

CITY OF DILLON, MONTANA

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2024 TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN CITY OF DILLON BUS

Beaverhead County's population is approximately 9,453 people with about 3,976 living within Dillon city limits. Thirty-Six (36) percent of Beaverhead County is below the National Poverty Level. The need for free transportation is immense. Without it, most of the population that does not have transportation would not be able to reach doctor appointments, pick up medication, go to work, go to the grocery store or meet other needs restricted due to lack of transportation.

The Dillon City Bus provides public transportation for the citizens of Dillon. Current operating hours for the Dillon City Bus are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Rides are offered within the Dillon City limits and approximately one (1) mile outside the City limits to accommodate seniors, people under 60 of age, and people with disabilities on a need-by-need basis regardless of race, religion, income level, or orientation. In other words, rides are available to all people in need. *All rides are Free.* In 2022, 1398 rides were provided to senior citizens, 1882 rides were provided to people under age 60 and 3803 riders were provided to individuals with disabilities. For the year of 2022 we had a total of 7083 riders.

The Dillon City Bus coordinates with entities of Dillon to provide rides for senior citizens, individuals under age 60, and individuals with disabilities. These entities include Renaissance Assisted Living, Legacy Assisted Living, the Senior Center, Butte Sheltered Workshop (BSW) Inc.; Barrett Hospital and Health Care, Pioneer Care and Rehabilitation Center, Southwest Montana Community Health Center, University of Montana-Western, Women's Resource Community Support Center, Dillon Public Library, Bicentennial Apartments, Snowcrest Apartments, Pioneer Meadows and Brookside Apartments. The bus also works with various businesses and agencies to provide rides to and from appointments such as Daniel Downey, MD; Andrew J. Belice, MD; Bridger Creek Dentistry; Safeway; Town & Country; Hair Care Unlimited Salon; Creger Family Eye Care, PC; Precision Eyecare and Optical; Food Bank; Blacktail Pharmacy and Dental and the various financial institutions to name a few. All of these agencies are willing participants and very supportive of our plan. The Dillon City Bus works very closely with all businesses because our clients are their clients and we want to provide the best possible service for all. Without the city bus, the businesses of Dillon would suffer. Our business community relies on our transit system.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings are held to gather input for what is needed in the community. Through coordination with the committee, days and hours of operation are established. The committee consists of the Mayor, Director of Operations, the Community Health Advisor, one senior citizen, one low income individual, one disabled individual, and the Dillon City Bus Coordinator/Driver. The meetings are held quarterly.

The bus is operated on a demand basis. Individuals may phone the City Bus Driver directly to schedule a ride or leave a voicemail message when the driver is unable to answer. The driver may also be reached by two-way radio from City of Dillon offices when necessary. Reservation requirement is day of service with at least one (1) hour advance notice prior to appointments. Exceptions may be made for emergencies. All medical or dental appointments have priority along with rides to work and beauty shop appointments. All other rides are on a first-come-first-served basis.

The Dillon City Bus service has two busses. The primary use bus is a 2017 Chevrolet Cutaway with ramp, which seats fifteen (15) with two (2) wheelchair securement stations. The secondary bus is a 2005 Chevrolet Express Van, which seats ten (10) passengers and has one (1) wheelchair securement station. Maintenance on the buses is performed by City of Dillon employees at the city shop or by the local Chevrolet service department. Maintenance is completed after every 3,000 miles driven. Copies of the maintenance records are on file at the City of Dillon.

Care and safety of passengers are the primary concerns of the Dillon City Bus. All drivers must be trained to operate wheelchair lifts or ramps and are required to read all manuals concerning buses. Bus drivers and mechanics must be drug and alcohol tested. Passengers and drivers must be secured with seat belts when available and clients with wheelchairs must be secured before the bus is set into motion.

The City of Dillon has followed and will continue to follow safety procedures to keep our riders safe. Bus services are promoted via the local radio station, local newspapers, the City of Dillon webpage, fliers distributed throughout community businesses and by word of mouth. This grant helps individuals who do not have transportation attend medical appointments, go to work, go to the grocery store, and meet other needs normally restricted due to lack of transportation. This service is very much needed and appreciated.

Approximately sixty percent of our clients have no other way of transportation or are unable to drive themselves. Fifty percent of our clients have a disability. Twenty percent of our clients use our services to save money and be protective of our environment.

The City of Dillon has a population of approximately 4,200 citizens within a two square mile area. The bus service provides a much needed service to our clients. Without the bus our clients would have no way of getting around our community. They would not be able to get to important and necessary appointments. Without a bus service the quality of life of our clients is greatly diminished. The health and safety wellbeing of our clients would be at risk.

The bus service provided by the City of Dillon is a must for our community.

This plan has been reviewed and adopted by the City Council and Mayor for the City of Dillon on: *March 1st, 2023*. (see attached minutes).