Spring 2011

SB14-10/11: Transportation Fee

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Whereas it is the mission of the ASUM Office of Transportation (ASUMOT) to promote and provide transportation options to the university community;

Whereas ASUMOT offers a number of services on campus including the Park-N-Ride and UDASH bus systems, the UM Bike Ambassadors, the Cruiser Co-Op yellow bikes, bike parking, and the semester bike program;

Whereas ASUMOT ridership increased from 3,860 in 1999-2000 to 387,995 in 2009-2010, demonstrating that transit services are critical for the student body to access the University of Montana;

Whereas students have continually supported ASUM Transportation’s services, with 72.0% of students supporting the 2008-2009 fee increase and 81.7% of students surveyed in Fall of 2010 supporting a fee increase for the Transportation Fee in 2011;

Whereas ASUM Transportation is facing increased costs for operating its services while also experiencing increased demands for service from UM students;

Whereas an increase to the ASUM Transportation Fee would allow ASUMOT to increase weekend UDASH from 30 minutes service to 15 minutes service;

Whereas an increase to the ASUM Transportation Fee would allow ASUMOT to offer bus services during winter session;

Whereas an increase to the ASUM Transportation Fee would allow ASUMOT to offer increased bus service to the East Broadway Park-N-Ride;

Whereas an increase to the ASUM Transportation Fee would help pay for future bus and bike replacements, ensuring that our transit system meets federal safety standards;

Whereas ASUMOT will begin to pay back its loan of $80,000 to ASUM for the buses purchased in 2010;

Whereas an increase to the ASUM Transportation Fee would allow ASUMOT to expand services it offers to the bicycle community by building additional bike parking;
Whereas an increase to the ASUM Transportation Fee would support the employment of five additional students, raising the number from 35 to 40;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved that the Associated Students of the University of Montana support a $4.00 increase to the ASUM Transportation Fee;

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that before enactment/use of any funds from this fee, ASUM requests an audit of the ASUM Office of Transportation to ensure greater transparency for students regarding their money and its use.

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUMOT will explore any and all options to expanding bus service to the West Campus of the College of Technology.

Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved that ASUM requests a line-item report of all expenses this fee is used for.

Let It Be Further Resolved that the ASUM Senate will submit this proposal as a student referendum in the April 2011 elections.

Passed by ASUM Senate with unanimous consent as amended, February 9, 2011