**Powell County Public Transit Coordination Plan**

**FY 2026**

Powell County Public Transit seeks to provide a coordinated, accessible and affordable transit system for the general public that improves the quality of life for all citizens. Our program will meet the needs of our passengers by providing timely, responsible and safe services by professional, qualified staff. The rider’s safety will always be our first and foremost consideration.

Powell County Public Transit operates under Powell County Executive Board on Aging, a non-profit corporation. Powell County Public Transit is the only public transit provider in the Deer Lodge City limits and there is no public transit provided in the surrounding communities of Powell County. To our knowledge there are no private transit providers. The Disabled American Veterans van travels through Deer Lodge and the Southwest Montana Veteran’s Food Pantry also provides some rides for veterans; we refer our veterans to both services, but provide rides if veterans are unable or unwilling to use them.

Powell County Public Transit in town is a demand response, curb to curb system. We ask participants to call up to 30 minutes prior to pick up time. We are charging fares of $1 per ride in town with discounted passes available. Riders can go to the destination of their choice within the city limits and near the city limits on a trial basis. We have an additional vehicle available to use in town, and have tried to preschedule shopping or appointments on busy days. Transportation is available Monday- Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Out of town we provide rides based on driver availability by request out of the county to Butte, Missoula, Helena and Anaconda. We will split the fare among riders for the day, so are encouraging shoppers and those with other errands to join a trip already scheduled. We hope to maximize our effectiveness by coordinating more rides. We are considering moving to designated days for specific towns, based on previous years’ appointments. Our scheduled rides are listed daily on the Calendar page of our website: [www.powellcountytransit.org](http://www.powellcountytransit.org)

Our primary in town vehicle is a 2019 Ford Transit Van (current mileage 54239), received by a FY2018 capital grant. It has the capacity of seating 7 forward facing ambulatory passengers, including the driver, and has one wheelchair securement station. The primary out of town vehicle is a 2014 Dodge caravan 6 passenger non-accessible minivan (current mileage 106446) received via a capital grant in FY 2014. We have received a 6 passenger 2017 Dodge Braun Entervan via FY2017 capital grant (current mileage 57359), giving us an accessible vehicle for out of town use. We continue to use the 2003 Goshen bus (current mileage 114149) as an accessible vehicle two days a week in town. We have applied for and been approved a 9 passenger mid-top AWD accessible Ford Transit Van by capital grant in the FY2024 grant cycle and hope to use it for designated shopping trips out of town and/or for expansion to other small towns in the county. We have applied for and been approved a 13-passenger ADA cutaway in the FY2025 grant cycle to replace the Goshen Bus as an in- town vehicle. We plan to apply for a capital grant in this FY2026 grant cycle to supply each vehicle with a camera system for driver and rider safety.

Transportation contact information is listed weekly in the local newspaper with a business card ad, on the city, county and chamber of commerce websites, and on our Powell County Council on Aging Facebook page. Our transit website: [www.powellcountytransit.org](http://www.powellcountytransit.org) is also linked to the county website, and is listed on our business card ad and on our Ford Transit van. Contact information is printed on our vehicles, with the exception of the 2003 Goshen bus. Updated brochuresand flyers are distributed regularly at the courthouse, senior center, medical center, city hall, Cottonwood Clinic, Dental offices, Library, churches etc. We have learned that our best advertisement is word of mouth, so we encourage our riders and community members to spread the word!

The Ivy nursing home uses Powell County Public Transit when they are unable to provide local rides for residents using their own transportation. Deer Lodge Medical Center uses Powell County Public Transit to provide rides if a patient is unable to transport him or herself to and from the Center. This includes rides to doctor appointments, lab work, physical therapy, and non-emergency ER visits, as well as trips out of town to see medical specialists, and trips from other medical facilities to the hospital’s transitional care unit, if medically feasible. Some residents use Powell County Public Transit to go to the local Food Pantry. Old Stage Auto, KOA and Indian Creek Campgrounds, and the local motels also regularly recommend Powell County Public Transit to those needing temporary in or out of town transportation. Renaissance Assisted living residents use the transit van to get around town for shopping, hair appointments, dental and medical appointments. Residents of the Pebblestone Apartments, the Meadows Apartments, the Deer Lodge Apartments, and Cottonwood Creek Villas, the local public housing, are frequent users of Powell County Public Transit.

Powell County Public Transit agrees to provide free rides to and from the Powell County Senior Citizen Center, which is part of the MOU between Powell County Public Transit and the Powell County Senior Citizen Center.

Powell County Public Transit also has MOU’s with the Ivy nursing home, Deer Lodge Medical Center, and Powell County Public Health. The local TAC has members from the Powell County Senior Center, Deer Lodge Medical Center, and the local community, those with disabilities, drivers, local business and local government. Newspaper articles have been written about the transportation program requesting participation and input. Invitations to TAC committee meetings are distributed by email and phone calls, announced on the website, and flyers are put up also inviting new members. This coordination plan has been developed in conjunction with the TAC, which represents the community at large.