

MDT & Streamline Coordination

Overview

The Montana Department of Transportation coordinates with Streamline, the Gallatin Valley Urban Transportation District (GVUTD), the Gallatin Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GVMPO), and regional transit partners to support public transportation planning, funding coordination, and compliance with federal transit requirements. This coordination has been especially important in recent years as Streamline transit responsibilities transitioned from Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) to GVUTD, helping maintain continuity in administration, planning, and partner communication.

MDT's role

MDT does not operate Streamline's local fixed route service. MDT's role is to help connect statewide transit program administration with local system needs by coordinating federal transit funding, assisting with program requirements, and working with local and regional partners on planning and implementation.

Coordination areas

- **Governance transition support:** MDT worked with local partners as Streamline responsibilities moved from HRDC to GVUTD, supporting continuity in communication, grant coordination, and program administration.
- **Federal transit funding coordination:** MDT works with GVUTD, HRDC, and other partners on several Federal Transit Administration programs that support transit in the Gallatin Valley and surrounding region.
- **Regional planning coordination:** MDT works with the Gallatin Valley MPO and local transit partners to align planning, programming, and federal requirements in a fast growing urban region.
- **State and local partnership:** MDT helps connect local service needs with statewide transit responsibilities, particularly where urban service, regional mobility, and human service transportation interests intersect.

Key Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs

- **FTA Section 5310:** Supports transportation for older adults and individuals with disabilities. MDT coordinates this program in Montana in ways that complement local mobility needs and coordination among providers.
- **FTA Section 5311:** Supports rural public transportation. MDT administers this program statewide, and HRDC receives 5311 funding.
- **FTA Section 5303:** Supports metropolitan transportation planning. In the Bozeman area, this funding supports the MPO framework within which transit planning and programming decisions are made.
- **FTA Section 5307:** Supports urbanized area transit systems and is an important source of operating, capital, and planning support. GVUTD is a direct recipient of Section 5307 funding from FTA.
- **FTA Section 5339:** Supports bus and bus facilities capital investments. . In Montana, MDT administers Section 5339 formula funding for small urban areas, with GVUTD eligible to receive formula funds for bus and bus facility capital investment.

Why it matters

The Gallatin Valley is a growing region with increasing demand for coordinated mobility options, including local transit, regional connections, workforce access, and integration with broader transportation planning. MDT's work with Streamline/GVUTD, HRDC, and the MPO helps ensure that federal transit funds are coordinated effectively and that local transit planning remains connected to the larger transportation system.

TIC takeaway

The Streamline partnership illustrates MDT's role in supporting local transit through planning, funding coordination, and federal program administration rather than direct service operation. In the Gallatin Valley, that role has been especially important during a period of local governance transition and continued regional growth.