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SB79-20/21: Resolution Encouraging Collaborative Management of Parking and Transportation at the University of Montana

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Recommended Citation

Karlen, Jonathan and Hess, Jordan, "SB79-20/21: Resolution Encouraging Collaborative Management of Parking and Transportation at the University of Montana" (2021). *Senate Resolutions, 2007-Present*. 899. https://scholarworks.umt.edu/asum_resolutions/899

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1 **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**
2 **Resolution Encouraging Collaborative Management of Parking and Transportation at the**
3 **University of Montana**

4 **April 23, 2021**

5 **SB79-20/21**

6 **Authored by: Jonathan Karlan, ASUM Senator; Jordan Hess, ASUM Transportation**
7 **Director;**

8 **Sponsored by: Ethan Hanley, ASUM Business Manager;**

9
10 Whereas, The Transportation Fee was established in the mid-1990s to promote and provide
11 transportation options to the University of Montana campus community;

12
13 Whereas, When the fee was established, the Associated Students of the University of Montana
14 (ASUM) were dissatisfied with transportation choice and wanted improved options for
15 commuting to campus;

16
17 Whereas, ASUM's Office of Transportation was established in 1999, and ASUM's bus service,
18 now known as UDASH, was started in 2000;

19
20 Whereas, In its first decade, UDASH grew from a single 15-passenger van to a fleet of nine full-
21 sized transit buses, and provided nearly 500,000 rides annually during peak enrollment;

22
23 Whereas, Since 2008, the City of Missoula and Missoula County have adopted several
24 increasingly innovative long-range transportation plans that provide the flexibility, sustainability,
25 and choice students sought when the transportation fee was first adopted;

26
27 Whereas, Mountain Line has adopted a "focus-inward" strategy to better serve the core of
28 Missoula, including the University of Montana, and has expanded bus service several times in
29 the last decade;

30
31 Whereas, The University of Montana, Mountain Line, ASUM, and the City of Missoula jointly
32 funded and adopted the 2015 UM Transportation Study which calls for more collaboration, more
33 active and sustainable commute options, and more integrated management of parking and
34 transportation systems;

35
36 Whereas, The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted and modified commute patterns at UM and at
37 universities around the country, and this disruption presents a unique opportunity to reevaluate
38 existing parking and transportation operations;

39
40 Whereas, The University of Montana has a long tradition of solving problems through innovative
41 shared governance models;

42
43 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That ASUM supports efforts to holistically examine and improve
44 the structure, management, and funding of parking and transportation programs both on and off
45 campus;

46

47 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That ASUM encourages the University of Montana
48 Administration and future ASUM Senates and Executives to update the 2015 UM Transportation
49 Plan, to further explore opportunities to consolidate parking and transportation management, and
50 to formalize collaboration with internal and external partners;

51
52 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That the ASUM Senate supports the creation of a unified
53 access and mobility department that merges UDASH bus services, campus bike programs,
54 parking management, and other mobility programs, provided that any new department has
55 formalized commitment to student involvement;

56
57 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to: Paul Lasiter, Vice
58 President of Operations and Finance.

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62 Passed by ASUM Senate: April 21, 2021

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66 _____
67 Patrick James Flanagan,
Chair of the Senate