



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director
DATE: November 29, 2016 
SUBJECT: **Human Services Transportation Plan: 2017-2019 WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program, RTC Project Rankings**

INTRODUCTION

This Memo provides background information on an action that will be asked of the RTC Board at the January 2017 meeting. In January, the Board will be asked to approve a ranked list of projects that address human services transportation needs in Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties submitted to WSDOT for 2017-2019 Public Transportation Consolidated Grant program funding consideration. Project submittals must be identified in the adopted Human Services Transportation Plan for the region.

BACKGROUND

Every two years, in line with the state biennium, the RTC Board is asked to approve a ranking of projects from the region seeking WSDOT competitive Public Transportation Consolidated Grant program funding. Through this consolidated program, WSDOT distributes a variety of federal and state grants to support public transportation programs. These programs are Federal Transit Administration 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program) and 5311 (rural) funds as well as State Rural Mobility Competitive and State Paratransit/Special Needs Competitive program for non-profit agencies. Current grant recipients in the RTC region are the Human Services Council, Skamania Senior Services, Mt. Adams Transportation in Klickitat County and Mid-Columbia Economic Development District for Gorge Translink Transportation Coordinator.

WSDOT’S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CONSOLIDATED GRANT PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of the WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant Program are to address deficiencies in paratransit/special needs or rural public transportation, to provide a community benefit, to provide funding to special needs or rural public transportation where there is a demonstrated need and measureable benefit, to make community connections supporting a sustainable network of transportation services within and between communities, to establish opportunities for collaboration and financial partnerships and to coordinate services with other transportation providers and organizations in the area.

RTC’S ROLE IN WSDOT’S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CONSOLIDATED GRANT PROGRAM PROCESS

Project applicants are required to participate in the planning process with the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) which in this region is RTC. Projects must come from the needs and strategies identified in the regionally-coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) before submittal to WSDOT. The RTC Board adopted the current Human Services Transportation Plan for Clark, Skamania and Klickitat Counties in November 2014. The [Plan](http://www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/hstp/) is available on RTC’s website at <http://www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/hstp/>. The Plan must be updated every four years; therefore, for this round of project proposals, no Plan update is required in order to

apply for funding consideration if the project is identified in the HSTP. RTC is required to evaluate and rank project proposals submitted to WSDOT.

PROJECT EVALUATION AND RANKING

As part of the WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant process, regions are to evaluate and rank projects submitted to the state. All projects will be ranked by the region as either A, B, C or D. The number of allotted letter grades for each region is determined by criteria including its population, population density, rural population and numbers and percentages of those under 18 years, over 65, with disabilities, living in poverty and veterans. Based on these demographics, the RTC region, which includes Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties, will be able to assign 6 projects with an A ranking, 6 projects with a B ranking and 6 projects with a C ranking and unlimited D rankings.

RTC REGION: PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO WSDOT

WSDOT implemented a new process for the 2017-2019 biennium with project applications due to WSDOT by mid-October, 2016. Unlike previous biennia, RTC regional evaluation and rankings follow after applications are made to WSDOT. The 12 projects submitted to WSDOT from this region are described on the attached list. On December 14, RTC staff will lead a meeting of stakeholders to assign proposed rankings to the projects submitted to WSDOT prior to RTC Board consideration and RTC's notification of ranking results to WSDOT in early January 2017.

NEXT STEPS

The draft list of project rankings will be presented to the RTC Board for approval at the January 3 meeting. Following RTC Board approval, the rankings will be submitted to WSDOT as part of the project decision-making process.

Attachment

Skamania County Senior Services

1) **Maintain the existing dial a ride for the general public and disadvantaged populations**

Provide operating funding assistance to sustain dial a ride services for the elderly, special needs population and general public in Skamania County.

- Total project cost: \$510,000
- WSDOT request: \$275,000

2) **Maintain the existing deviated fixed route service for the general public and disadvantaged populations**

Preserve the route deviated transit service between Skamania County and C-TRAN in Vancouver, WA

- Total project cost: \$251,400
- WSDOT request: \$188,550

3) **Replacement of transit fleet to maintain existing service**

Capital project to replace a 9 year old vehicle with 282,000 miles (five years past it's useful life) and to replace a 2006 transit bus with 358,000 (five years past it's useful life).

- Total project cost: \$165,000
- WSDOT request: \$132,000

4) **Information Technology Architecture Project**

The ITS technology will aid in planning and coordination of transportation projects by making SCSS operations more efficient and safe. The ITS project will include a computer aided dispatching system, internet based scheduling, automatic vehicle location, mobile data terminals, traveler information systems, and electronic payment systems.

- Total project cost: \$60,000
- WSDOT request: \$48,000

5) **Expansion of existing deviated route service for general public, disadvantaged populations, tourists and hikers.**

The Gorge West End transit will operate a seasonal weekend transit from April to September. The transit service will connect C-TRAN riders to West Gorge Communities to the trailheads throughout the Gorge.

- Total project cost: \$88,000
- WSDOT request: \$70,400

Klickitat County Senior Services/Mt. Adams Transportation

1) Continue to provide Klickitat County with existing dial-a-ride service

Provide operating assistance to sustain a dial-a-ride service throughout Klickitat County that operates Monday – Friday (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) with weekend service provided for critical essential medical related trips. Additionally fixed route deviation service operates 4 times/day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

- Total project cost: \$1,810,050
- WSDOT request: \$880,050

2) Mt. Adams Express Expansion Fixed Route Service

Expand existing transportation services by adding (2) two transportation shuttles with fixed route transit service. Each shuttle will connect with another area transit center so passengers can connect to additional destinations. This will improve connectivity between counties in the Columbia Gorge Region in WA and OR and regional population centers and reduce rural inaccessibility.

- Total project cost: \$400,000
- WSDOT request: \$310,000

3) Replacement vehicles for dial-a-ride service

These capital funds will be used to replace vehicles in the current fleet that provide the dial-a-ride service for Klickitat County. The request is to replace (2) light duty cutaways and (3) minivans. All five vehicles have exceeded useful life in years and miles and are necessary to continue to provide essential transportation services in Klickitat County.

- Total project cost: \$240,103
- WSDOT request: \$192,083

4) Purchase (2) two ADA accessible light duty cutaway vehicles for new fixed route service

Expand existing transportation services by adding (2) two transportation shuttles with fixed route transit service. Each shuttle will connect with another area transit center so passengers can connect to additional destinations. This will improve connectivity between counties in the Columbia Gorge Region in WA and OR and regional population centers and reduce rural inaccessibility.

- Total project cost: \$123,626
- WSDOT request: \$98,901

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD)

1) Gorge TransLink Alliance Mobility Manager

This request will provide funding assistance to sustain the Gorge Translink Mobility Management project in Skamania and Klickitat counties in Washington and Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties in Oregon to enhance transportation opportunities for the elderly, persons with disabilities and other special needs populations by collaborating, planning, coordinating with rural transportation providers in the Mid-Columbia River Gorge region.

- Total project cost: \$175,000
- WSDOT request: \$65,000

Human Services Council

1) Employment Transportation Program

Provide operating assistance to sustain the Employment Transportation & Bike to Work Services for low-income and at-risk populations in Clark County. This vital program supports the targeted populations to gain access to employment, job searches, job interviews, childcare, job related training and other activities related to employment, with the goal of self-sufficiency.

- Total project cost: \$547,060
- WSDOT request: \$465,000

2) Reserve-A-Ride Program

Provide operating assistance to sustain HSC's Reserve-A-Ride Transportation program to provide transportation for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities and those who do not have transportation resources to access medical care and other basic services. The program prioritizes transportation to life-sustaining medical appointments, other medical appointments, pharmacy pick-ups, nutrition sites, group shopping trips and other trips to support basic needs and allow individuals to live independently.

- Total project cost: \$382,950
- WSDOT request: \$325,500