

Did you know?

The 60th anniversary of the federal transit program is on July 9. Check out the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) website for information on milestones and initiatives that have fulfilled the FTA's mission to improve America's communities through public transportation. [The Federal Transit Program Turns 60 | FTA \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fta.dot.gov)

Rural Transit Day is July 16, and the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) has resources available to help plan your celebration. Visit their website to find the Rural Transit Day Toolbox, Pledge, Proclamation Template, Hero Cards and many other resources: [Rural Transit Day \(nationalrtap.org\)](https://nationalrtap.org).

Engage Montana

Over the last two years MDT has been working to create better public awareness campaigns promoting safe driving on Montana's roadways.

These campaigns have included introducing a new mascot, Andy the Australian Shepherd, and TV and radio spots with different influencers. Part of the Engage campaign was the design of a new Engage website which is now live.

MDT encourages all of you to explore the website, watch the videos and stay tuned for more information to come about the Engage brand launch and website. Please pass this information on to your co-workers, family, and friends. The more people that are part of this safe driving campaign, the better. Thank you for all you do. Stay safe!

www.engage-mt.org [engage-mt.org]



We want to hear from you!

Please reach out if you have news you would like to share with the Montana Transit community in a future newsletter!

Contact Erin Root, eroot@mt.gov



Vehicles are arriving!

Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) staff and vendors are hard at work delivering new buses and vans. Buses are delivered on-site, expect the vendor to contact you directly to arrange delivery. MDT staff will work with you to coordinate the vehicle inspection. Vans are generally delivered to MDT Headquarters and we will contact you to coordinate delivery or pick-up of the vehicle.

MDT is also working on sending out request for matching funds letters through email and your capital contracts via DocuSign.

Additional vehicle orders will be placed soon. Please contact us at mdttransitcontact@mt.gov with any questions regarding the process or the status of your vehicle.

Capital Expense Assistance

MDT is looking at opportunities to apply TransADE state funding to offset the vehicle cost increases that occurred due to the pandemic.

Request for Matching Funds Letters

Please carefully review your Request for Matching Funds Letter as the process has changed and the letter outlines important information related to your payment. The letter details the program source of the federal share of the cost of your vehicle, and in some cases your vehicle may be dual funded. If that is the case you need to provide a check for each of the match requirements listed in your letter. Checks should be made payable to the MDT. Please include a copy of the request for matching funds letter with your payment submission.

We Need Your Help!

MDT staff are working to strengthen the state's RTAP program. To achieve this goal, we hired DRB Consulting (DRB) to conduct a training needs assessment and help develop an annual training work plan that maximizes the federally allocated RTAP funds. Our goal is to understand what your priorities are.

MDT staff engagement with you will be starting soon. Public involvement will begin with a training needs survey that will be sent through email. Following the survey, DRB will schedule regional transit focus group meetings. Please participate in the survey and focus groups conducted by DRB Consulting and their partner Big Sky Public Relations in July and August. The more we know about your training and technical assistance needs, the better we can plan to meet your needs.

Watch your email and contact Erin Root with any questions: eroot@mt.gov.



The Montana Transit Association (MTA) held their annual Spring Training Conference and Vendor Expo in Bozeman from May 20 to 22. This conference provides training and technical assistance for MTA members and is an excellent networking opportunity.

During the conference, the MTA presented the 2024 Orval Meyer Award for Transit Excellence to Barb Sheridan, MDT Transit Planner. The Orval Meyer Award for Transit Excellence is "The highest honor of the MTA, this award recognizes a person who gives of himself or herself for the improvement and development of transit in Montana in the same spirit as longtime MTA member Orval Meyer. Nominations come from the MTA membership and statewide transit community at large." Recipients of the award are persons, providers or systems in the state of Montana who stands out among their peers, have gone "above and beyond" what is required of them in their jobs, and exemplify the spirit and actions of Orval Meyer by providing exceptional customer service. Candidates for the award are judged by the following criteria: relevance of work to the improvement and development of transit in Montana, dedication to his or her profession, commitment to exceptional customer service, and credibility and respect among peers. Congrats, Barb!

Thank you to the MTA for all the hard work on putting together a great conference!

Civil Rights Update:

Language Assistance Resources Available

MDT has language assistance resources available to assist in customer service interactions with individuals who speak limited English. If you are interested in more information about these resources, please contact Kim Vietz, Title VI Specialist in the Office of Civil Rights, at 406-444-6334 or kvietz@mt.gov.

Transit Provider Title VI Plan Update

Thanks to our transit providers for updating your Title VI Plans. Please remember to link your **Title VI Plan** and **Public Notice of Title VI Program Rights** on your website (if you have a website). Also make sure the Public Notice is posted in your facility and on your transit vehicles.

Federal Updates to the DBE Program

A Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Final Rule was published on April 9, 2024, and went into effect May 9, 2024. MDT is updating its processes to ensure compliance with the new rule and will provide communication regarding changes impacting transit providers. For more information on the Final Rule, check out the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) webpage: <https://www.transportation.gov/DBEFinalRule>.

Civil Rights Staff Update

Congrats to Scott Hicks on his July 12 retirement! For any civil rights questions, contact the following staff:

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Matt Maze mmaze@mt.gov
 DBE: Maghan Strachan mastrachan@mt.gov
 Title VI: Kim Vietz kvietz@mt.gov

Save the Date!

2024 MDT Transit Fall Workshop
 Tuesday, September 10 and Wednesday, September 11
 Helena Great Northern Hotel
 835 Great Northern Boulevard

MDT New/Refresher Transit Manager Training
 Wednesday, September 12
 Montana Department of Transportation
 2701 Prospect Ave, Helena

Information for securing a room and further details to follow.

MDT TRANSIT PROGRAM - QUARTERLY REPORT TIMELINE

QUARTER END DATE	QTR	SUBRECIPIENTS 30 DAYS TO SUBMIT	REGIONAL PLANNERS 15 DAYS APPROVAL	FISCAL PLANNERS 31 DAYS INVOICING / APPROVAL	EXPENSE DATES*
30-Sep	Q1	31-Oct	15-Nov	30-Nov	7/1 - 9/30
31-Dec	Q2	31-Jan	15-Feb	1-Mar	10/1 - 12/31
31-Mar	Q3	30-Apr	15-May	31-May	1/1 - 3/31
30-Jun	Q4	31-Jul	15-Aug	31-Aug	4/1 - 6/30**

*The expenses reported in Q1 through Q3 must be received and paid by the subrecipient within the stated dates for each quarter.

**The expenses reported in Q4 need only be received by the subrecipient between 4/1 and 6/30. Payment may take place after 6/30.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Office of Civil Rights, Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-5416 or Montana Relay Service at 711.

