

**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 dskillman@blumenauer.house.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David Skillman at [503-826-0618](tel:503-826-0618).

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:

City of Sandy Transit

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

City of Sandy Transit Department, 16610 Champion Way, Sandy, OR 97055

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

Julie Stephens, Transit Manager, [503-826-0618](tel:503-826-0618), jstephens@sandy.com

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

Same

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 purpose of this project is to replace transit vehicles that have reached their useful life in the provision of public transportation within Sandy and between the city and Gresham and Estacada. In 2006 the service was increased by 17% using the existing fleet; the ridership increased 37% in that year. The current fleet is not adequate for the demand and two larger low-floor buses are needed to maintain the fleet integrity and manage the growth in ridership.

With the economic downturn, local business tax revenues have declined while local transit demand is continuing to increase at the average historic rate of 12% annually. This funding will

help retain 25 transit jobs, create almost 10 manufacturing jobs and support approximately 200,000 work and educational related trips annually. These transit services provide affordable mobility options for seniors, students, employees, low-income families and people with disabilities, offering all a higher functional quality of living.

The vehicle replacements will support many other federal, state and local priorities including a reduction in traffic congestion, preservation of air quality, and delayed necessity of road maintenance and expansion.

6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes
If Yes, this project is priority 2 of 2 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? Yes
If Yes, which Members? Senators Wyden and Merkley (same request)

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: Select One

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:

FTA

Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):

Linda Gerke, Dep. Reg. Administrator Region X

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.

City of Sandy Transit Department, 16610 Champion Way, Sandy, OR 97055

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.)

Transit Vehicle Replacement

Project Activities: (May select more than one.)

construct

plan

design

engineer

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> conduct | <input type="checkbox"/> environmental review | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> acquire right-of-way | <input type="checkbox"/> conduct alternatives analysis | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> research | <input type="checkbox"/> demonstrate | <input type="checkbox"/> deploy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reconstruct | <input type="checkbox"/> develop | <input type="checkbox"/> retrofit | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> install | <input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> replace | <input type="checkbox"/> realign |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> mitigate | <input type="checkbox"/> implement | |

What is the total estimated cost?

\$750,000

What amount is being requested? \$600,000

What percentage of the total estimated cost is the request for Federal funding? 80%

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.)

This request is a complete activity.

Total Project Estimated cost: N/A

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:

Public Transit projects: Select One if Applicable
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)? 2012

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 replaces transit vehicle resources used in relieving congestion along the Mt. Hood Corridor, a freight corridor and a choke point as identified by Oregon Department of Transportation Public Transit Division. Sandy Transit provided over 238,000 trips on that route in 2008.

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).)

Reducing the single occupant vehicle trips on US 26 reduces congestion and improves safety; Sandy Transit services are estimated to reduce over 2,500,000 vehicle miles in FY09.

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

Sandy Transit provides 25 local transit jobs bringing over \$1,000,000 directly into the local economy annually. Over 280,000 trips will be provided in FY09 or more than 35 per capita. An individual can average annual savings of \$8000 each year by taking public transportation vs. driving a car. Businesses benefit from providing fewer parking spaces, less traffic congestion, affordable transportation options for employees and mobility options for patrons.

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

Mobility options are essential for affordable transportation and critical for people with disabilities and frail elderly who are unable to drive. Access to these services help maintain independent living for these populations.

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

Public transportation reduces our dependence on foreign oil and reduces green house gases. Sandy Transit service provided in FY09 is estimated to save 100,796 gallons of

fuel. This savings will grow each year as ridership increases, multiplying the savings by each year of vehicle use.

20. Has the project previously received any Federal funding? Yes

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: FY08 Federal Appropriations City of Sandy Fleet

Replacement

Public Law Number: 15800

Section: 5309

Project Number: OR-04-0004-01

Amount of Funding: \$392,000

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated: \$354,000

Other legislation:

Public Law Name: FY00 & FY01 Federal Appropriations City of Sandy Bus

Public Law Number: 11566 & 12080

Section: 5309

Project Number: OR-03-0081-01

Amount of Funding: \$315,980

Amount of Funding Amount Obligated: \$315,980

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.

Replace City of Sandy Transit Vehicles

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:

Though Sandy is outside any MPO, Metro Regional Government has endorsed this as a project of priority interest to the Portland metropolitan region and requested it be considered for funding through the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. The project was adopted by Resolution No. 09-4016 as a priority transportation project critical to the Portland region. Letter of endorsement attached. The project will be included in the current update to the Sandy Transportation System Plan.

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

David Skillman dskillman@mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: David Skillman, (202) 225-4811
Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, (503) 231-2300