



Transportation Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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TRANSPORTATION INTERIM COMMITTEE (TIC)

Meeting – Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Room 154, State Capitol – 8:30am-4:30pm

PLEASE NOTE:

- All times are approximate; some agenda items may require more or less time than indicated.
- The agenda may be adjusted or paused for breaks at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- See the end of this agenda for information on accessibility and public participation.

- 8:30am** **Call to order – roll call**
Chair Russ Tempel
- 8:35am** **1. Administrative rule review**
Joe Carroll, Staff Attorney
- 8:40am** **2. Agency Oversight: Motor Vehicles Division (MVD) of the Dept of Justice**
Laurie Bakri, Administrator
- Division updates
 - Wildlife crossings – update on [HB 855](#) license plate program
 - Questions from committee
- 9:15am** **3. Agency Oversight: Montana Dept of Transportation (MDT)**
Chris Dorrington, Director
- Department updates
 - Wildlife crossings – update on [HB 855](#) account status and ongoing/expected projects
 - Agency-requested legislation
 - Questions from committee
- 9:50am** **4. Discussion about wildlife crossings**
- 10:00am** **5. Discussion about tow truck cleanup and insurance coverage**
James Brown, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Office of the MT State Auditor
- Guidance regarding insurance coverage for tow operators' required debris cleanup
 - Questions from committee
- 10:10am** **Public comment* regarding agency oversight, wildlife crossings, tow truck debris cleanup/ insurance coverage**
- 10:15am** **BREAK (15 minutes)**

- 10:30am** **6. Autonomous Vehicles (AVs)**
- Perspectives from Minnesota and Texas**
Darran Anderson, TX DOT
Tara Olds, MN DOT
- Panel discussion – see handout
 - Questions from committee
- Discussion of congressional SELF DRIVE Act – Safety case for AVs**
Charlie Mlcek, Legislative Assistant, Congressman Bob Latta (OH-5)
- 11:50am** **Public comment* regarding Autonomous Vehicles (AVs)**
- 12:00pm** **LUNCH** (1 hour, on your own)
- 1:00pm** **7. SJ 19: Interim study on ways to improve public transportation in Montana**
- Improving existing public transportation services in Jefferson County, WA
Nicole Gauthier, General Manager, Jefferson Transit
Jordan Papazoglou, P.Eng., Senior Transit Innovator, Left Turn Right Turn LTD
 - Interactive map of services
 - Statutory “roadmap” spreadsheet
 - Public survey results
 - Final report draft – discussion of findings, recommendations
 - Questions from committee
- 1:55pm** **Public comment* regarding public transportation**
- 2:00pm** **BREAK** (15 minutes)
- 2:15pm** **Public comment* on any other topic within the TIC’s jurisdiction**
- 2:25pm** **8. Committee work session**
Chair Tempel
- Committee bill draft topics – requests for new topics, discussion on each topic
 - PD1 – GVW fees
 - PD2 – Fuel taxes
 - PD4 – Pilot program for automated safety enforcement
 - PD5 – Prohibit distracted driving related to mobile phones
 - PD6 – Establish rebuttable presumption that state scales are calibrated accurately
 - PD7 – Require MDT to update the Montana state rail plan
 - Looking ahead to final TIC meeting on 9/11/2026
 - Any further directions to staff
- 4:15pm** **Final public comment* on any other topic within the TIC’s jurisdiction**
- 4:30pm** **Adjourn**

Public Participation

The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol or provide public comment either using remote meeting technology or in writing.

To offer public comment via remote meeting technology, please submit the online form for remote participation at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting: <https://participate.legmt.gov/>.

Written public comment may be submitted either through the [online form](#) for written comment or by mailing the comments to Transportation Interim Committee, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

**Public comment provided in person or remotely at a legislative meeting is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the meeting.*

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