

# **RIDE THE BUS**

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## **WITH KARMA**

My name is Karma May and I'm a bus operator for UDASH. I had a friend of a friend mention to me once that she was a UDASH operator briefly, which opened my mind up to transit as an accessible job opportunity.

I've been a daily rider of Missoula transit since 2015, so I really liked the idea of working in a service that supported me and my community as much as transit did!

Through this work, I've learned that it's truly possible to do anything. Most people can hardly imagine ever operating a vehicle as large as a bus, including myself at one point, but after learning how, many other things suddenly didn't seem so intimidating.

Driving a bus is a job that comes with a lot of responsibility. I'm responsible for the safety and

timely transport of hundreds of people a day, which can be stressful, but overall it's very rewarding!

I've started ranking streets in my mind based on where it would be good to drive a bus. It's truly ridiculous! I think in bus maps exclusively!

Public transportation is one of the most important services that a city can provide! Missoula has one of the best transit systems in the country, but I think especially UDASH serving student housing and providing service for sporting events really helps enable students in their success at university, and gives them the opportunity to engage with the community and all the great parts of Missoula!

I remember when a sustainability class once rode my bus for a field trip to Home Resource. The entire ride they talked about various sustainability efforts and concerns across campus and the surrounding area. I really enjoyed listening to their discussion and learned a lot!

I'd love to see our infrastructure become less car centric and instead prioritize public transit and

walkable communities. Wide sidewalks and bus lanes! A train of some sort would be very cool, as well. With the power of a magic wand, I think our city should be designed in such a way that it is more desirable to commute sustainably, rather than only drive a car.

I want Missoulians to know that buses are for people! It is always okay to ask your bus operator for help at any stage of your journey. We're always happy to answer your questions or help point you in the right direction. No need to be intimidated! We're very friendly and will get you to where you need to go!

