

**RESOLUTION NO. R15-12**

**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, has adopted the Laurel Transportation System Coordination Plan, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Introduced at a meeting of the City Council on March 17, 2015, by Council Member Mountsier.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Laurel, Montana, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015.

APPROVED by the Mayor this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015.

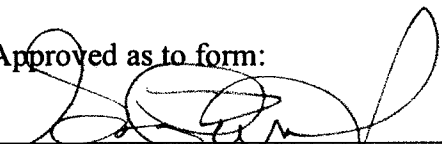
CITY OF LAUREL

  
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Mark A. Mace, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley Ewan, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam S. Painter, Civil City Attorney

# **TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION PLAN**

## **LAUREL TRANSIT**

### **MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**FY-16**

**Prepared by:**

**City of Laurel**

**Monica Plecker, Planning Director**

**Scheduled for City Council Adoption: March 17, 2015**

**TAC Action: March 2, 2015**

## **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 as system are being discussed with bus benches and signs within the City.

### **Laurel Transit Schedules:**

Laurel Transit operates Monday-Friday 10:00 AM – 4 PM. The Billings service route begins at 7:30 and in-town service begins at 10 am, with the RSS route temporarily suspended due to too few available seats.

### **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.
- **Residential Support Services** – In November 2012 Laurel Transit entered into a contractual agreement with Residential Support Services to provide regular service to Billings Monday thru Friday. The daily service to Billings has experienced much success and is anticipated to grow with the opening of the RSS group home located in the Laurel

City Limits. The RSS partnership still exists although the daily trips to Billings have stopped due a lack in sufficient seats.

- Tender Nest Assisted Living—Contact with Randy Swenson has been made and the facility has contracted with the City for vouchers. Tender Nest has expressed recently their need for increased rides to Billings.
- COR – Recently the City of Laurel has entered into an agreement with COR to provide transit services for Laurel Residents as a part of the newly implemented Billings route.
- 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. Advertisement could be done to promote safe rides for elderly and handicapped to the services available at the Senior Center.

#### **Public Involvement:**

The Transportation Advisory Committee meets quarterly. Meetings notices are published in the Laurel Outlook and the City of Laurel website. Meetings are open to the general public.

#### **Private Sector:**

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

#### **Needs Assessment and Plan to Increase Ridership:**

Increasing ridership is the biggest goal for Laurel Transit. With contracts established the City would begin to be able to charge an equitable rate for the services being provided. The only way to increase ridership is to have a larger bus to support a daily route to Billings. Until at least a 17 passenger bus is secured growth is constrained. Furthermore, the City returned the Ford Van to MDT as it did not offer enough seats to satisfy the daily Billings route. With only one bus in the fleet, it is a priority of the City to get a larger bus into the fleet.

The Laurel Transit System has stepped up its advertising strategies by designing and distributing new flyers with route information.

### **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 and the Adult Resource Alliance of Yellowstone County. In FY15 the TAC schedule was amended to settle issues related to timing and accommodations. Now, that more information has been provided TAC meetings are scheduled for March 2, 2014, April 7, 2015, May 5, 2015 and June 2, 2015. The TAC will have met 4 times in FY 15.