

# Human Services Transportation Plan 2022 Update



## Human Services Transportation Plan Background

Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is working with community stakeholders on a 2022 update to the *Human Services Transportation Plan for the Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat county region*. The intent of the federally-required Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) is to identify the special transportation needs of people with disabilities, low income, the young and elderly, and those in rural locations who cannot provide transportation for themselves.

A regional HSTP was first required by the 2005 federal transportation act, SAFETEA-LU, with the intent of identifying transportation gaps and solutions, and thereby improving transportation services for people with special transportation needs. The region's first HSTP for Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat Counties was adopted in January 2007 and subsequent updates adopted in 2010, 2014, and 2018. A draft for the 2022 HSTP update should be available in late summer with final adoption by the RTC Board of Directors in the fall.

The HSTP can help to ensure communities coordinate transportation resources provided through multiple federal and state programs. A coordinated plan can help to enhance transportation access, minimize duplication of services, and encourage the most cost-effective transportation solutions. Development of the HSTP brings together service providers, agencies that distribute funds, service users, and the community at-large to improve special needs transportation in the region.

## HSTP and Funding Programs

The region must have a Human Services Transportation Plan in place before transportation and non-profit agencies can apply for funding through Washington State Department of Transportation's statewide competitive Consolidated Public Transportation Grant program. Applicants for the grant program are required to participate in the HSTP planning process led by the local Metropolitan Planning Organization/ Regional Transportation Planning Organization. Southwest

Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) serves as the MPO/RTPO for the 3-county region of Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat. Development of the HSTP is coordinated through stakeholder groups in each county and through the Accessible Transportation Coalition Initiative, Klickitat County Transportation Policy Committee, the Skamania County Transportation Policy Committee, the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee in Clark County and the RTC Board of Directors.

From the needs identified in the HSTP process, human services transportation providers work



with the RTC to develop projects and to prioritize these projects before submitting applications to WSDOT. WSDOT's consolidated program combines applications for both state and federal public transportation grants to support public transportation programs. These grant programs include:

- Federal Transit Administration:
  - FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
  - FTA Section 5311 Rural
- State Rural Mobility Competitive
- State Paratransit / Special Needs Competitive for non-profit agencies.

## The Current HSTP Report

Plans for each of the three counties are incorporated into the HSTP for Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat Counties. The current HSTP report was adopted by the RTC Board of Directors in November 2018 and is available on RTC's website at [www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/hstp](http://www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/hstp).

### Project Priorities

Following identification of transportation needs in the HSTP, service providers define projects to meet transportation needs. The state's grant process requires each region to prioritize their projects with the top-ranked projects gaining points toward the statewide project evaluation. Priority projects from this region have included the Human Services Council's Reserve-a-Ride and Employment

Transportation programs, the bi-state Gorge TransLink Mobility Management, dial-a-ride services in Klickitat and Skamania, Skamania County service to and from Fisher's Landing Transit Center in east Vancouver, new dispatching software, and purchase of new vehicles to provide transportation services.

## 2022 HSTP Update Underway

In 2022, the Human Services Transportation Plan for Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties is in the process of being updated. RTC is working with stakeholders to prepare the HSTP update for the three-county region.

### Human Services Transportation Plan: Outline

The 2022 HSTP update for the three counties in the region will include the following elements in order to meet state and federal requirements:

- Community and Stakeholders: coordination and outreach to understand special transportation needs
- Data and Information: locate people with special transportation needs, their common trip origins and destinations, emergency management planning and existing transportation services available
- COVID: describe impacts and lasting changes
- Identify Unmet Transportation Needs:
- Develop Strategies to Meet Public Transportation Needs: coordinate and identify community project priorities.

### **For More Information and Public Participation**

*You can get more information on the 2022 update to the Human Services Transportation Plan or influence the Plan's update by submitting comments on special needs transportation services by contacting the Regional Transportation Council.*

Phone: 564-397-6067; E-mail: [Info@rtc.wa.gov](mailto:Info@rtc.wa.gov) or

Visit RTC's website <http://www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/hstp/update> to access a public comment form