

Resolution 20-07
Missoula Urban Transportation District
Establishing the Goal to Eliminate Vehicle Tailpipe Emissions by 2035

WHEREAS, the Missoula Urban Transportation District is committed to serving the needs of its community;

WHEREAS, the Missoula valley has periodic poor air quality due to the combination of seasonal wildfires, wildfire smoke, and winter inversions;

WHEREAS, the 2017 Montana Climate Assessment forecasts that a warming climate will increase rainfall, reduce snowpack, and increase the length and severity of wildfire season, among many other impacts;

WHEREAS, in January 2013, the Missoula City Council passed Resolution 7753 adopting the City of Missoula Conservation & Climate Action Plan, establishing a goal of carbon neutrality by 2025 and a 50% reduction by 2020 for municipal operations;

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners established a goal of carbon neutrality for Missoula County government operations by 2035 with an intermediate target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 30% below 2016 levels by 2025;

WHEREAS, the March 2017 Greenhouse Gas Inventory conducted by Climate Smart Missoula found that transportation is the largest source of local greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS, in April 2019 the City of Missoula and Missoula County passed a joint resolution to power the community with 100% clean electricity by 2030;

WHEREAS, battery electric vehicles, including those using hydrogen fuel cell technology, completely eliminate local tailpipe emissions;

WHEREAS, a 2019 analysis by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Missoula Urban Transportation District staff found that a battery electric bus reduces annual carbon dioxide emissions by 77% and annual NOx emissions by 71% compared to a diesel bus, based on the current mix of energy sources comprising the Montana electric grid;

WHEREAS, the Missoula Urban Transportation District put six (6) battery electric 35-ft buses into fixed-route service in September 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Missoula Urban Transportation District adopts the goal of eliminating tailpipe emissions from all of its vehicles by 2035;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Missoula Urban Transportation District staff develop a plan to achieve this goal that includes, at a minimum, the following elements:

- An inventory of existing fixed route, paratransit, and service vehicles;
- A forecast of future vehicle needs through 2035;
- An analysis of current and anticipated zero-emission vehicle technologies, including a comparison of costs; and
- A description of efforts to reduce the unit cost of electricity over time.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of February 2020.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Jesse Dodson, Chair

Doug Odegaard, Secretary