



For Immediate Release:
September 6, 2013

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U.S. Olympic Mountain Biker to Unveil Mountain Line Bike Station

Mountain Line to host a variety of additional activities throughout the 22nd annual Bike Walk Bus Week

MISSOULA, Mont. – Missoula-born U.S. Olympic mountain biker and professional cyclist Sam Schultz will do the honors cutting the ribbon on Mountain Line's newest Bike Station, Monday, September 9, beginning at 9 a.m. The new facility to accommodate bicyclists and their bikes is located at the MRTMA Lewis & Clark Transfer Center, located at Higgins and Benton Aves.

Schultz, who competed in the 2012 Olympics in London, said, "Bicycling is vital to my life as an athlete, and I congratulate Mountain Line for continuing to integrate bicycling as part of providing sustainable public transportation in Missoula."

The newest Bike Station, created under a partnership between Mountain Line and Missoula Ravalli Transportation Management Association, is Missoula's second comprehensive bike station. Along with the first, located at Mountain Line's Downtown Transfer Center, it complements the bike racks that all Mountain Line buses now carry. Funded through a livability grant from the Federal Transit Administration, it will accommodate 12 bicycles, while the downtown location holds 16 under its roof.

Both locations have bike repair stands with tools and vending machines that sell bike parts including tubes, bike locks and high-energy food. Mountain Line provided 943,809 rides in 2012, including more than 30,000 bicycles last year – an all-time record.

"Having an integrated system for bicyclists and bus riders is the best of both worlds for me and other students," said Topher Williams, board chair of the Associated Students of the University of Montana Office of Transportation. "Getting to and from campus and all day long as I go about my business, I use both my bike and the bus."

"My work involves creating viable transportation options for all Western Montana residents who live, work and play in our city," said Lyn Hellegaard, executive director of the Missoula Ravalli Transportation Management Association. "When individuals can safely use their bicycles and ride the bus to get to the places they want to go, they have better transportation choices that not

only support their lifestyles but also improve our community by minimizing traffic and parking congestion, allowing for better spending choices on infrastructure and improving our quality of life.”

Missoula Ward 4 city councilwoman Caitlin Copple, who serves the ward where the bike station is located said, “On any given day, upwards of 15,000 individuals may come through my ward on their way to campus at UM. Helping people use their bicycles and ride the bus is good for them, good for my ward and good for all Missoula.”

According to Michael Tree, Mountain Line general manager, the ribbon cutting at the Lewis & Clark Transfer Center Bike Station is just one of several events Mountain Line is hosting as part of Bike Walk Bus Week. All are free and open to the public, including:

- **Where’s Bolt?** 7–9a.m., Monday, Sept. 9. Find Mountain Line mascot Bolt, who will be somewhere on Mountain Line Route 1. Post your photo with Bolt on Mountain Line’s Facebook page, and while you’re there, enter to win a new Kona Dew commuter bike, donated by Missoula Bicycle Works.
- **Breakfast by the Bus.** 7:30–9:30a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10. A thank you for hopping on board with Mountain Line, there will be free coffee and donuts while supplies last at the Lewis & Clark Transfer Center (Higgins and Benton Avenues). A partnership with Missoula In Motion.
- **Mill Levy Public Workshop.** 5p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10. Mountain Line bus workshop discussing an increase in the mill levy for bus improvements to meet community demand. University Center, Room 330, (University of Montana).
- **Where’s Bolt?** 7–9a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 11. Find Mountain Line mascot Bolt, who will be somewhere on Mountain Line Route 1. Post your photo with Bolt on Mountain Line’s Facebook page, and while you’re there, enter to win a new Kona Dew commuter bike, donated by Missoula Bicycle Works.
- **Breakfast by the Bus.** 7:30–9:30a.m., Thursday, Sept. 12. A thank you for hopping on board with Mountain Line, there will be free coffee and donuts while supplies last at Mountain Line’s Downtown Transfer Center (Pine and Ryman). A partnership with Missoula In Motion.
- **Where’s Bolt?** 7–9a.m., Friday, Sept. 13. Find Mountain Line mascot Bolt, who will be somewhere on Mountain Line Route 1. Post your photo with Bolt on Mountain Line’s Facebook page, and while you’re there, enter to win a new Kona Dew commuter bike, donated by Missoula Bicycle Works.
- **Walk–N–Roll Week Finale.** 11:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 13. ASUM Transportation’s incentive program for The University of Montana as part of Missoula’s BWBW. More than 100 fantastic week–long raffle prizes include a bike, lights, mirrors, gift certificates for meals, and more! Mountain Line will partner with ASUM for this popular event. (Mansfield Library Mall, University of Montana)

For more information, contact Brad Stokman at Mountain Line, at 406-543-8386, ext 111 or bstokman@mountainline.com, or visit www.mountainline.com and on [Facebook](#).

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