



## **Salt Lake Express Transportation Coordination Plan Montana Connections**

**Update Approved January 07, 2026**

### **Introduction:**

#### **a.) FTA Guidance**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is developing guidance in the form of circulars to assist grantees in implementing the 5311 (Rural Program) Draft guidance was released in the Federal Register on 3/15/06. Excerpts from this guidance are included below:

Federal guidance on participation in the planning process emphasizes: (1) Ensuring adequate outreach efforts; (2) recognition of outreach efforts; and (3) participation from non-DOT funded partner agencies and organizations. FTA offers potential outreach strategies:

- Notice or flyers in centers of community activities
- Newspaper or radio announcements
- Email lists
- Web-postings
- Invitation letter to other government agencies, transportation providers, and advocacy groups.

FTA further proposes that recipients demonstrate a good faith effort to reach out to specific targeted partners by maintaining copies of notices, newspaper ads, etc., to document their outreach efforts.

FTA also proposes that the lead agency include the following groups and organizations in the coordinated planning process:

- Area transportation planning agencies;
- Transit riders and potential riders, including both general and targeted populations; those individuals with lower incomes, a representational cross-section of individuals with disabilities and older Americans;
- Public transportation providers;
- Private transportation providers, including School bus, taxi services, charter bus operators, etc.;
- Non-profit transportation providers;
- Human service agencies funding and/or supporting access for transportation services;
- Other government agencies that administer health, employment, or other support programs; examples of such programs include Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Medicaid, Community Action Programs (CAP), Independent Living Centers (ILC) and Council on Aging (COA) programs.

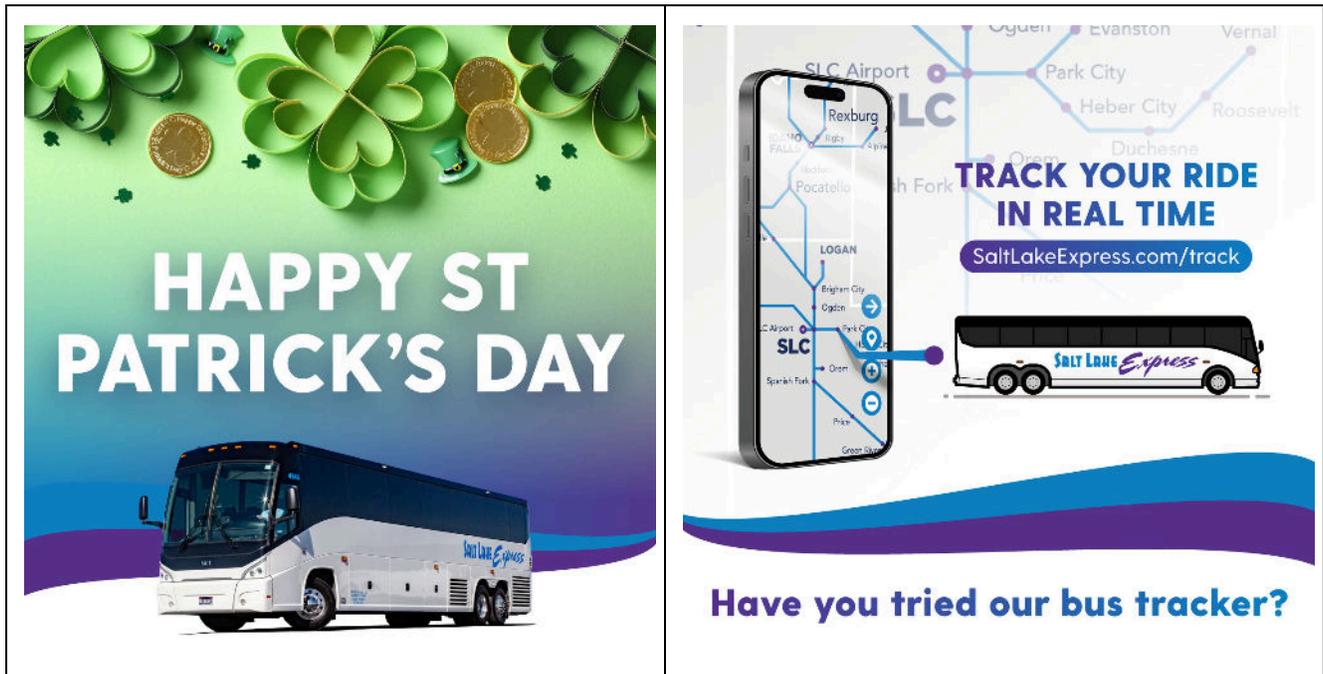
**b.) Organization Description**

**Salt Lake Express**

P.O. Box 566  
Rexburg, ID 83440  
800-356-9796  
SaltLakeExpress.com

Salt Lake Express is an intercity private for profit Transportation Company that provides intercity fixed route bus services in six states. These states include Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and Arizona. SLE is currently a member of the National Bus and Transportation Association (NBTA) and has greatly benefited from this association. NBTA ties together other intercity transportation providers, creating a seamless way to travel across multiple carriers nationwide. SLE currently offers many city to city pairs that can be purchased through this interline network including Salt Lake City to Great Falls, MT, Pocatello, ID to Boise, ID, Idaho Falls, ID to Jackson, WY, and West Yellowstone, MT to Rexburg, ID. SLE also offers routes throughout Utah and into Las Vegas, NV. SLE interlines with carriers like Greyhound, FLIXbus, Jefferson Lines and Northwestern Stage Lines. SLE has and maintains a positive working relationship with many other interline carriers. Jefferson Lines is the provider we coordinate with in Montana at the Butte Bus Terminal.

SLE has an ongoing successful marketing campaign understanding and reaching the right audience through a mix of digital and creative strategies. We use data-driven route selection to place ads on high-traffic or relevant routes, maximizing visibility among potential customers. We track results using analytics to refine our approach. Whether through online engagement or offline impressions, measuring performance ensures our campaign delivers value and drives growth.



## SLE Montana Boarding Locations

### Great Falls-Butte

#### **Great Falls, MT**

Great Falls Transit center  
326 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S  
800-356-9796

#### **Ulm Junction, MT**

Quigley's Quick Stop  
2 Millegan Rd. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave  
406-866-2030

#### **Cascade, MT**

Tom's Market  
130 1<sup>st</sup> St NW  
406-468-2252

#### **Craig, MT**

Trout Shop Exit # 234  
110 Bridge Street  
800-337-8528

#### **Wolf Creek, MT**

Canyon Exxon & Store Exit #226  
175 Recreation Rd.  
406-235-4111

#### **Helena, MT**

Capital Transit  
1415 N. Montana Ave  
406-447-8078

#### **Boulder, MT**

Exxon Station  
701 N. Main Street  
406-225-4330

#### **Basin, MT**

Silver Saddle Bar and Cafe exit # 156  
109 Basin Street  
406-225-9995

#### **Butte, MT**

Greyhound Depot  
1324 Harrison Ave  
406-723-3287

### Butte-Idaho Falls

#### **Butte, MT**

Greyhound Depot  
1324 Harrison Ave  
406-723-3287

#### **Dillon, MT**

Safeway  
570 N Montana St  
406-683-5002

#### **Lima, MT**

The Homestead Café  
108 Bailey St  
406-366-3484

#### **Dubois, ID**

Sinclair Service Station  
424 Main St.  
208-374-5381

#### **Idaho Falls, ID**

SLE Greyhound Depot(Shaka's)  
1520 Grandview Ave.  
208-522-3345

**Current Idaho Falls - Butte Schedule**

Idaho Falls-Butte Schedule	
Effective October 1, 2025	
<b>Northbound</b>	
	<b>0002</b>
<b>Departures</b>	<b>BS10D</b>
Las Vegas	6:35 AM
St George	9:45 AM
Salt Lake City	4:00 PM
Idaho Falls	9:00 PM
Dubois	9:40 PM
Lima	10:30 PM
Dillon	11:10 PM
Melrose	11:40 PM
Butte	12:15 AM
<b>Southbound</b>	
	<b>0001</b>
<b>Departures</b>	<b>BS10A</b>
Great Falls	9:45 PM
Butte	5:30 AM
Melrose	6:00 AM
Dillon	6:40 AM
Lima	7:40 AM
Dubois	8:25 AM
Idaho Falls	9:05 AM
Salt Lake City	1:40 PM
St George	9:45 PM
Las Vegas	11:05 PM

**Current Great Falls - Butte Schedule**

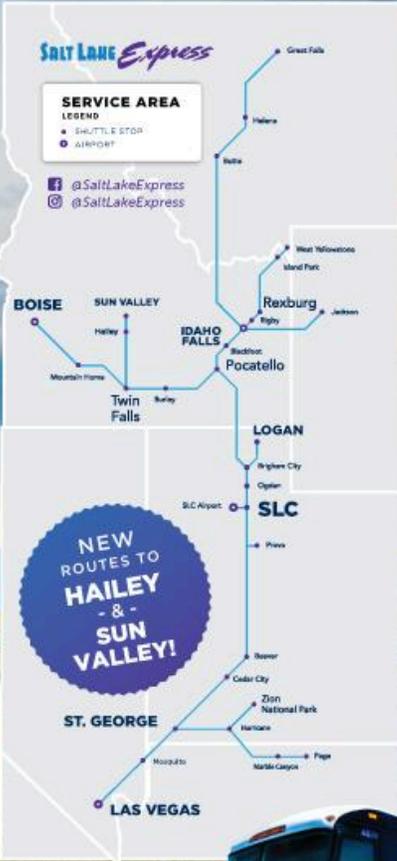
Great Falls-Butte Schedule	
Effective October 1, 2025	
<b>Southbound</b>	
	<b>0073</b>
<b>Departures</b>	<b>GF10A</b>
Great Falls, MT	9:15 PM
Ulm Junction, MT	9:30 PM
Cascade, MT	9:50 PM
Craig Junction, MT	10:15 PM
Wolf Creek, MT	10:25 PM
Helena, MT	11:00 PM
Boulder, MT	11:30 PM
Basin, MT	11:40 PM
Butte, MT	12:15 AM
Idaho Falls	9:15 AM
Salt Lake City	1:40 PM
St George	9:45 PM
Las Vegas	11:05 PM
<b>Northbound</b>	
	<b>0074</b>
<b>Departures</b>	<b>GF10D</b>
Las Vegas	6:35 AM
St George	9:45 AM
Salt Lake City	4:00 PM
Idaho Falls	9:25 PM
Butte, MT	5:30 AM
Basin, MT	6:05 AM
Boulder, MT	6:15 AM
Helena, MT	6:55 AM
Wolf Creek, MT	7:25 AM
Craig Junction, MT	7:35 AM
Cascade, MT	7:55 AM
Ulm Junction, MT	8:10 AM
Great Falls, MT	8:30 AM

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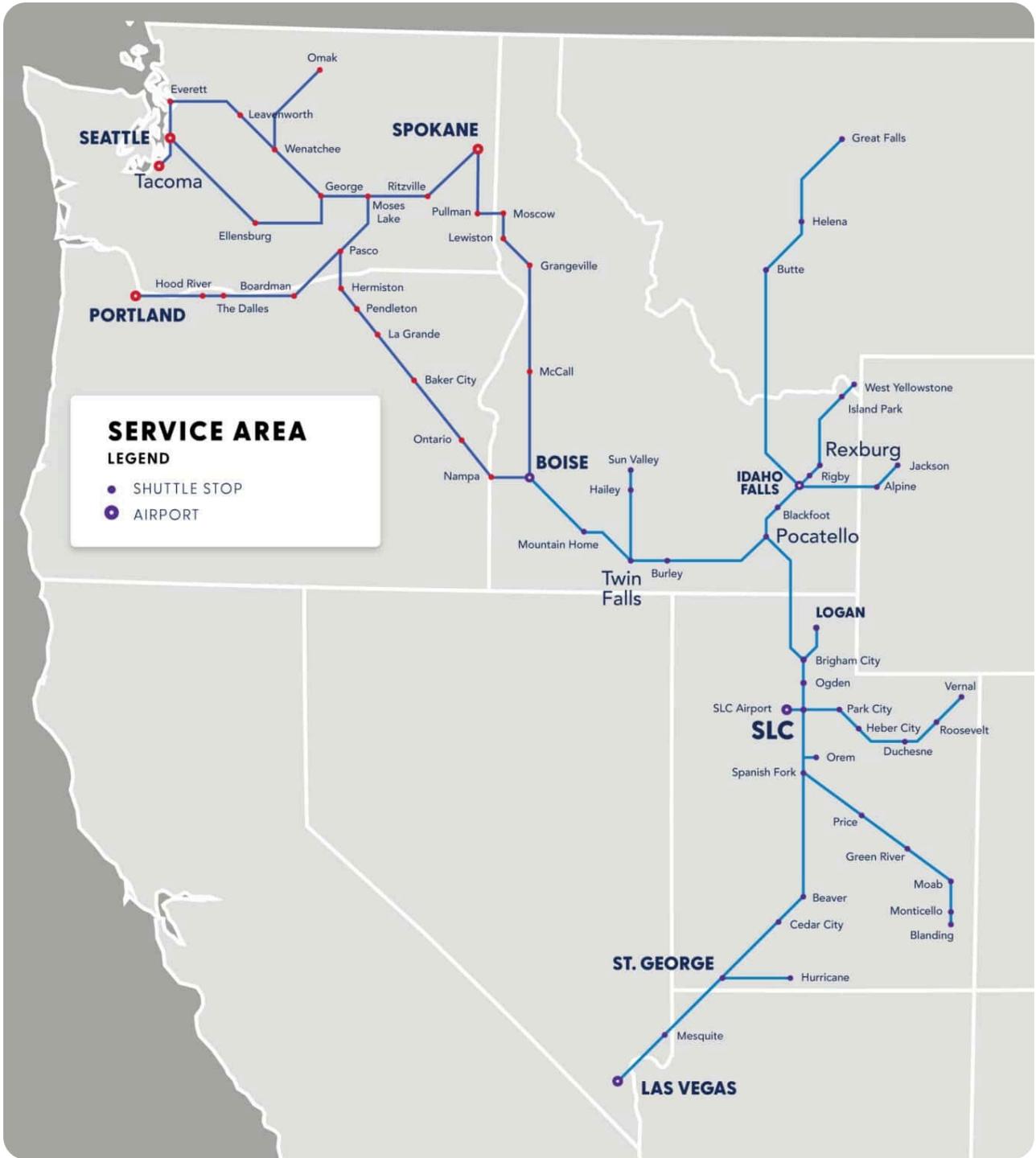
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BUTTE - GREAT FALLS

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## **1. AGENCY/ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT**

This section provides an overview of various transportation providers in Montana, whether they are public, private or non-profit. Some entities would not be classified as transit agencies, but provide some type of passenger transportation. Find out information about regional transportation systems by selecting a district at the MDT website found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/publictransit/>

### **Great Falls Transit District**

Nadine Hanning General Manager

P.O. Box 2353

Great Falls, Montana, 59403

3905 N Star Blvd

Great Falls, Mt 59405

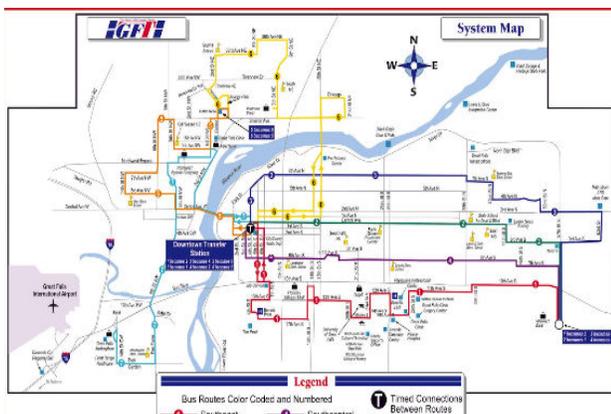
(406) 727-0382

### **Transit Center**

326 1st Ave S

Great Falls, MT 59401

The Great Falls Transit District operates Fixed Route and Paratransit Services. Service operates six days a week. Monday through Friday service is from 6:30 am through 6:00 pm., and Saturday service is operated from 9:30 am through 5:30 pm. All GFTD vehicles are mobility devices accessible. Fixed Route service operates on seven routes with scheduled service on 30-minute headways except weekdays between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm when one-hour headways are in place. Fixed Route service is available to the public. Paratransit service is available for individuals who are not able to access fixed route bus service due to a disability. There is an application process to determine Paratransit eligibility and a medical certification of disability is required. Paratransit service rides generally require a reservation scheduled at least one day prior. Same day service may be available on a very limited basis and is not guaranteed. Many social service organizations purchase GFTD passes for their consumers in order to meet the transportation needs of their clients.



### **Quality Life Concepts**

215 Smelter Ave NE #1,  
Great Falls, Mt 59404  
(406) 452-9531

Established in 1977, Quality Life Concepts is a private, non-profit agency that is dedicated to providing specialized and individualized services and supports to individuals with developmental needs and their families. We seek to protect the sanctity of home life, and to promote personal independence.

Quality Life Concepts provides support to families and individuals in the nine counties of Region II in Montana: Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Pondera, Teton & Toole. Our main office is located in Great Falls, MT and they maintain a satellite office in Conrad, MT.

Quality Life Concepts (QLC) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that supports over 200 children and adults with developmental disabilities. QLC operates a transportation fleet of over 40 vehicles for their consumers, many of whom live in-group homes or in a supported living program. QLC transports almost 20% of their consumers to their work programs Monday – Friday from 8:30 am - 9:30 am and returns them to their homes from 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm. The vehicles at group homes are used during the weekdays for transportation to medical appointments, clinical meetings, grocery/clothing shopping and other activities consumers are involved in (i.e., Eagle Mount, Special Olympics, etc.). On weekends, the vehicles are used from 9:00 am – 8:30 pm for various recreational activities such as visiting local museums, sporting events, parks and other attractions. QLC also serves minors who live with their families, so vehicles are used in the afternoons, evenings and weekends in order to provide necessary support to these clients while working within the families' schedules. For those individuals who have the ability to independently use the services of Great Falls Transit District, monthly bus passes are purchased from the district. QLC works with the consumers' support planning teams to prioritize which persons would benefit most from accessing public transportation. Once prioritization is complete, QLC then assists the team in designing individual programs to encourage independence in using the public transportation system.

### **Montana Office on Aging in Helena, MT**

2030 11th Ave  
Helena, MT 59602  
(406) 444-4077

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are local aging programs that provide information and services on a range of assistance for older adults and those who care for them. By contacting the local agency you get access to critical information including:

- Available services in your area
- Mobility assistance programs, meal plans & housing
- Assistance in gaining access to services
- Individual counseling, support groups and caregiver training

- Respite care
- Supplemental services, on a limited basis

### **State Agencies on Aging in Montana**

Browning - Blackfeet Nation - Eagle Shields Senior Center

Butte - Area V Agency on Aging

Conrad - Area III Agency on Aging/North Central

Crow Agency - Crow Nation - Crow Tribal Elders Program

Glendive - Area I Agency on Aging/Action for Eastern Montana

Great Falls - Area VIII Agency on Aging

Harlem - Fort Belknap Indian Reservation - Assiniboine Gros Ventre

Havre - Area X Agency on Aging

Helena - Area IV Agency on Aging

Kalispell - Area IX Agency on Aging

Lame Deer - Northern Cheyenne Tribe - Elderly Program

Missoula - Area XI Agency on Aging/Missoula Aging Services

Pablo - Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Polson - Area VI Agency on Aging/Western Montana

Roundup - Area II Agency on Aging

Saint Ignatius - Confederated Tribes of Salish & Kootenai of the Flathead Reservation

## **Northern Transit Interlocal**

226 1st Street South Suite 101

Shelby, MT 59474

Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 406-470-0727 or 406-873-2207

Northern Transit Interlocal (NTI) is a rural bus transportation service that has been operating in northern Montana for 17 years. NTI has provided over 170,000 rides since its inception, with a record of 19,884 rides in 2023. The service is known for its commitment to the community and has won awards three times. NTI connects various communities in northern Montana, ensuring accessible and reliable transportation for residents. The service is well-regarded, with a strong presence on social media, where it has garnered over 6,710 likes on Facebook. Reviews and ratings highlight the friendly and professional service provided by the drivers and dispatch team, making it a trusted choice for transportation in the region.

Northern Transit Interlocal (NTI), a partnership of Toole County Transit, Glacier County Transit, and Pondera County Transit, was born in 2007 and has provided over 75,000 rides since its inception, including a record 16,123 rides in 2019. NTI and its partners are a local government organization that is funded primarily by annual grants from the Montana Department of Transportation. Local governments, corporate donations, and passenger donations fund our no-cost transportation to the general public. NTI has grown considerably since 2007 and continues to improve upon the service it provides to our local communities.



## **North Central Montana Transit**

3152 Us Highway 2 E

Havre, MT

(406) 265-4762

North Central Montana Transit is a public transportation system designed to serve the Hi-Line communities of Hill and Blaine counties and surrounding communities as well as to provide coordinated services with Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy's Transit systems. NCM Transit is operated by Opportunity Link, Inc. and was established in partnership with North Central Montana area

organizations including local and tribal government agencies, social service organizations and educational institutions.

## Route Guide

With 24-hour advance appointments ADA pick-ups and drop-offs may be scheduled on regular routes by calling 406-265-4762.

Blue Line	Red Line	Green Line
<b>Blue Line</b> Bus Barn (Home) 6:50 AM IGA 7:00 AM Walmart 7:20 AM Box Elder Public School 7:30 AM Main Green (Box Elder) 7:32 AM New Rocky Boy's Clinic 7:40 AM Stone Child College (Head Start) 7:45 AM Rocky Boy's High School 8:00 AM Park and Ride (Home) 8:30 AM Bus Barn (Home) 8:34 AM	<b>Red Line</b> Bus Barn (Home) 6:51 AM Park & Ride (Home) 6:55 AM IGA (Home) 7:00 AM Howe Tire Factory 7:20 AM Town Pump (Chinook) 7:25 AM EZ Mart (Harlem) 7:30 AM Fort Belknap Clinic 7:35 AM Fort Belknap Agency 7:35 AM Fort Belknap College 7:50 AM Kwik Stop (Fort Belknap) 8:00 AM EZ Mart (Harlem) 8:05 AM Town Pump (Chinook) 8:30 AM Howe Tire Factory 8:30 AM Bus Barn (Home) 9:30 AM	<b>Green Line</b> Bus Barn 9:00 AM IGA (Home) 9:05 AM Walmart 9:15 AM Box Elder (Helmick) 9:30 AM Arrive at Great Falls 9:30 AM Benefits West 11:30 AM Benefits East 11:40 AM Great Falls International Airport 12:00 PM Drop-off Great Falls: OTF International Airport 12:00 PM Benefits West 12:10 PM Benefits East 12:20 PM Box Elder (Helmick) 2:40 PM IGA (Home) 3:40 PM Bus Barn 3:45 PM
<b>ADA Complementary Curb-to-Curb</b> Bus Barn (Home) 3:11 PM IGA (Home) 3:15 PM Wal-Mart (Home) 3:18 PM Walmart (Home) 3:30 PM Rocky Boy High School 4:10 PM Old Stone Child College 4:11 PM Stone Child College (Head Start) 4:20 PM New Rocky Boy Clinic 4:30 PM Main Green (Box Elder) 4:32 PM Box Elder Public Schools 4:35 PM Walmart (Home) 8:00 PM Bus Barn (Home) 8:15 PM On-Demand Pickups, Town Pump, Chinook, Hospital, Highland Park Manor	<b>Afternoon Schedule</b> Bus Barn (Home) 3:10 PM IGA (Home) 3:15 PM Howe Tire Factory 3:30 PM Town Pump (Chinook) 4:10 PM EZ Mart (Harlem) 4:20 PM Fort Belknap College 4:30 PM Fort Belknap Agency 4:35 PM Fort Belknap Clinic 4:40 PM Kwik Stop (Fort Belknap) 5:02 PM EZ Mart (Harlem) 5:05 PM Town Pump (Chinook) 5:25 PM Howe Tire Factory 5:45 PM IGA (Home) 8:00 PM Park & Ride (Home) 8:55 PM Bus Barn (Home) 8:55 PM On-Demand 24 hours advance notice 406-265-4762	<b>Call Stops (All Lines)</b> Hold Day M, Wed, Thu, Fri Old IGA Parking Lot NSU/N Northern MBRC/Casey Mall Specialty Clinic Northern MT Hospital Park Medical Center Wal-Mart In Town Route - Must call for an appointment. 24 hours in advance. Leave a clear concise message with your phone number and our dispatchers will return your call and confirm your appointment.

## Capital Transit

1415 N. Montana Ave  
 Helena, MT  
 406-447-8078

Capital Transit is the public bus service for the City of Helena. Operation is Monday through Friday excluding weekends and holidays. We offer two route buses, the Red Route and the Blue Route, an East Valley bus, and ADA Complementary Curb-to-Curb / Para Transit bus. Please refer to bus scheduling for times and locations of the buses.

The ADA Complementary Curb-to-Curb / Para Transit bus runs every hour and half hour starting as early as 7:00am and ending at 6:00pm. This service is for approved ADA applicants. The applications can be found on-line: [www.RidetheCapitalT.Org](http://www.RidetheCapitalT.Org) -or- [www.helenamt.gov](http://www.helenamt.gov), or picked up at the Capital Transit office, or on the Capital Transit buses.

The Red Route and the Blue Route are fixed route buses that crisscross across town from north to south and east to west. No call in is required. The routes start at 7:00am and end approximately at 6:12pm.

The East Valley Bus is a deviated fixed route. A call in is required for an approved ADA pick up that is not at a designated bus stop. The East Valley Bus runs every hour starting at 7:00am to 11:00am - then again at 1:00pm to 4:00pm ending at the bus facility at 5:00pm.

Salt Lake Express provides intercity transportation from Helena to the cities of Butte, Great Falls and Salt Lake City. SLE also connects with Jefferson Lines to provide transportation east/west across

Montana. SLE is currently not an active member of the TAC. Salt Lake Express has permission to use the west foyer entrance for loading and unloading of passengers and their luggage only; there are no freight services provided by SLE at the Capital Transit Facility, SLE is not charged for the activities located in the Capital Transit facility. All operational costs associated with operating the Kiosk are reimbursed through the 5311 Operating Grant.

For additional information call 406-447-8080 or visit the website [www.ridethecapitalt.org](http://www.ridethecapitalt.org)

**Rocky Mountain Development Council (RMDC)**

200 South Cruse Avenue  
PO Box 1717 Helena, MT 59624  
(406) 447-1680

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. (RMDC) is one of the original Community Action Agencies created under the Economic Opportunity Act. The agency started as a nonprofit 501(c) (3), became a public agency under county government in 1974, and is currently operating as a nonprofit. RMDC is the sponsoring agency of numerous community programs primarily geared to helping low-income seniors, individuals, and families meet their needs. Senior programs (many of which also serve people with disabilities regardless of age), include Senior Transportation, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, Retired and Senior Volunteers, a Senior Center, the Daily Dinner Club, Home Delivered Meals, Senior Commodities, Area Agency on Aging, Spirit of Service, and others. Participation in the Low Income Energy Assistance and Weatherization programs is predicated on income, but locally, approximately 36.5 percent of participants are seniors aged 62+, and more than half (56.3 percent) have a disability to the extent that they qualify for participation in SSI (Supplemental Security Income), a Social Security entitlement program for those with a disability too severe to work. Virtually all of those served by RMDC's low-income housing programs are seniors who also exhibit an extremely high prevalence of age-related disability.

**Spring Meadow Resources**

2850 Broadwater Ave  
Helena, MT  
(406) 443-2376

Spring Meadow Resources (SMR) is an agency devoted to serving the needs of adults with developmental disabilities. Transportation is one component of the overall operations which provide its clients with access to basic services such as shopping, recreation, social, and medical needs. Transportation is available for clients on a demand responsive basis 24 hours each day, seven days a week. The organization currently has 104 clients, approximately 100 staff members, and a fleet of ten vehicles. The primary use of this transportation system involves daily trips to the clients' day services located throughout the Helena community. The service is also used to take clients to the Capital Transit Center to meet the Salt Lake Express.

### **Butte-Silver Bow Transit Division (The Bus)**

1324 Harrison Ave  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 723-3287

Butte-Silver Bow Transit Division (Copper City Connection) Butte-Silver Bow Transit has been providing public transportation service to the City of Butte since 1976. The Transit Division is under the umbrella of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Works Department and the main office is 126 W. Granite, Butte, MT. Butte-Silver Bow Transit operates a fixed route system within the Butte urban area which includes the City of Walkerville. Butte-Silver Bow Transit System has changed its name to the Copper City Connection and provides reliable and affordable Transit services to our 34,000 residents.

Butte-Silver Bow Transit began operating the para-transit service on July 1, 2014. The hours of operation for the fixed route and para-transit service are Monday through Friday from 6:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. and the service route operates from 8:45a.m to 4:15p.m Monday through Saturday. All buses meet every ½ hour at the Bus Transfer Station which allows convenient transfers to all areas of our community. Butte-Silver Bow has received additional TransAde funds that will be used for providing Senior Transportation through the Belmont Senior Center and will allow Butte-Silver Bow to redirect 5311 Funds that were previously used to fund senior transportation back to our fixed route operations. A five-year Transit Development Plan was completed in 2012 and routes were changed and reconfigured as follows:

**Purple Route/Walkerville Route** This route serves the uptown business district and Butte High School. The route travels North on Utah/Arizona Streets to the Uptown continues North on Excelsior through Walkerville down Main Street to Granite across Granite to Montana then to the Mural Park Bus Stop on Park Street. The bus returns South on Arizona/Utah Streets to the Bus Transfer Station. The Walkerville Loop takes ½ hour to run the route. This portion of the route has remained the same under the reorganization. However, this Bus used to January 2024 4 run the Racetrack Loop and has been rerouted to run the Harrison Avenue Route (Orange).

**Green Route/ Montana Tech Uptown Route** This route provides service to Front Street, the Westside, Montana Tech, Uptown area and Main Street. The bus travels from the Bus Transfer Station over Front Street to Montana Street over Platinum Street with access to St. James Hospital and surrounding medical facilities. The bus continues up Excelsior Street to Montana Tech Campus then over Park Street to the Mural Park Street Bus Stop. The bus returns to the Bus Transfer Station by traveling down Main Street to Front Street. Butte-Silver Bow Transit and MT. Tech has developed a student rider program that allows students to ride the bus for free with a student ID and MT Tech then pays for the rides at the end of the year. This route was not changed and runs the Harrison Avenue loop on the other portion of the route.

**Red Route- Oregon Avenue/Racetrack Route** This route has been changed as the bus used to run the Oregon Avenue Route on the first loop and then the Montana Street Loop on the second leg of the route. The TDP Plan recommended changing this route by combining the two routes which have similar coverage and are a lower number of passengers which did not warrant ½ hour service. The new Oregon Avenue Route provides adequate coverage on a hourly basis and this change allowed BSB Transit to add ½ hour service to Harrison Avenue commercial corridor. The Racetrack Loop that was

previously served by the Walkerville/Racetrack bus is now the Oregon/Racetrack bus and the route has remained the same. Starting in the summer of 2018, the Oregon Avenue route will divert into Stodden Park to stop at the Ridge Waters waterpark during the summer months.

**Orange Route/Harrison Avenue** This route has been changed with the addition of the bus to Harrison providing ½ hour service to meet the demands of our passengers. The route travels directly South on Harrison Avenue to the Highlands College (formerly the College of Technology) and then returns north on Harrison to the Bus Transfer Station. This route provides service to major commercial centers for shopping and employment; they include Sears, Wal-Mart, K Mart, Butte Plaza Mall and many more businesses in the corridor. This route along with the Walkerville provides most rides for work and training opportunities for our low income riders. This route change has been well received and is responsible for a significant increase for the first six months.

**Blue Route/Around Town Route(Service Route)** This route serves a large portion of the Butte-Urban areas. The route is designed to serve elderly and disabled population by traveling north to the Belmont Senior Center, St. James Hospital, Uptown area and senior living centers to transport people to shopping centers and medical services. This route travels southbound down Continental January 2024 5 Drive stopping at the Copper Ridge Care Center, Continental Gardens, Big Sky Living, Vintage Suites then travels over Elizabeth Warren to Wal-Mart then north with stops at Highland View and Columbus Plaza apartments before arriving at the Bus Transfer Station.

The Bus provides front door service to all the senior centers. The Saturday bus service is provided by this bus with an addition of Walkerville added to the route. Para-Transit Service Butte-Silver Bow Transit is operating the para-transit service primarily using three Transit Vans and three full time and one part time drivers. The BSB Transit operations began on July 1, 2014 and the operations began by utilizing the old fixed route Orion II buses and borrowing used buses from the Belmont Senior Center and BSB Developmental Disabilities Council to provide the service. BSB was fortunate to receive a van that was not being used in Laurel, MT and the MDT Transit Section transferred the vehicle to Butte and we also received two mini-vans that have been put into operation and have helped tremendously with our service. Butte Silver Bow Para-Transit was fortunate to receive through a grant from the Montana Transit Association dispatching software. The dispatching software is very helpful when scheduling rides across the community. With the dispatch software, Butte Silver Bow also purchased tablets and installed them in the para-transit vehicles. Dispatch and the drivers are on real time and can communicate when a rider is ready to be picked up or if a ride has been cancelled. The para-transit service is a demand response service for persons with disabilities that are unable to use our fixed route system. The persons must meet eligibility requirements to qualify for the service. A review committee composed of representatives from MT DPHHS, Montana Blind & Low Vision Service, MILP and BSB DD Council and Southwest Community Health all lend their expertise to review the applications. The service is offered Monday through Friday 6:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. and Saturdays 8:45 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. reservations can be made for next day service. The Para-Transit committee has updated the para-transit application.

### **Belmont Senior Center**

615 E Mercury St  
Butte, MT  
(406) 723-7773

Belmont Senior Center The Belmont Senior Center provides a door to door service to riders (seniors) who come to the Belmont Senior Center for lunch Monday through Friday. The Belmont has 2 buses which cover two city routes. The buses leave from the Belmont Senior Center at 9:00 each day picking up seniors from their homes. Without safe, reliable bus transportation seniors would not be able to come to Belmont for lunch or many other activities, which include; bingo, pinochle, exercise, nursing clinics, foot clinic, SHIP, and Medicare appointments and other entertainment. The Belmont Senior Center provides a home away from home where seniors can visit and interact with other friends and neighbors. The seniors can also receive information and assistance for a variety of services throughout Butte and the surrounding area. January 2024 6 The Belmont Senior Center provides transportation to grocery stores, pharmacies, doctor appointments, hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living visits to loved ones.

### **BSW**

845 So Wyoming  
Butte, MT  
(406) 723-6501

BSW BSW provides private services to developmentally disabled individuals. Funding for the agency is based mainly from Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Vocational Rehabilitation, and Developmental Disabilities Program. BSW provides transportation and employment services for disabled persons within the Butte-Silver Bow area. BSW produces clothing and apparel, laundry textiles and supplies, park equipment, textiles, fibers, household linens, and piece goods, picnic tables, and survey stakes. BSW provides transportation services for the residents of group homes and for persons with disabilities. Approximately 58,988 trips are provided each year for clients. Portions of BSW clients utilize Butte-Silver Bow Transit on a daily basis and the city taxi.

### **AWARE, Inc.**

600 6th St NW # 4  
Great Falls, MT.  
(406) 563-8117

AWARE is a non-profit agency, headquartered in Anaconda, Montana that provides community based services in Butte and in multiple communities across the State of Montana. AWARE provides services to adults and youths with challenging mental, emotional and in some cases, physical needs who otherwise would be served in a more restrictive setting or in some cases, not at all. These services ensure that these individuals achieve maximum independence, productivity, and integration into the community. AWARE is directed by a seven-member Board and currently employs approximately 800 people in multiple communities around the State, including Butte. AWARE offers a variety of services in fully licensed and nationally accredited programs, geared towards improving lifestyles and

opportunities for Montanans affected by disabilities or mental challenges. In Butte, AWARE currently operates three therapeutic youth group homes, one adult mental health group home, six adult developmentally disabled group homes and one Day Service Center. Transportation is integral to the services provided and AWARE has committed approximately a dozen vehicles to provide transportation services to the clients residing at AWARE Butte group homes and Day Service Center. These vehicles provide transportation services for a number of activities which include but are not January 2024 7 limited to day service activities, work, school, recreation, and medical appointments. Transportation services are available to clients seven days per week, 24 hours per day

### **Silver Bow Developmental Disabilities Council**

305 W Mercury Rm 105  
Butte, MT 59701-1659  
(406) 723-2070

Silver Bow Developmental Disabilities Council (SBDDC) is a private non-profit agency formed in 1977. The agency funding comes from the Department of Public Health and Human Services. SBDDC has a goal to assist people with disabilities so they can complete their goals to be independent within the community. SBDDC provides transportation to constituents to different events including work, medical appointments, recreational outings, and basic life needs. SBDDC has done travel training with clients so that they are able to ride the fixed route system. SBDDC provides transportation in a variety of ways. They own a 2011 Ford Econoline 12- passenger van, a 2007 Converted Dodge Grand Caravan, a 2005 Grand Caravan and a 2002 Honda CRV. They also reimburse staff and families for covered transportation rides in non-owned vehicles. In the first quarter of FY20 there were 30,000 miles of rides in these non-owned vehicles and are averaging 7,500 miles a quarter in owned vehicles. SBDDC has partnered with Paratransit, nursing homes, the Belmont Senior Center and Whitehall Transportation over the years by loaning vehicles in non-peak hours. Until this fiscal year, 2020, SBDDC has leased Glacier Park vans for the winter months for Special Olympic and other special event transportation needs. That lease program no longer is available. The director of SBDDC sits on the ADA Para-Transit Committee, TAC, and local ADA committee.

### **DPHHS Blind and Low Vision Services**

111 North Sanders Street  
Helena, MT  
(406) 444-5690

Blind and Low Vision Services (BLVS) have been working with clients on travel training. This training allows these riders to independently go to medical appointments, shopping and gain access to services in the community which in turn allows them to stay in their homes. BLVS staff are members of the TAC, and ADA Para-Transit Committee.

### **West Yellowstone Foundation**

124 Yellowstone St  
Gardiner, MT  
(406) 646-1158

West Yellowstone Foundations provides weekly round trips between Bozeman and West Yellowstone Montana, for any purpose with advance reservation, first come first served basis. Service to people with medical appointments has priority. The bus has lift-equipment for people with disabilities.

Traveling to: Bozeman, Big Sky, West Yellowstone. For more information, to schedule a pick up, cancel a ride call:  
406-640-0244

West Yellowstone Foundation Transit Policy and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states:  
"...no person in the United States shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance based on race, color or national origin."

West Yellowstone Foundation provides weekly round trips between Bozeman and West Yellowstone Montana, for any purpose with advance reservation, first come first served basis. Service to people with medical appointments has priority. The bus has lift-equipment for people with disabilities. The cost is \$15 - Seniors (60+) \$20 - Non-Seniors. Airport Transfers \$25

### **2. Agencies not involved:**

Agencies not directly within the I-15 corridor region between Great Falls, MT and Idaho Falls ID are not involved in this coordination plan.

### **3. Needs Assessment:**

There are excessively long layover times at the bus station in Butte and Idaho Falls that negatively impact the passenger experience. Salt Lake Express should add another timetable to their Montana connection to improve accessibility, reliability, and connectivity for rural and urban communities.

- **Enhanced Connectivity:** The current I-15 route between Great Falls, Helena, and Butte operates with only one round trip per day. Adding another timetable would provide more frequent service, reducing wait times and enabling better connections to other regional and national transit networks, such as Jefferson Lines and Greyhound.
- **Meeting Demand:** The route was restored in 2013 after a gap due to low ridership, but funding from the Federal Transit Administration's 5311(f) program through Montana Department of Public Transportation confirmed strong community need. Increased frequency can attract more riders, especially for essential travel like medical appointments, job opportunities, and visiting family.
- **Support for Rural Communities:** Many towns along the I-15 corridor—such as Ulm Junction, Cascade, and Wolf Creek—serve as vital hubs for rural populations. More

schedules would support economic activity and reduce isolation, aligning with Montana's transportation goals for rural connectivity.

- Operational Efficiency: With a new contract in place with uTrack for real-time tracking and data analytics, Salt Lake Express can now optimize schedules based on actual passenger demand and route performance, making it easier to justify and implement additional departures.
- Partnership Benefits: The company already coordinates with Greyhound and Jefferson Lines, and expanding service could strengthen these partnerships, offering seamless transfers and broader reach across the intercity bus network.

In short, adding another timetable would fulfill Salt Lake Express's mission of reliable, efficient, and inclusive regional transit while supporting Montana's long-term transportation strategy.

#### **4. Public Involvement**

Throughout the coordination planning process, public involvement was a key to success of the Community Transportation Coordination Plan for Salt Lake Express. During the process, public comment was solicited through a legal notice stating citizen participation is always openly welcomed and appreciated. Many providers and users also participated in the planning process through personal phone calls and visits.

- a.) Public comment was solicited through a legal notice, though no one called or contacted Salt Lake Express expressing any comment.
- b.) Personal visits to several of the organizations listed above were made throughout 2025. The visits were made to bring awareness of the service Salt Lake Express provides as well as to coordinate the schedules of these organizations.
- c.) Salt Lake Express also visited several stakeholders in the region ie; Visitor Centers, commercial airports, universities and colleges, senior citizen's centers, city offices and chambers of commerce in this corridor we serve. Over 5,500 flyers have been distributed to these stakeholders and transit organizations.
- d.) Salt Lake Express met Jan 7, 2026 to approve the updated Transportation Coordination Plan.

#### **5. Private Sector**

##### **For Profit Taxi and Transit services**

##### **Helena Transportation**

1025 Phoenix Ave  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 449-5525

**BlackedOut 406 Taxi & Limo**

427 Central Ave W.  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
(406) 781-5218

**Greater Valley Taxi LLC Taxis Transportation Services**

20950 Frontage Rd.  
Belgrade, MT 59714  
(406) 388-9999 Belgrade  
(406) 587-6303 Bozeman

**Shuttle to Big Sky and Taxi**

11 Lone Peak Dr suite 207  
Big Sky, MT 59716  
(888) 454-5667

**Great Falls Limousine Service**

1720 10th Ave S  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 315-4047

**Treasure State Transit**

2721 US 93 S  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
(406) 755-8101

**Tucker Transportation**

503 Centennial Ave,  
Butte, Mt 59701  
(406) 723-4623

**Karst Stages**

PO Box 1127  
511 N. Wallace  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 556-3500

Karst Stages now owned by Jefferson Lines provides private charter service for the Montana/Wyoming/Idaho Region. They also provide airport shuttle transportation directly from the Bozeman Airport to the most popular destinations in Big Sky, West Yellowstone and Mammoth Hot Springs.

During the winter season they offer a daily scheduled service to all major hotels in the city of West Yellowstone, all hotels in Gardiner, and the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel.

They also offer a daily scheduled service to Big Sky. They provide transportation to all hotels in the Big Sky Resort, along with Moonlight Basin, and condos, cabins, town homes, and private residences in the greater Big Sky area. Locations other than The Huntley Lodge, Shoshone Condos, Summit Hotel &

River Rock Lodge, may require you to be transferred to a van upon reaching Big Sky to reach your final destination. Karst Stage offers a daily shuttle to West Yellowstone with van pick-ups at condos, private homes and cabins at 6:30am. A transfer to their motorcoach at the Huntley for a 7:00am departure. The return shuttle will pick-up between 5:00-5:30pm for a return to Big Sky. You can make a reservation for this service using their online reservation system at [KarstStage.com](http://KarstStage.com).

### **Jefferson Bus Lines**

333 6th St, #7  
Rapid City, SD. 57701  
(800) 451-5333

Jefferson Lines is an intercity bus system that has been in operation since 1919. Since it was founded, Jefferson Lines has maintained a commitment to safety, service, and meeting the mobility needs of the customers it serves. Jefferson Lines operates over fourteen states; from as far south as Texas to as far west as Spokane, WA. Jefferson Lines prides itself on its ability to work cooperatively with other bus systems including local and/or regional services as well as major intercity systems such as Greyhound, Trailways, Salt Lake Express and Flat Head Transit. Salt Lake Express and Jefferson Lines both meet at the Butte Bus Terminal. See bus schedules and more information at [www.JeffersonLines.com](http://www.JeffersonLines.com).

### **Points to Remember**

- Jefferson Lines runs two round trips a day between Missoula on I-90 to Butte and connections beyond.
- Salt Lake Express is running one round trip a day on I-15 between Great Falls and Butte, with Jefferson Bus Lines connections in Butte to Missoula, Bozeman, Billings, and points beyond. Salt Lake Express also connects in Butte to their Idaho Connections on I-15.
- North Central Transit travels between Fort Belknap and Great Falls via Havre on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Northern Transit Interlocal runs one round trip a day between Shelby and Kalispell on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- Northern Transit Interlocal operates two round trips a day between Shelby and Great Falls on Monday and Thursday.
- Karst Stage, now owned by Jefferson Lines, operates intercity service between Bozeman and West Yellowstone. Salt Lake Express operates between West Yellowstone and Idaho Falls with connections to Boise, Salt Lake and Butte, MT which also interlines with Greyhound.
- Salt Lake Express and Jefferson Lines operate 365 days a year and are both interlined with Greyhound.

## **6. Plan for growth and increasing ridership: Meeting riders needs and looking to the future**

The unmet intercity needs seem to be the lack of timely connections in Butte, MT. Having only one roundtrip daily intercity bus creates significant inflexibility, making trips difficult to coordinate, increasing waiting times, forcing people into inconvenient schedules (like very early mornings or late nights), hindering spontaneous travel, and leaving no backup if the single bus is delayed or canceled due to weather, construction or road closures. This disproportionately affects people without cars who rely on it for essential access especially for these rural residents: Connecting to urban areas for essential services or opportunities.

- Budget Travelers: Students, backpackers, and those seeking low-cost travel.
- Commuters & Families: For short trips and longer journeys.
- Eco-Conscious Individuals: Looking for greener travel.

For Marketing:

Our marketing efforts consist of the following:

- Google PPC, Demand Gen, and YouTube ads
- Meta ads (Facebook/Instagram)
- SEO to build an organic source of customers
- Email and SMS marketing

Google PPC & Meta Ads are run by a specialized marketing agency focused on paid ads performance. We monitor campaigns several times a week to adjust budgets, test new creative, and decide which ads to scale up or pull back.

On the Google side, we run search campaigns targeting travelers actively looking for bus routes in the area, as well as Demand Gen campaigns across YouTube, Gmail, and Google's Discover feed to reach potential riders earlier in their travel planning. These Demand Gen campaigns serve ads to users based on travel intent signals before they've started searching for specific routes. Over the last quarter, our Google campaigns generated over 109,000 clicks and nearly 23,000 tracked conversions across all routes. We run separate campaigns for branded searches, non-branded searches (people searching for bus tickets between specific cities), and competitor terms. We also run remarketing campaigns through YouTube to re-engage people who visited our site but didn't complete a purchase.

On Meta, we run Facebook and Instagram ads across two main strategies: top-of-funnel campaigns to introduce Salt Lake Express to new potential riders, and retargeting campaigns to bring back people who visited our website or engaged with our social content but didn't book. Over the past year, our Meta campaigns delivered nearly 11 million impressions and reached over 1.2 million people. We continuously test ad creative and messaging, and have found that informative, education-focused ads explaining routes, schedules, and pricing outperform generic discount-driven messaging. Our Facebook Pixel tracks over 8,000 purchase events per month, which feeds data back into Meta's algorithm to find more travelers likely to book.

SEO is run by Taylor Johnson at Sending Reach. Organic rankings have improved steadily after roughly 11 months of work on a new strategy focused on obtaining backlinks. We've researched and targeted the highest volume keywords in the area that drive bus ticket purchases.

Email and SMS marketing are used to stay in front of past customers and drive repeat bookings. We send targeted messages around promotions, route announcements, and seasonal travel reminders.

Here are the marketing measures Salt Lake Express was able to do in Montana in 2025 to support awareness, ridership, and community engagements in Montana:

- Networking and partnership development with Visit Great Falls to expand visibility.
- Met with Helena Transit Center staff to share information. Placed signage, coupons, and info inside the waiting area.
- Placed rack cards in hotels across Great Falls, Helena, Dillon, Butte, and West Yellowstone to reach travelers at high-impact points of stay.
- Sponsorship advertising with the Miss Montana Organization, including a coordinated social media outreach to extend statewide reach and engage younger, college, and family-oriented audiences.
- Print advertising at an event in Butte, Montana (150 publications).
- In addition, there is an article published in the *Boulder Monitor* that may be helpful for contextual support. It highlights how Salt Lake Express fills a critical gap in regional transportation needs;  
[https://www.boulder-monitor.com/features/the-midnight-bus-through-boulder/article\\_0385ba1c-fdc9-4549-81fe-1fa2fe18ed91.html](https://www.boulder-monitor.com/features/the-midnight-bus-through-boulder/article_0385ba1c-fdc9-4549-81fe-1fa2fe18ed91.html)
- On a monthly basis personnel will continue to monitor transit services that have been coordinated to make sure we are meeting the needs of our customers.
- The Montana Transit Association meets bi-annual basis to assess and encourage coordination efforts among members in dealing with public transportation issues. Salt Lake Express will continue to attend these meetings to stay informed. By meeting on a continual basis we hope to identify the weak and strong points of our transportation services. This analysis should provide us with information on what is working and to determine where we need to improve our services. This will help the Salt Lake Express develop the future coordination plans.
- Salt Lake Express plans to continue to expand the transit coordination to identify nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other agencies that could benefit from a well-organized transit plan.
- Through the development of this coordination plan we anticipate enhancing transportation access, and provide the most appropriate cost effective transportation possible with available resources.

In conclusion, we need to meet Jefferson Lines on both their eastbound and westbound connections, as well as our southbound to/from Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Nevada and points beyond in the Nationwide Intercity Bus Network. By adding an additional timetable, our connections will create greater ridership on all of the network. We will continue working on getting the word out about the

transit options available on the Salt Lake Express service from/to Great Falls and Idaho, Utah, Wyoming Montana and Nevada. Continued outreach by the previously identified transit organizations as well as considering additional days of service would help to grow general public ridership of these available connections.

Looking to the future, as ridership continues to grow, Salt Lake Express will look forward to adding another timetable to their current one increasing to twice a day service to/from Great Falls and Idaho Falls, ID.

## **FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE SALT LAKE EXPRESS TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN**

This transportation coordination plan has been approved by the Salt Lake Express Administration

Date of Approval Update \_\_\_\_\_Jan 7, 2026

Jacob Price

Kathy Pope

Jacob Price (Owner)

Kathy Pope (Grant Administration)