

**MUTD Planning Committee Meeting  
Staff Report**

**Attachments**

1. Attachment 1.
2. Attachment 2.

**To:** MUTD Planning Committee  
**From:** Jordan Hess  
**Meeting Date:** August 6, 2025

**Agenda Item:** 4.3 Recreation Shuttle Update

**Recommendation:** NA

**Discussion:** Staff have been meeting with area land managers, tourism promoters, and other stakeholders in the Front Country Recreation Collaborative over the past several months to discuss the possibility of a recreation shuttle to area open lands. The land managers and agency staff reviewed several potential shuttle routes and associated destinations and settled on Pattee Canyon and Marshall Mountain as potential pilot shuttle opportunities. Staff took a field trip to each destination and are preparing a six-to-eight-week shuttle pilot program to Marshall Mountain for early fall 2025 in conjunction with Missoula County's Parks, Trails, and Open Lands Program and Five Valleys Land Trust.

The pilot will provide zero-fare rides to recreation sites and is intended to reduce trailhead congestion, provide car-free recreation opportunities, and increase access to the outdoors for underserved Missoulians. The pilot will be evaluated for future service opportunities in 2026 and beyond.

The late addition of this pilot route is enabled by the acquisition of two used 16-passenger cutaway buses from the Fergus County Council on Aging and a partnership with Huckwagons for a low-cost bike trailer rental.

**Financial Impact:** The shuttle service will use existing equipment. Costs incurred will include driver wages, the marginal cost of additional supervisory hours and vehicle costs, promotion-related expenses, and the cost of the bike trailer rental. Preliminary cost estimates will be reviewed at the Planning Committee meeting. These costs estimates will be refined in the coming weeks. Staff anticipate reimbursement and/or cost share participation from various community partners.

**DBE Certified:** Yes/No/N/A