a 2012 City of Missoula bike count;

Whereas, the focus of ASUM OT over the past 10 years has been transit, and bicycle programs
that benefit a greater portion of the student body and require greater investment to reach their full
potential of providing transportation options, reducing congestion, and cutting UM’s greenhouse
gas emissions;

Whereas, the 2010 University of Montana Climate Action Plan Section 4.4.2 tasks ASUM OT to
increase incentives and opportunities to bike to campus, and to construct a bike hub and covered
bike parking in order to increase the mode share of bicycles at UM;

Whereas, ASUM OT bus driver starting wages are no longer competitive due to increases in
minimum wage and inflation;

Whereas, current bus driver starting wages no longer reflect the level of training and
responsibilities required, and are substandard compared to peers in the same profession;

Whereas, bus maintenance costs have gone over budget for the past two years, are no longer
properly represented in the ASUM OT budget, and additional funds are required to reflect the
actual maintenance costs associated with the current fleet of refurbished buses;

Whereas, fuel prices remain extremely volatile and unpredictable, and are likely to greatly
increase due to events outside the control of ASUM OT;

Whereas, ASUM OT requires additional revenue to ensure continued operation of services
should diesel prices rise to between $4-4.50/gallon;

Whereas, 61% of students in a 2012 survey support a fee increase for the purpose of covering
increases in bus driver wages, maintenance and fuel costs, and enhanced bicycle programs;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that this fee increase will be placed as a referenda item on the
ballot of the spring 2013 ASUM election;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, that ASUM recommends the following ballot language:
The proposed ASUM Transportation Fee increase will cover the costs of bus maintenance, fuel, and driver wages. The proposed fee increase will also help avoid a decrease in services, as well as enhance bicycle infrastructure such as: covered bike parking, repair stations, bikeways, and an improved bike checkout program. Do you support a Transportation Fee increase of $3.50/Semester for full-time students?

Passed by Committee: _____________________________, 2013

Passed by ASUM Senate: __________________________, 2013

______________________________  ______________________________
Damara Simpson,              Bryn Hagfors,
Relations and Affairs Chair  Chair of the Senate