

MSU INVESTMENT PROPOSAL FOR INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Title	Streamline Transit	Request Date	12/15/11
Department	ASMSU	Email	clindner@montana.edu
Requestor	Colleen Lindner	Phone	994-2933

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Core Themes and Objectives (check all that apply)

Educate Students

- Our graduates will have achieved mastery in their major disciplines
- Our graduates will become active citizens and leaders
- Our graduates will have a multicultural and global perspective
- Our graduates will understand the ways that knowledge & art are created and applied in a variety of disciplines
- Our graduates are prepared for careers in their field
- We will provide increased access to our educational programs
- Communities and external stake holders benefit from broadly defined education partnerships with MSU

Create Knowledge and Art

- Students, faculty, and staff will create knowledge and art that is communicated widely

Serve Communities

- We help meet a fundamental need of the citizens of Montana by providing degree programs for our students
- We help meet the educational needs of the citizens of Montana by providing a wide range of educational opportunities to a variety of students
- Our students, faculty, staff, and administrators reach out to engage and serve communities
- Our students, faculty, staff, and administrator reach in to build the university community

Integrate Learning, Discovery, and Engagement

- Each graduate will have had experiences that integrate learning, discovery and engagement
- Outreach activities will educate students and address the needs of the communities we serve
- Students, faculty, and staff will create knowledge and art that addresses societal needs
- MSU is a community that will be characterized by synergy within and across disciplines, roles and functions.

Stewardship

- The public trusts the institution to operate openly and use resources wisely
- The faculty and staff are well-qualified and supported
- MSU will support Native American students, programs, and communities
- MSU will be an inclusive community, supporting and encouraging diversity
- Our publicly provided resources are used efficiently and effectively
- Natural resources are used efficiently and sustainably
- MSU nurtures a culture of resource conservation and ecological literacy among students, faculty and staff
- Our physical infrastructure (e.g., building, equipment, open spaces) will be well-maintained and useful

INSITUTIONAL BENEFIT

Campuses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bozeman <input type="checkbox"/> Billings <input type="checkbox"/> Havre <input type="checkbox"/> Great Falls <input type="checkbox"/> FSTS <input type="checkbox"/> Extension <input type="checkbox"/> MAES
Cross Depts	Please List: _____

TIMEFRAME

Proposed Dates	Start: July 1, 2012	End: June 30, 2015
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COST AND REQUIREMENTS

Funding Type	One-Time (\$)	Multi-Year (\$)			Base (\$)	FTE
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3		
Personnel (w/benefits)						
Materials & Supplies						
Travel						
Contracted Services		\$125,000	\$105,000	\$105,000		
Capital						
Other Operations						
TOTAL						

<p>Please comment, if necessary, regarding cost and requirements.</p>	<p>Streamline is entering its sixth year of service. The \$85,000 that the University has provided for the past three years has allowed the Saturday service and Livingston service to operate. There are two priorities, and we hope that MSU will chose to support one of them with an additional \$40,000 for Fiscal Year 2013.</p> <p>An on-board survey indicated that riders would like the Streamline routes to operate at least one hour later. The on-board survey also indicated that MSU students, faculty & staff comprise approximately 59 percent of Streamline’s ridership. In addition, there have been numerous e-mails sent to the Streamline website indicating a desire for a commuter route from Three Forks/Manhattan. Currently, there are approximately 90 MSU faculty and staff living in Three Forks and Manhattan, compared to the 86 faculty & staff in Livingston.</p> <p>It is anticipated that additional support from Gallatin County and other sources could be secured to help with the commuter service, and even perhaps the later hours, which is why we would reduce the request from MSU for the second and third years. If the additional funding is not received, the route would not be implemented, and MSU would be asked to contribute only the \$85,000 as in previous years.</p> <p>Currently, MSU’s contribution is roughly 7 percent of the budget (\$85,0000 out of \$1,162,065). Further, ASMSU contributes approximately \$120,000 per year. See Page 3 for more information on Streamline.</p>
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PROPOSAL SCOPE

Describe the Proposal

The proposal is for Montana State University to provide continued support to the Streamline transit system. Starting in Fiscal Year 11, MSU provided funding, which allowed Saturday service to be implemented, and also allowed a commuter run to begin operating between Bozeman and Livingston (there are approximately 86 faculty & staff living in Livingston).

While federal funding provides over half of the operating funds for Streamline, local support is necessary. The original partner in providing financial support, and still the largest source of local funding, is ASMSU. In FY 12, ASMSU will provide roughly \$120,000 to the Streamline transit system. The Streamline budget for Fiscal Year 2012 is \$1,162,065.

The Streamline transit system provides year round public transportation services in the greater Bozeman area. The service is administered by the Human Resource Development Council District IX, Inc. (HRDC). By leveraging funds from several sources, Streamline has been able to enhance and add service, and ridership has responded. Ridership on the system is as follows: FY 07: 75,868 rides; FY 08: 151,382 rides; FY 09: 210,268 rides; FY 10: 233,892 rides; FY 11: 242,703 rides. Saturday service has increase from 11,732 rides in FY 09 to 16,675 rides in FY 11. Livingston ridership went from 4,220 rides in a shortened FY09 to 8,881 rides in FY 11.

Fiscal Year 2012 ridership is up so far, with the Livingston service up 25 percent (year to date), and Saturday ridership up 11 percent.

The proposal allows MSU to continue to be a leading organization in the community, and to lessen its impacts on the community. While the greater Bozeman area benefits greatly from having MSU in the region, one of the main impacts that MSU has on the area is an increase in the number of people commuting (driving) on the streets. By providing funding for Streamline, MSU can mitigate the impact its students, faculty and staff have on the area.

As noted, Streamline is requesting an additional \$40,000 from MSU for Fiscal Year 2013, and an additional \$20,000 each in FY 14 & FY 15. With the additional funding, MSU could fund either a commuter run to/from Three Forks and Manhattan, or add an extra hour of service to the Blue, Yellow and Red routes. A recent analysis concluded that there are 90 faculty/staff in those communities. This compares to the 86 faculty/staff living in Livingston. Additionally, a recent on-board survey noted that longer hours Monday-Friday was the top enhancement requested by riders.

As noted on Page 2, MSU Faculty, Staff and Students comprise 59 percent of Streamline's ridership (students 47.7% and faculty/staff 11.6%). This matches the Livingston route, as approximately 55 percent of the riders on the Livingston route are affiliated with MSU (faculty, staff or students). On the Livingston route thirty-five percent of riders use the bus five days per week, 24 percent ride four days per week, 15 percent ride three days per week, with the balance of 26 percent riding the bus two days per week, or less.

As noted by the checked boxes on Page 1, Streamline addresses most of the University's Core Themes and Objectives, especially the Stewardship objectives. It should be noted that Streamline also addresses many of the goals and objectives of the University's Climate Action Plan, which notes that travel related activities account for 38 percent of the University's net Green House Gas emissions. It makes sense for the University to invest in Streamline, and providing for alternatives to the single-occupancy vehicle for students, faculty and staff.

PROPOSAL SCOPE

Describe the broader impacts and benefits of this proposal

As noted in Montana State University's Mission and Core Themes, MSU, the State's land-grant institution, educates students, creates knowledge and art, and serves communities, by integrating learning, discovery, and engagement. Streamline provides a way to meet all of the core themes.

Educate Students: Streamline acts as a "real world classroom" as engineering students learn about public transportation first hand by analyzing the Streamline system. Streamline allows increased access to educational programs, as students don't need an automobile to attend MSU, including Gallatin College.

Create Knowledge: Students (and more so faculty and staff) understand the challenges of implementing public transit systems in rural areas. Further, MSU faculty, staff and students have been directly involved with implementing and managing the Streamline system. The knowledge gained has allowed students, and faculty and staff to become leaders in rural transportation issues.

Serve Communities: Students, faculty, staff and administrators reach out to the broader area and community and invest in a public transit system that benefits not only the campus, but the greater Bozeman area. Further, Streamline allows students, faculty and staff to build the university community by providing greater access to sporting and cultural events, and all facilities on campus.

Integrates Learning, Discovery and Engagement: As noted previously, Streamline serves as a "living class room" for students interested in learning about transportation, sustainability and livability. Streamline shows what is possible when numerous organizations join together to plan, implement and maintain an alternative transportation system. Streamline has shown how the University can be part of the broader community. Streamline addresses societal needs, providing mobility for people who cannot, or choose not to own or operate a vehicle.

Stewardship: Streamline perhaps fits no other Core Theme better than that of Stewardship. By investing in Streamline, MSU shows that the University plans to use resource wisely. Further, faculty and staff are supported, by providing them with a mobility option that is far less expensive than owning and operating a vehicle. Further, MSU supports Native American students, as they can use Streamline to access the larger community without having to use a car. Further, faculty and staff from MSU have helped start transit systems in areas that directly impact Native American Reservations. Streamline is a service available to everyone, and is used by a diverse group of riders. Public transportation serves people from many walks of life.

By investing in alternative modes of transportation, MSU shows it is interested in using resources efficiently and effectively. This includes the sustainable use of natural resources, including open spaces. If more people travel to and from MSU on Streamline less parking spaces are needed, and new buildings can be constructed on parking lots, not on open spaces. This indicates a culture of resource conservation, as open (green) spaces are maintained, and not used for parking lots, or other purposes.

In summary, Streamline has a broad impact on Montana State University, including helping the University to achieve the goals of its Climate Action Plan and objectives as indicated by its Mission and Core Themes.

Streamline allows MSU students, faculty and staff to be able to access the University without having to drive to campus, and allows students living on campus a way to get around the community without having to own and/or operate a vehicle. Investing in Streamline allows MSU to show it is part of the broader community by supporting a mode that allows mobility not only for students, faculty and staff of MSU, but for everyone that is part of the greater Bozeman area.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Implementation Plan *(Please describe with timelines)*

Streamline operates on a fiscal year of July 1-June 30. Streamline generally initiates any changes to services in early to mid-August, just before MSU's fall semester begins. Funding of \$85,000 a year from MSU will allow Streamline to continue its Saturday and Livingston services. As noted previously, with additional support from MSU, a new Three Forks/Manhattan commuter run, or longer hours Monday-Friday on existing routes, could be implemented by August 2012.

Assessment Plan *(Please describe with indicators)*


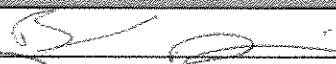
Streamline is constantly evaluating its routes and services. Evaluating factors include the cost per ride, cost per mile, and overall ridership. Services are evaluated to ensure that Streamline is providing the maximum rides possible with its funding. An annual process allows input into desired new services (e.g., longer hours, Sunday service, etc.), and that process is tied with the budget to see what new services can be implemented.

Streamline also assesses its services in regards to other transit systems in Montana, and transit systems in similar communities throughout the United States. The system is constantly being evaluated by the Streamline Advisory Board, which includes riders and representatives from ASMSU.

If assessed objectives are not met in the timeframe outlined, what is the plan to sunset this proposal?

Because the budget and services are modified on an annual basis, it is possible to modify the program on any given year. While it is unlikely that the Streamline service would simply stop, specific routes and/or runs can be added or eliminated based on funding and/or evaluation of the service.

If any partners cannot provide support, the Streamline Advisory Board would modify the service to try and meet the needs of its existing riders. Again, the focus would be on providing the most rides possible within the constraints of the budget.

SIGNATURES		
Department Head (please print)	Signature (required)	Date
Dept Head Priority (please circle one): Very High High Medium Low Very Low		
Dean/Director (please print)	Signature (required)	Date
Colleen Lindner		1-19-12
Dean/Director Priority (please circle one): <u>Very High</u> High Medium Low Very Low		
Executive/VP (please print)	Signatures (required)	Date
Blake Spornson		1/19/12
Executive/VP Priority (please circle one): <u>Very High</u> High Medium Low Very Low		