

**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@ov.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David.

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:

East Metro North South High Capacity Transit (HCT) Alternatives Analysis

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

Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (TriMet)
4012 SE 17th Street
Portland, OR 97202

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

Neil McFarlane
Telephone: 503-238-1101
Fax: 503-238-1101
Email: nmcfarlane@trimet.org

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

Eastside of the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area, from Troutdale Town Center to Damascus Town 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 north-south, high capacity transit service to people living and/or working in the eastside of the Portland metro area. The project will consider corridor alternatives for high capacity transit service, potentially connecting Troutdale Town Center, Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham Regional Center, the Springwater Industrial Area, and the Damascus Town Center.

The project will support existing land use patterns and extend the region's integrated transit network, reduce vehicle emissions and the region's dependency on fossil fuels.

6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes
If Yes, this project is priority 11 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? No

If Yes, which entity confirmed the project eligibility?

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

Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District (TriMet)

Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):

Neil McFarland, Executive Director, Capital Program

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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 north-south transit alternatives on the eastside of the Portland metro area, making potential connections between Troutdale Town Center, Mt. Hood Community College, Downtown Gresham, the Springwater Industrial Area, and the Damascus Town Center.

Project Activities: (May select more than one.)

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

What is the total estimated cost?

No funding sought at this time.

What amount is being requested?

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 is regionally significant. It will require regional cooperation and participation by state, local (City of Troutdale, City of Gresham, and City of Damascus), 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 improving connections among the region's economic centers.

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 expects to continue its excellent safety service record for both bus (75,000 miles per vehicle accident) and light rail (375,000 miles per vehicle accident).

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

As population and employment increase in this area, the north-south transportation system will continue to support appropriate land-use patterns in accommodating growth within the urban growth boundary.

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

Downtown Gresham is the eastern terminus of the Portland metropolitan area's light rail system. With extended transportation infrastructure, the neighboring town and regional centers listed above would develop into vibrant walkable and bikeable communities.

Environmental Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)
This high capacity transit project will allow the region to forego significant highway investment and reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

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 a north-south high capacity transit corridor on the eastside of the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area.

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:**

D ian@mail.house.gov

Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: David Skillman
Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, (503) 475-1111

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