

**The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding an Increase of the ASUM Transportation Fee
2/25/2026
SB17-25/26**

**Authored by: Lane Allen, ASUM Senator; Keaton Terrall, ASUM Senator; Vickie
Rectenwald, ASUM Transportation Director;**

**Sponsored by: Liam Edwards, ASUM Business Manager; Alexis Beckman-Gomez, ASUM
Senator;**

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (“ASUM”) represents the interests of students attending the University of Montana (“UM”);

Whereas, The ASUM Transportation fee has not been increased since 2023;

Whereas, ASUM Transportation is an integral part of UM and provides UDASH bus service between Main Campus, River Campus, and university-owned student housing for students to study, live, and work;

Whereas, UDASH ridership has averaged over 130,000 annual trips since FY23, and is on track to meet that average for the current year;

Whereas, Since FY23, UDASH has increased charter revenue from 6% to 10% of total revenue;

Whereas, Since FY23, UDASH labor costs have risen 14%, vehicle maintenance costs have risen 63%, and technology costs have risen 115%;

Whereas, UDASH capital debt costs have averaged \$170,000 since FY23, and will continue to do so through FY2029;

Whereas, ASUM Transportation staff have reduced costs in all areas possible without compromising safety or compliance;

Whereas, In order to continue and augment the current level of service, the ASUM Transportation Advisory Board (“ASUM TAB”) advises that a fee increase should be pursued;

Whereas, At least 90% of ASUM Transportation funding comes from student fees;

Whereas, The number of Fee Paying Students is estimated at 7,300 students;

Whereas, A \$18.00 per semester increase would result in approximately an additional \$124,830 in semesterly fee revenue; and approximately \$249,660 in annual fee revenue;

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Whereas, This revenue would be used to sustain current levels of UDASH service, to pay down existing capital debt, and to allow for future capital purchases;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the following ballot language be added to an ASUM student referendum during the spring election cycle:

“The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is proposing a \$18.00 fee increase (prorated to fifty percent for students enrolled in less than seven credits) to the ASUM Transportation Fee. ASUM, as the student government at the University, provides funding to six (6) agencies and student groups. Due to the increase of maintenance, labor, and technology costs, ASUM asks for this fee increase.”

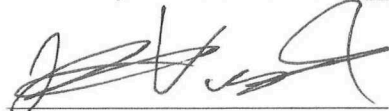
___ Yes, I support increasing the ASUM Transportation Fee by \$18.00, from \$49.00 to \$67.00 per semester for full-time students and from \$38.00 to \$47.00 per semester for part-time students

___ No, I do not support increasing the ASUM Transportation Fee by \$18.00, from \$49.00 to \$67.00 per semester for full-time students and from \$38.00 to \$47.00 per semester for part-time students

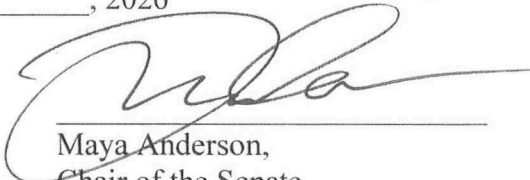
Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this Resolution be sent to: Paul Lasiter, Vice President of Operations and Finance; Kelly Webster, Chief of Staff and Associate Vice President for Strategic Planning and Implementation; Carter Jasper, Student Regent; Loren Bough, Regent; Todd Buchanan, Regent; Jeff Southworth, Regent; Dean Folkvord, Regent; Heather Hoyer, Regent; Daniel Spoon, Regent; Clayton Christian, Commissioner of Higher Education.

Passed by Committee: 2/23, 2026

Passed by ASUM Senate: 2/25, 2026



Hailey Vondal,
Chair of Rules



Maya Anderson,
Chair of the Senate