

Appendix C: Online Survey Comments



Eagle Transit TDP Update

Online Survey Comments

Ideas

- ◆ It would be nice to be able to ride the bus to and from work to save gas and wear and tear.
- ◆ I would just like to see mass transit so fewer cars are on the roads. I would gladly park my car and ride a bus or train to and from work.
- ◆ Better taxi service and continue Eagle Transit for elderly who don't drive.
- ◆ Safe rides for teenage riders on weekends to shop or recreate
- ◆ Transportation services in Flathead County would lighten the traffic on overcrowded roads, thus relieving road rage, insurance costs, traffic fatalities, pollution of dust and auto emissions.
- ◆ Each person should pay for their own transportation when they are not working.
- ◆ With the high price of gas & few people car pooling anymore, this might be a nice alternative to the daily driver. Needless to say there are probably many rural elderly who cannot drive.
- ◆ More available times.
- ◆ A complex of small bus services in each urbanized place that is each interconnected at one stop per community by a county wide bus service so that riders can go from there home, to this main stop, from there to another community, and back.
- ◆ I would send out a survey to all households, included with another mailing (perhaps the power bill) with a self addressed stamped envelope to capture the households without phone service.
- ◆ Need a public bus system with a regular schedule like bigger cities, so people can depend on it.
- ◆ As above, build a skeleton of a system that serves the towns and can be extended. Make bicycle use an option by being able to put bikes on the buses so people can get back and forth. While it is more economical to focus on towns, people can use a hub system eventually.
- ◆ The valley is growing in leaps and bounds. It is ridiculous that a city this size does not have a mass transit system of some kind and is going to become more and more needed.
- ◆ I think it would be great if we had late night public transportation to eliminate drinking and driving.
- ◆ Expand services to
- ◆ If a daily bus schedule could be implemented to run from each of the outlying towns to Kalispell and back maybe beginning at twice a day and build to more runs per day.

- ◆ Public transportation is essential to the outlying towns of Flathead County. A service that can provide transportation on a daily basis could reduce traffic in and around Flathead while providing safe and affordable transportation for all of Flathead County.
- ◆ It would be ideal if Eagle Transit was able to fit every need in Flathead Co.
- ◆ Would like to see intercity.
- ◆ Kalispell, Evergreen and intervalley bus routes.
- ◆ More commuter services. Service from motels and transport hubs (airports, railroad) to recreation areas (Glacier Park, Big Mountain, etc.).
- ◆ I work with clients that need transportation from Whitefish, Columbia Falls and around the Kalispell area. Many do not have transportation and need to get to doctor appt., school, WIC appt's.
- ◆ Coming from a big city, I'm used to public transportation everywhere all day long. It's so convenient!!! Plus with gas prices and auto maintenance costs, it can be more economical.
- ◆ Regular daily service between Kalispell, Columbia Falls and Whitefish would be great and would keep more cars off the roads. I used to ride a bus daily to work when I was in my 20's - it saved me money and was convenient. That is the only way to get people to ride buses. It has to be cost effective and work with their daily schedules.
- ◆ Have a real bus service that runs a regular route on a regular schedule.
- ◆ To run a continuous loop in the city.
- ◆ Flathead County is very large and there are a lot of areas in which I do not believe it would be cost-effective. I think the main areas to focus on are the three (3) towns and then branch out as needs arise and it becomes profitable.
- ◆ Bring senior citizens from homes to the libraries.
- ◆ They need more bus services for the valley.

Other Comments

- ◆ I think that the disabled in Coram Hungry Horse have a need to get into Kalispell even on a once a week basis for doctor's office visits.
- ◆ I grew up with public transportation being a part of life. I don't need it now, but as I get older, I could see it being something I'd like to take advantage of. I think it's such an asset for our senior citizens!!!
- ◆ I would like to see carpooling encouraged. More "park & rides" would be great.
- ◆ I believe that a transportation system built on a fee system would be more advantageous and once it got moving and was reliable I believe usage would continue to grow.

- ◆ It should not be the job of government to provide a taxi service. Any system should be self supporting.
- ◆ I think the service that is provided by public transportation is an important service to our community. I would like to see that all drivers receive a fair wage.
- ◆ What about a unique bus route for those large companies (Plum Creek) with day and night shifts. Offer a bus route (shift) plan to Plum Creek that starts in Kalispell & ends in Columbia Falls for drop off & pickup.
- ◆ Pay special attention to those slightly outside the city limits who would be interested in riding for trips downtown, to the ski hills, to Glacier park, to the next town over. Promote it as a way to see the county, safe driving after having a cocktail, way to get more people to frequent downtown businesses, etc.
- ◆ The bus schedule should be listed daily in all the county newspapers so that it becomes very familiar to potential customers.
- ◆ People would use public transportation more if there was a consistent schedule and if it was directed at the entire community. As it stands most people think of Eagle Transit as transportation for the elderly.
- ◆ I think that the users should pay a greater portion of the cost of services rather than expect the taxpayers to foot the cost. We all have to pay higher gas costs, too.
- ◆ My family and I live in Whitefish. I work in Kalispell at the Justice Center and my wife, who is a teacher, works in Columbia Falls. I realize that it is almost impossible to have a public transportation system in the Flathead Valley where a relatively small number of people live, but both my wife and I would ride a bus to and from work, if there was one.
- ◆ Taxing is tough. People who cannot use transportation because of time/residence end up paying alot for no use--or future time frame. Look to a step building strategy. Include the airport. Park and ride locations are helpful. Make sure bike routes and pedestrian walkways even exist so people can begin to make some changes.
- ◆ This county needs to be proactive instead of reactive!
- ◆ I think that we definatley need more public transportation, and not just for those that are unable to drive. The city has a very bad traffic problem, if we had more mass transit maybe that would help.
- ◆ I would use the transit system if I could to defray some of the traffic problems. I realize it would be a large undertaking, however, it would help not only the elderly, physically and mentally challenged, but also the working people.
- ◆ It would be nice to utilize some services to attractions around Flathead County- i.e. the parks, lakes and ski mountains. If such a system existed, it could be advertised and utilized by residents and tourists alike.
- ◆ I think if the buses are convenient, people will use them.
- ◆ You need to find a way to get support from people that do not pay property taxes because they rent.

- ◆ I think public transportation is important and should be offered to whomever needs/wants it. With the price of fuel and the environmental issues, there is no reason that public transit should not be offered to anyone.
- ◆ I appreciate what Eagle Transit is doing but growth is outstripping its ability to meet the needs of even the denser populated portions of the valley.
- ◆ With the growth in our valley and the high cost of gas prices I feel it is a nice option to be able to commute to and from work/appointments via bus.
- ◆ I am able to drive myself at present but would like to be able to use public transportation during the winter months when roads are bad. With the price of gas what it is, I wouldn't mind paying a few dollars to ride a bus from Columbia Falls to Whitefish once a week.
- ◆ Flathead County should not be in the bus business.
- ◆ Since they are in the bus business they must start running it like a business not a charity taxi service.
- ◆ I would use this service occasionally if it were available from Birch Grove/Whitefish Stage area. However, I do not think it would be very profitable since there are not very many people in this area at this time.
- ◆ Occasionally I would need a vehicle at work for errands.
- ◆ I am unsure the community would support increasing taxes at this time for this service but it is worth a try!
- ◆ I think that public transportation would be a beneficial service to our valley and would eventually be very effective as we grow.
- ◆ Provide bike paths everywhere for the young, Eagle transit for the elderly, those who can't bike, and winter.
- ◆ Other cities have bus services, but living in a out of the city limits they don't offer much there.