



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director
DATE: November 27, 2012
SUBJECT: **Human Services Transportation Plan, 2013-2015 WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant Applications: RTC Project Ranking, Resolution 12-12-21**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

The RTC Board is being asked to take action to prioritize special needs public transportation projects from RTC's three-county Regional Transportation Planning Organization region. The projects are seeking funding through the statewide competitive 2013-2015 WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant process.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Resolution is to provide information on the process and projects, and to seek RTC Board action to prioritize special needs public transportation projects from RTC's three-county Regional Transportation Planning Organization. The Board's action will allow the ranked projects to be submitted to WSDOT for funding consideration through the 2013-2015 statewide competitive Consolidated Public Transportation Grant program.

At the November RTC Board meeting, RTC staff provided a memorandum that provided an overview of the 2013-2015 WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant program. Local agencies have been developing grant proposals. On November 15, regional stakeholders and prospective grant applicants met to rank project proposals to be submitted for statewide funding consideration. The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) reviewed project rankings and has recommended RTC Board adoption. Following RTC Board approval, applicants will submit applications to WSDOT by the December 10 grant deadline.

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMS

Through this consolidated program, WSDOT distributes a variety of state and federal grants to support public transportation programs. MAP-21 results in some changes for public transportation and human services transportation funding. The following provides a summary of the 2013-2015 programs:

- Federal Transit Administration:
 - Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (combines section 5310 and SAFETEA-LU's 5317 New Freedom programs)
 - Section 5311 Rural
- State Rural Mobility Competitive
- State Paratransit/Special Needs Competitive for non-profit agencies.

WSDOT provides further details of the 2013-2015 Public Transportation Consolidated Grant funding program and guidance for applicants on its website.

RTC'S ROLE IN THE CONSOLIDATED GRANT PROCESS

RTC has a role in the Public Transportation Consolidated Grant process because project applicants are required to participate in the planning process with the local MPO/RTPO. RTC is required to evaluate and rank project proposals. Also, projects must come from the needs and strategies identified in a regionally coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) before being submitted to WSDOT. The RTC Board adopted the existing Public Human Services Transportation Plan in December 2010. The Plan is available on RTC's website at: <http://www.rtc.wa.gov/reports/index.htm#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 existing HSTP.

PROJECT EVALUATION AND RANKING

As part of the WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant process, regions are to evaluate and rank projects prior to submittal to the state. On November 15, a group of stakeholders from Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties met to help RTC with project evaluation and ranking. The projects were evaluated using criteria that reflect the WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program goals:

- Address Deficiencies – encourage communities to identify and address deficiencies in paratransit/special needs or rural public transportation.
- Provide a Community Benefit – Assist local areas in determining community benefits and support for paratransit/special needs or rural public transportation.
- Preservation or Enhancement – Provide funding to preserve or enhance paratransit/special needs or rural public transportation where there is a demonstrated need and measureable benefit.
- Community Connections – Support a sustainable network of transportation services within and between communities.
- Financial Partnerships – Establish opportunities for collaboration among local jurisdictions, regional organizations, private sector agencies, state and federal governments, and tribal governments. Ensure stakeholders have a voice in project development. Encourage appropriate cost sharing on projects.
- Support Coordination – Local organizations are required to coordinate services with other transportation providers in their area, as well as other organizations potentially able to use or purchase the services.

In evaluating projects, participants also placed a high value on maintaining existing service.

Regions assign letter grades to each of the projects. All projects coming from a region are ranked either A, B, C, or D. The number of allotted letter grades for each region is determined

by its population, population density, rural population and numbers and percentages of those under 18 years, over 65, disabilities, living in poverty and veterans. Based on these demographics, the RTC region, which includes Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties, is able to submit 6 As, 5 Bs, 5 Cs and unlimited D graded projects. In the statewide competitive process, the region’s ranking counts for additional percentile points as follows:

- A** = top 6 projects (50 percentile points)
- B** = second 5 projects (25 percentile points)
- C** = third 5 projects (12 percentile points)
- D** = remaining projects (0 percentile points)

In total, eleven projects were submitted to RTC for evaluation from the three-county region. These include four projects from the Human Services Council based in Clark County, three projects from Klickitat County Senior Services, and four projects from Skamania County Senior Services. At the November 15 meeting, stakeholders determined that all projects meet an identified need in the Human Services Transportation Plan (December 2010) and recommended ranking of the eleven projects. Please note that projects are not prioritized within each category of letter ranking. All eleven projects are outlined below to enable RTC Board members to gain a full understanding of the project proposals from this region.

A. Employment Transportation (Human Services Council)

The Employment Transportation project for Clark County is an existing service that provides transportation services to assist low-income individuals in Clark County to get to work and work-related activities such as training and job interviews. Transportation is provided through bus passes, door-to-door/group trips and through the Bike-to-Work component of this project. The Human Services Council (HSC) partners with a large number of community based social service agencies to screen applicants, assess transportation needs, and adjust services as needed during the grant cycle. From July 2011 – June 2012, Employment Transportation project provided almost 136,000 employment related trips.

Total Project Cost: \$548,000 Grant Request: \$500,000 Match: \$48,000 In-kind

A. Reserve-A-Ride/Clark County (Human Services Council)

The Reserve-A-Ride/Clark County project is an existing dial-a-ride service that supports transportation for seniors, disabled and low-income residents of Clark County who do not qualify for Medicaid medical transportation to get to life-sustaining medical appointments such as dialysis and cancer treatments. Medical trips are the top priority for this project and as funding allows other trips for shopping, nutrition sites, senior group trips, etc. may be provided to support people to live independently in their homes. This project will also work to develop a partnership with the Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) through the 7/70 project to assist seniors living at VHA housing and other senior living complexes to provide group trips to get seniors to nutrition sites, recreational activities at the local senior center and shopping trips 1 or 2 times each week.

Total Project Cost: \$337,838 Grant Request: \$321,750 Match: \$16,088 In-kind

A. Gorge TransLink Alliance Mobility Management (Human Services Council)

The Gorge TransLink Alliance is a coalition of providers in the Mid-Columbia region, encompassing Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington and Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties in Oregon. The Gorge TransLink Mobility Management project is a direct result of ongoing collaboration between rural transportation providers in the Mid-Columbia River Gorge region; an effort to further seek ways to provide communities with better access to jobs, medical attention, and other aspects crucial to quality of life. As the project moves into this new scope of work, the Mobility Manager would further support identification of strategies enabling coordination of services between multiple transportation providers, such as establishing protocols related to a common fare structure and shared training opportunities, provide planning assistance, conduct regional marketing and events to convey services to the non-English speaking community in the region, support the regional scheduling software implementation process, promote commute options programs to employers in the region, administer ridesharing networks, and pursue resource needs to benefit Gorge TransLink providers and the regional public transportation system. Human Services Council will contract with Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) for regional mobility management services.

Total Project Cost: \$87,000 WSDOT Grant Request: \$76,270 Match: \$10,730
(\$7,715 cash + \$3,015 in-kind)

Additionally, MCEDD is submitting an ODOT grant request to support this overall project:

Total ODOT Cost: \$100,300 ODOT Grant Request: \$90,000 Match: \$10,300
(\$9,285 cash + \$1,015 in-kind)

A. Continue To Provide Klickitat County With Existing Dial-A-Ride And Route Deviated Services. (Klickitat County Senior Services)

The project proposes to continue to operate existing Dial-a-Ride and Route Deviated services. The service provides Dial-a-Ride service Monday - Friday between 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM, with extensions made for some critical services such as kidney dialysis, early appointments in regional medical centers, and evening group therapy sessions. Route deviated service is provided 3 times daily between White Salmon and Hood River. Volunteer drivers also play an important role within the system. A total of about 24,000 trips are provided annually, with an average length of 20 miles.

Total Project Cost: \$1,862,136 Grant Request: \$ 931,068 Match: \$931,068

A. Maintain Dial A Ride Program For Skamania County (Skamania County Senior Services)

The dial a ride (demand response) program is a lifeline, a transportation safety net for those who are unable to transport themselves including seniors, people with disabilities, and low income persons.

Total Project Cost: \$603,000 Grant Request: \$301,500 Match: \$301,500

A. Maintain The Existing Route Deviated Service Between Skamania County And The Fisher's Landing Transit Center (Skamania County Senior Services)

The transit bus provides transportation from Skamania County to medical facilities, educational programs and essential services in Clark County for those without reliable or accessible transportation. The transit bus also reduces the number of cars on the road.

Total Project Cost: \$295,650 Grant Request: \$236,520 Match: \$59,130

B. Community Mobility Solutions (Human Service Council)

The Community Mobility Solutions project would support HSC in hiring a Mobility Manager to focus on better coordination of special needs transportation resources and mobility solutions for Clark County. This project would support development of transportation responses in responding to local disasters, veteran's transportation, community car/van-pooling, and the activities of the Accessible Transportation Coalition and Clark County Aging Commission supporting the development of mobility options for our community. Additionally, this project would allow the sharing of information and resources to the targeted populations. The Community Mobility Solutions project will rely heavily on partnerships with transit, government, community and social service partners, for-profit agencies, human services transportation providers and others to develop better coordination of existing transportation resources as well as create and launch new mobility opportunities through the community.

Total Project Cost: \$112,000 Grant Request: \$100,000 Match: \$12,000 In-kind

B. Replace Two Aging ADA Minivans (Klickitat County Senior Services)

Replace two aging ADA minivans. The new minivans will provide more cost effective services when travelling to serve clients in more remote areas of Klickitat County that require wheelchair transport. This request allows greater capacity to serve disabled clients in the more remote areas of Klickitat County and provide trips to distant medical destinations for specialists that are not available in the immediate area.

Total Project Cost: \$94,000 Grant Request: \$75,200 Match: \$18,800

B. Purchase Of Computer Dispatching Software (Klickitat County Senior Services)

Replace existing computer dispatching software and data systems as current system does not meet current needs. Klickitat County Senior Services is working with Ride Connection and their Ride Pilot Software that will provide a web based and integrated software system that can integrate with other "off the shelf" larger systems.

Total Project Cost: \$25,000 Grant Request: \$20,000 Local Match: \$5,000

B. Capital Project To Replace Two Mini-Vans (Skamania County Senior Services)

The vans to be replaced have 198,000 and 203,000 miles and are still in service. These vehicles have an increased need for maintenance and are often out of service.

Total Project Cost: \$95,740

Grant Request: \$76,592

Local Match: \$19,148

B. Capital Project-ITS Software And Hardware For The Transit Bus And Transit Vans (Skamania County Senior Services)

The vans and busses for dial a ride and transit do not have any technology or safety features. The project will increase efficiency and safety for the transportation system. The software will interface with the other Columbia Gorge Counties.

Total Project Cost: \$57,000

Grant Request: \$45,600

Local Match: \$11,400

POLICY IMPLICATION

RTC Board action will allow the projects to be forwarded to WSDOT for statewide competitive funding consideration.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Adoption of the ranking of projects to be submitted for WSDOT Consolidated Public Transportation funding has no impact on RTC’s budget. However, action on the resolution will likely result in state and federal funding for needed special needs public transportation projects within the RTPO three county region.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of Resolution 12-12-21 “Human Services Transportation Plan, 2013-2015 WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant Applications: RTC Project Ranking.”

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2012,
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Marc Boldt
Chair of the Board

Dean Lookingbill
Transportation Director