

**OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN PETER A. DEFAZIO
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 Allison Dane Camden via email at allison.camden@mail.house.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Allison at (2

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:

Small Town and Rural Public Transportation Vehicle Purchase

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

Oregon Department of Transportation, Public Transit Division
555 13th St NE, Ste 3
Salem, OR 97301

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

Travis R. Federal Affairs Advisor
0892 (cell); 503-986-3432 (fax)
ite.or.us

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

Statewide

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?

High gas prices and an aging population are increasingly leading people in small towns and rural areas to turn to public transportation. However, public transit providers in these areas-including counties, Native American tribes, other local governments, and private agencies-are having a

difficult time keeping up with demand. One significant challenge is that small town and rural transit providers do not have adequate resources to purchase new public transit vehicles or replace those that are past their useful life or are no longer adequate to meet demand. Vehicles are needed both for general public transportation service, as well as for service for seniors and people with disabilities. ODOT's Public Transit Division administers a small town and rural public transportation vehicle purchase program using state and federal funds, but the need to purchase and replace vehicles outpaces the funding available to ODOT.

ODOT conducted a needs assessment of rural transit providers in Oregon in 2008 that compared needs for vehicle replacement over the next five years to keep the fleet within federal replacement standards versus available resources to acquire vehicles. The survey found that small town and rural providers estimate a gap of \$25.5 million to replace 356 vehicles, and \$19 million to purchase 180 vehicles to expand the fleet to meet demand. This equates to a gap of about \$9 million a year.

In order to expand the resources available for small town and rural transit providers, ODOT requests funding on behalf of Oregon's small town and rural transit providers to replace vehicles. These vehicles cost an average of about \$65,000 each, though individual costs vary depending on the type and size of the vehicle.

6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes
If Yes, this project is priority 8 of 8 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? ODOT is requesting funding from all five members of Oregon's congressional delegation, as each district includes transit providers that would be eligible for funding.

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:

Oregon Department of Transportation, Public Transit Division

Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):

Michael Ward, ODOT Public Transit Division Administrator,

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.

Oregon Department of Transportation, Public Transit Division
555 13th St NE, Ste 3
Salem, OR 97301

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.)

ODOT's Public Transit Division will distribute all funding received to small town and rural public transit agencies for vehicle purchases. ODOT estimates that \$8 million would purchase approximately 135 vehicles.

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 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 checked="" 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?

\$10 million

What amount is being requested? \$8 million

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.)

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)? Yes

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: Yes

Date of approval (MM/YYYY): 01/2008

Title of the Program: 2008-2011 Final STIP

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

Select One

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:

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)? Acquisition of all vehicles would be completed in 2015 when the final increment of funding is appropriated.

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? No

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

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).)

Newer vehicles are equipped with up to date safety features for the driver and passengers that may not be present in vehicles currently in use.

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

Improving public transportation service in small towns and rural areas can open up employment opportunities for workers who do not have reliable access to a vehicle. Some of these vehicles could be manufactured in Oregon manufacturing facilities, which would help create jobs.

Mobility Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)
Improved public transportation service in small towns and rural areas would provide additional travel options, particularly for elderly, disabled, and low-income individuals who may not be able to drive.

Environmental Benefits: (Please limit your response to 2-3 sentences; (500 characters).)
Public transportation is a more energy efficient mode of travel than single-occupancy vehicle. Getting more people to use public transportation in small towns and rural areas would help curb emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

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? Yes

Source: FTA 5311 Non-Urbanized Area funds as well as state and local funds are provided for bus purchases in small towns and rural areas on an annual basis.

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.

Acquire Public Transportation Vehicles for Small Towns and Rural Areas

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:

Among the transit providers in Congressman Blumenauer's district that would be eligible for funding under this earmark are the following:

- Clackamas County (for service in Welches)
- Ride Connection
- City of Sandy

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

l.house.gov

**Washington, D.C. Contact for Rep. DeFazio: Allison Dane Camden, (202) 225-9989
Oregon Contact for Rep. DeFazio: Karmen Fore, (541) 465-6732**