



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director 
DATE: December 28, 2016
SUBJECT: **Human Services Transportation Plan: 2017-2019 WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program, RTC Project Rankings, Resolution 01-17-01**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

The RTC Board is being asked to take action to rank special needs public transportation projects from RTC's three-county Regional Transportation Planning Organization region. The projects are seeking funding through the statewide competitive 2017-2019 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 rank special needs public transportation projects from RTC's three-county Regional Transportation Planning Organization. The Board's action will allow RTC's ranking decision to be submitted to WSDOT to help inform the project funding decision for project applications seeking funding through the 2017-2019 statewide competitive Consolidated Public Transportation Grant program.

At the December RTC Board meeting, a memorandum and brief RTC staff presentation provided an overview of the 2017-2019 WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant program and applications from this region developed by local agencies were outlined. On December 14, grant applicants and regional stakeholders met to agree on a recommendation to the RTC Board regarding ranking of the projects submitted for statewide funding consideration. Following RTC Board approval, RTC will forward the region's decision to WSDOT.

CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT FUNDING PROGRAM

Through this consolidated program, WSDOT distributes a variety of state and federal grants to support public transportation programs. The following provides a summary of the 2017-2019 programs:

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

WSDOT provides further details of the 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 November 2014. The Plan 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 need is identified in the existing HSTP.

REGIONAL EVALUATION AND RANKING

As part of the WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant process, regions are to evaluate and rank projects and submit results to the state. On December 14, a group of stakeholders from Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties as well as Mid-Columbia Economic Development District met to help RTC with project evaluation and ranking. Projects were evaluated using criteria that reflect the WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program goals, with the highest priority given to maintaining existing service. The evaluation criteria are listed below:

- 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 local jurisdictions, regional organization, private sector agencies, state and federal governments, and tribal governments in Washington to work collaboratively. 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 placed the highest value on maintaining existing service.

As part of the WSDOT Public Transportation Consolidated Grant process, regions are to evaluate and rank projects submitted to the state. All projects are 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, is 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. In the statewide competitive process, the region's ranking counts for additional bonus points with A ranked projects awarded 50 bonus percentile points and B ranked projects awarded 25 percentile bonus points.

PROJECT RANKINGS

In total, twelve projects were submitted to RTC for evaluation from the three-county region and Mid-Columbia Economic Development District based in The Dalles, Oregon. These include four projects from Skamania County Senior Services, three projects from Klickitat County Senior Services, one project from Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD) and two projects from the Human Services Council based in Clark County. At the December 14 meeting, stakeholders determined that all projects meet an identified need in the Human Services Transportation Plan (December 2010) and recommended ranking of the twelve projects. Please note that projects are not prioritized within each category of letter ranking. All twelve projects are outlined below:

A-RANKED PROJECTS

A. **Maintain the Existing Dial a Ride for the General Public and Disadvantaged Populations** (Skamania County Senior Services)

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

Grant Request: \$275,000

A. **Maintain The Existing Deviated Fixed Route Service for the General Public and Disadvantaged Populations** (Skamania County Senior Services)

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

Total Project Cost: \$251,400

Grant Request: \$188,550

A. **Continue To Provide Klickitat County With Existing Dial-A-Ride Service** (Klickitat County Senior Services)

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

Grant Request: \$880,050

A. Reserve-A-Ride Program (Human Services Council)

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

Grant Request: \$325,500

A. Employment Transportation Program (Human Services Council)

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

Grant Request: \$465,000

A. Gorge TransLink Alliance Mobility Management (Mid-Columbia Economic Development District)

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 Grant Request: \$65,000

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

B-RANKED PROJECTS**B. Replacement of Transit Fleet to Maintain Existing Service** (Skamania County Senior Services)

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: \$180,000

Grant Request: \$144,000

B. Information Technology Architecture Project (Skamania County Senior Services)

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

Grant Request: \$48,000

B. Expansion of Existing Deviated Route Service for General Public, Disadvantaged Populations, Tourists and Hikers (Skamania County Senior Services)

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

Grant Request: \$70,400

B. Mt. Adams Express Expansion Fixed Route Service (Klickitat County Senior Services)

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

Grant Request: \$310,000

B. Replacement Vehicles for Dial-a-Ride Service (Klickitat County Senior Services)

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

Grant Request: \$192,083

B. Purchase (2) Two ADA Accessible Light Duty Cutaway Vehicles for New Fixed Route Service (Klickitat County Senior Services)

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

Grant Request: \$98,901

POLICY IMPLICATION

RTC Board action will allow the region's ranking of projects to be forwarded to WSDOT to be used as in the statewide competitive funding process.

The RTC Board reviewed the preliminary staff report, including a list of the eligible projects (unranked), at the December 2016 Board meeting.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Adoption of the ranking of projects 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 special needs public transportation projects within the RTPO three county region.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of Resolution 01-17-01, “Human Services Transportation Plan: 2017-2019 WSDOT Consolidated Grant Program, RTC Project Rankings”

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2017,
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Jeanne E. Stewart
Chair of the Board

Matt Ransom
Executive Director