

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION
HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST FORM**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009

This form must be filled out in its entirety. It must be accompanied by at least one letter of support from a state, regional, or local governmental official specifically supporting the project request. This letter should discuss the merits of the project; specify the process to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the project; and identify the other sources of Federal, state, or private funding that will be used to complete this project or project phase. This letter must contain an explicit statement of support for the project. In addition, if you are requesting less than 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity, the letter must identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources that, combined with this request, equal at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost. Please use **boldface font** to highlight these statements in the letter.

The deadline to submit this form and the support letter is Friday, April 24, 2009. No exceptions. Please submit this form along with any supplementary materials to David Skillman via email at David.Skillman@hqs.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David at

Form instructions: This form contains drop-down menus to answer some questions. To access the drop-down menu, run your cursor over "Select One" or "Select One if Applicable" and click your mouse. A drop-down menu will appear and you can select the appropriate answer. Additionally, written answers should be typed in the gray boxes provided.

1. Project Title:

Central East High Capacity Transit (HCT) Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis

2. Organization (project sponsor) Name and Address: (if state or local entity, please identify specific department requesting funding)

Tri-County Metropolitan Transit District (TriMet)
Capital Projects
710 NE Holladay St.
Portland, OR 97232

3. Primary contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number, and e-mail:

Neil M. [redacted]
Teleph[redacted]
Fax: 5[redacted]
lortsk[redacted]

4. Project location address (if different from organization):

Central Eastside of the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area, from Portland Center City to Gresham Regional Center

5. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?

The project will provide additional east-west, high capacity transit service to people living and/or working on the Central Eastside of the Portland metro area. The project will consider corridor alternatives for high capacity transit, serving areas south of the existing light rail line (Blue Line MAX) and north of the Clackamas Regional Center.

This project will allow the region to forego additional investments in highways, and provides local living-wage jobs during the construction phase. Station areas become preferred locations for commercial and retail development.

6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes

If Yes, this project is priority 7 of 12 total requests for your organization.

(For example, priority 1 of 3 requests or priority 3 of 3 requests.)

7. Are you requesting funds from other Members of Congress? No

If Yes, which Members?

8. Please select which type of eligible project under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the U.S. Code for which you are requesting funding. (Note: The Committee will not accept requests for non-surface transportation projects, such as transportation museums, horse trails, or historic battlefields, as part of the High Priority Projects program.)

Highway Project (Title 23)

Type: Not a Highway Project

Located on a Federal-aid highway? Select One

Located on the National Highway System? Select One

Located on the Interstate System? Select One

Public Transit Project (Chapter 53 of Title 49)

Indicate Type with an 'X':

Passenger Vehicles

Transit Bus or Van

Transit Rail Car or Locomotive, including Streetcars

Transit Ferry

Transit Facilities

Vehicle Maintenance or Administration Facility

Passenger Facility, including Intermodal Facilities, stations, and terminals

Transit Rights-of-Way

Property Acquisition Corridor Development

Rail Track Construction or Maintenance

Bus-only Lane Construction or Maintenance

Transit Equipment

Vehicle-related Equipment System-related Equipment

New Start Project (A New Start project is a major new fixed guideway capital project seeking more than \$75 million in Federal funds.)

Small Start Project (A Small Start project is a new fixed guideway capital project seeking less than \$75 million in Federal funds and with a total estimated net capital cost of less than \$250 million.)

Rail

Intercity Passenger Rail (Not commuter rail. Commuter rail should be requested under public transit)

Is the project located within a corridor previously designated by the Secretary of Transportation pursuant to section 104(d)(2) of Title 23, United States Code, or the Northeast Corridor? Select One

If Yes, which Corridor: Select One

Freight Rail
Select Rail Class

Research

University Transportation Center
 Other

9. Did the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, State Department of Transportation, or public transit agency confirm that the project is eligible under Title 23 (Highways) or Chapter 53 of Title 49 (Public Transit) of the United States Code? Yes

If Yes, which entity confirmed the project eligibility?

FHWA, FTA, State DOT, or Public Transit Agency:

Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District - public transit

agency

Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):

Neil McFarlane, Executive Director, Capital Programs. 50

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According to the entity, is the project eligible under Title 23, Title 49, or both:
Title 49

10. Please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity that is an eligible recipient of the funds. Please include an address. (For example, a State Department of Transportation, public transit agency, Metropolitan Planning Organization, local government, or Federally-recognized tribe.) Note: If a project is a multi-state project, please identify the state, regional, or local governmental entity which will serve as the lead agency for the project.

Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District, 4012 SE 17th Ave., Portland, OR 97202

11. Please identify and describe the specific segment or activity for which project funding is requested. (The request must finance at least 80 percent of the total estimated cost of the specific segment or activity by either (1) the amount requested; or (2) the amount requested in addition to other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding sources.)

Project Description: (Include the specific terminus points of the project or activity, as appropriate.)

We are seeking authorization to conduct an Alternatives Analysis (AA) in anticipation of a future New Starts/Small Starts application. The AA will evaluate east-west transit

alternatives on the Portland metro region's Central Eastside, connecting Portland center city to Gresham Regional Center, and serving areas south of the existing Blue Line MAX light rail and north of Clackamas Regional Center.

Project Activities: (May select more than one.)

- construct plan design engineer
- conduct environmental review
- acquire right-of-way conduct alternatives analysis
- research develop demonstrate deploy
- reconstruct rehabilitate replace retrofit
- install mitigate implement realign

What is the total estimated cost?
No funding sought at this time.

What amount is being requested? N/A

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding?
If the percentage is less than 80% identify other specifically designated Federal, state, local, or private funding that when combined with this request equal at least 80 percent.

Source:
Amount of Funding:

12. If you are requesting funding for a specific segment or activity, please describe the overall project of which this segment/activity is a part.

Project Description: (Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences; up to 500 characters.)

Total Project Estimated cost:

13. Is the project included in the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan? No

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):
Title of the plan:

14. Is the project included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and/or the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)? No

If Yes, please provide the date of approval of the most recent version of the program(s), and the title of the program(s).

Listed in TIP: Select One
Date of approval (MM/YYYY):
Title of the Program:

Listed in STIP: Select One
Date of approval (MM/YYYY):
Title of the Program:

15. If the project is an intercity passenger rail project is it included in the State Rail Plan?

Not Applicable
If Yes, please provide the date on which the Governor approved the most recent version of the plan and the title of the plan.

Date of approval (MM/YYYY):

Title of the plan:

16. Please describe the current status of the project and the expected schedule for its completion.

Federal-aid Highway projects:

Select One if Applicable

Public Transit projects:

In Planning

Rail projects:

Select One if Applicable

Research:

Select One if Applicable

17. What is the expected date of completion of the project for which you are requesting funding (Between FY2010-FY2020)? 2019

18. Does the project have regional or national significance? (A project of regional and/or national significance is typically a high-cost transportation infrastructure facility that often includes multiple levels of government, agencies, modes of transportation, and transportation goals and planning processes that are not easily addressed or funded within existing surface transportation program categories. These projects have national and/or regional benefits, including improving economic productivity by facilitating international trade, relieving congestion, and improving transportation safety by facilitating passenger and freight movement.)

Does the project have regional or national significance? Yes

If Yes, Please describe the regional or national significance of the project. Please limit your response to 3-4 sentences (up to 500 characters):

This project will require regional cooperation and participation by state, local (City of Gresham and City of Portland), county, and regional transportation, land use, and environmental agencies. Benefits include relieving congestion and improving mobility on the region's arterial roadways, improving region-wide air quality, and keeping the region economically competitive, by providing travel options.

19. Describe the safety, economic development, mobility, and environmental benefits associated with completion of the project.

Safety Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

The project will reduce vehicle miles traveled and vehicle hours of delay. TriMet's safety record of approximately 75,000 bus miles per vehicle accident and approximately 357,000 light rail miles per vehicle accident could be expected to continue.

Economic Development Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

This high capacity transit investment will allow Gresham and the City of Portland to focus economic developments around future station areas, not currently served by high capacity transit. This project is consistent with Metro's High Capacity Transit System Plan, expanding the transit network with sensitivity to land use patterns.

Mobility Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)

The project will accommodate expected increased density in population and increased commercial activity by providing safe and reliable transportation choices.

Environmental Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)
The project will provide an attractive alternative to auto travel with the resulting decrease
ub auto traffic reducing non-point originators of water and air pollution.

20. Has the project previously received any Federal funding? No

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for
Users (SAFETEA-LU) (P.L.109-59)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21) (P.L. 105-178)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (NHS Act) (P.L. 104-59)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) (P.L. 102-
240)

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Appropriations act(s)

Public Law Name:

Public Law Number:

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

Other legislation:

Public Law Name:

Public Law Number:

Section:

Project Number:

Amount of Funding:

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated:

21. Has the project received any prior funding from a state, local, or private source? No

Source:

Amount of Funding:

Amount Obligated:

22. Please provide the proposed legislative text (in no more than 250 characters) of the project as you would like it to appear in the bill. Please use action verbs to begin the description (for example, “construct,” “plan,” “design,” “engineer,” “research,” or “rehabilitate”). Please note that project line items carry the force of law, and can only be amended through subsequent public laws. If Congressional intent (as established through answers listed on this form) is different from the legislative text, the entity administering the project is required to adhere to the statutory language.

Authorize a corridor alternatives analysis and selection of a locally preferred alternative for an east-west high capacity transit corridor on the Central Eastside of the Portland metropolitan area, connecting Gresham and Portland.

23. Are you enclosing the letter referenced at the top of this form with the required formatting? Yes

24. Notes or anything else we should know about the project request:

TriMet project rankings

1. TriMet buses
2. South Corridor I -205/Portland Mall Light Rail
3. Portland to Milwaukie Light Rail
4. Portland to Lake Oswego Streetcar
5. Portland to Tigard and Sherwood/ 99W Barbur Blvd Alternatives Analysis
6. West Metro HCT Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis
7. Central East HCT Bus Rapid Transit Alternatives Analysis
8. Prototype DMU
9. College Station TOD
10. Hillsboro to Forest Grove Alternatives Analysis
11. East Metro North South HCT Alternatives Analysis
12. Light Rail to Oregon City Alternatives Analysis

**Please return this form and at least one local or state letter of support
no later than Friday, April 24, 2009 (via email) to:**

@mail.house.gov

**Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: David Skillma
Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, (50**

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