

RESOLUTION NO. R21-13

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING THE
LAUREL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM COORDINATION PLAN.**

WHEREAS, the City of Laurel has developed a transit plan to assist its citizens in obtaining and utilizing public transit; and

WHEREAS, the City has requested funding for the project through the State's Federal Transit Administration grant; and

WHEREAS, the State requires the City adopt a coordination plan annually.

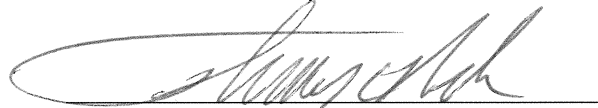
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, that the Laurel Transportation System Coordination Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto, is hereby adopted and approved as Laurel's Transportation System Coordination Plan.

Introduced at a meeting of the City Council on February 23, 2021, by Council Member Stokes.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 23rd day of February 2021.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 23rd day of February 2021.

CITY OF LAUREL



Thomas C. Nelson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bethany Langve, Clerk-Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Sam Painter, Civil City Attorney

**TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN
LAUREL TRANSIT**

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
FY-22**

Prepared by:

City of Laurel

Nicholas Altonaga, Planning Director

Bethany Langve, Clerk/Treasurer

Scheduled for City Council Adoption: February 23, 2021

Montana Coordination Plan Outline

Adoption by Transportation Advisory Committee:

The relevant transportation providers and agencies are described in more detail.

Laurel Transit:

Laurel Transit (also referred to as transit system) is working to provide a successful on-demand service for public transportation within the City limits of Laurel while offering regular service to Billings. Laurel Transit is looking to contract with as many agencies in the area as possible to provide expanded service. It is currently not feasible for Laurel to have a fixed route system; however, accommodations for such a system are being discussed such as bus benches and signs within the City.

Laurel Transit Schedules:

Laurel Transit operates Monday-Friday 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The Billings service route begins at 7:30 and in-town service begins at 10:00 am.

Agencies Involved:

- Adult Resource Alliance of Yellowstone County -- ARAYC has partnered with the City of Laurel to provide the driver for the bus and the cell phone. ARAYC previously operated the senior bus in Laurel, which was absorbed with the formation of Laurel Transit. The City works very closely with ARAYC to ensure the level of service delivered through the senior bus program is continued in Laurel Transit.
- Tender Nest Assisted Living—Contact with Tender Nest Assisted Living continues, and the facility has contracted with the City for vouchers.
- COR – There is a plan to include COR in future TAC meetings.
- Riverstone Health – The transit system is working to contract for demand/response service for Riverstone Health patients.

- Laurel Senior Center – The Sprinter bus is currently stored in a garage at the Senior Center. Frequent trips are taken to the senior center for rider visits.
- Laurel Health and Rehab- Continues to utilize the bus service for transportation purposes for their clients and residents.
- MET- contact with MET in Billings has been made in hopes to grow the Laurel Transit system and gain new ideas.

Public Involvement:

The Transportation Advisory Committee meets quarterly. Meetings notices are published on the City of Laurel website and at City Hall. Meetings are open to the general public. For more participation at TAC meetings more community outreach will be done to involve public participation.

Private Sector:

The City of Laurel does not have any private transportation system available.

Needs Assessment and Plan to Increase Ridership:

The Laurel Transit will be starting focus groups this fiscal year in order to determine the needs of the community and their transit provider. The focus groups will include current riding members, City staff, other transportation providers, healthcare employers, and other members from the community. The groups will focus on the current challenges the transit program faces and get a better idea of how to improve the system. In order to increase ridership a new 14-passenger bus be obtained, as the current bus is unreliable and breaking down. A capital grant application is going to be submitted this fiscal year.

The Laurel Transit System has stepped up its advertising strategies by designing and distributing flyers with route information and publishing that flyer in the Laurel Outlook on a regular basis.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings:

The Laurel TAC meets on a quarterly basis. The TAC is comprised of City staff, community interested members and representatives from Residential Support Services, the Adult Resource Alliance of Yellowstone County and other interested parties. For more participation at TAC meetings more community outreach will be done to involve public participation.