

**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 [ds@mail.house.gov](mailto:ds@mail.house.gov). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David Skillman at 503-4811.

**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:**

TriMet Bus Replacement

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

TriMet, 4012 SE 17th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202

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

Claire Pottel, tel, 503,962-6463 fax 503-4811-4811, c.pottel@trimet.org;

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

4012 SE 17th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202

**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 288 aging transit buses (48 a year for six years). This is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because old buses are replaced with buses with modern features, such as:

- Air conditioning
- Automated stop announcement, a commitment to the disability community
- CCTV

- Low Floor Boarding
- Dramatically lower emissions

The manufacture of buses creates jobs in numerous industries—engine and transmission manufacturing, axles/suspension components, aluminum, glass, rubber (tires, flooring, gasket) industries, paint, wiring, textile, seating delivery services, manual publishing, manufacture of A/C, motors, alternators, air system components and controls, fabrication of sub systems and bus, tire rims, fasteners, welding equipment/consumables, manufacturing equipment (robots, metal fabrication, paint booths, tools) and electronics.

**6. Are you requesting Federal funds for more than one project in this bill? Yes**  
**If Yes, this project is priority 1 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? Yes**  
**If Yes, which Members?** Congressman Wu and Congressman Schrader

**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? No  
Located on the National Highway System? No  
Located on the Interstate System? No

**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:

Bus replacement is categorically eligible for FTA funds

Contact information (Name, Position, Phone):

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

**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.**

TriMet, 4012 SE 17th Avenue, 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.)

Replacement of 288 fixed route buses (48 a year for six years) that will be 18 years old at retirement.

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?

\$19.250 million year for six years, \$115.5 million

What amount is being requested? \$15.4 million a year for six years, \$92.4 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? Yes**

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): 09/20/2006

Title of the plan: Oregon Transportation 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: No

Date of approval (MM/YYYY): This project will be included STIP when the appropriation is made.

Title of the Program:

Listed in STIP: No

Date of approval (MM/YYYY): This project will be included STIP when the appropriation is made.

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)?** TriMet will replace buses every year that funds are made available

**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):

TriMet bus service is critical to getting people to work, shopping and medical appointments. By taking cars off the road, TriMet service reduces the region's congestion and improves travel times, improving mobility for auto and freight travel.

**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).)

Public transit is one of the the safest modes of travel.

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

The manufacture of buses creates jobs in numerous industries—engine and transmission manufacturing, axles/suspension components, aluminum, glass, rubber (tires, flooring, gasket) industries, paint, wiring, textile, seating delivery services, manual publishing, manufacture of A/C, motors, alternators, air system components and controls, fabrication of sub systems and bus, tire rims, fasteners, welding equipment/consumables, manufacturing equipment (robots, metal fabrication, paint booths, tools)

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

TriMet bus service is critical to getting people to work, shopping and medical appointments. By taking cars off the road, TriMet service reduces the region's congestion and improves travel times, improving mobility for auto and freight travel

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

The new buses will have dramatically lower emissions than the 18 year old buses they are replacing.

**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.

Replace 288 TriMet buses, 48 buses a year for six years. Federal funds requested are \$15.4 million a year for six years

**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 Bus Replacement
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 Skillman, (202) 225-4811**

**Oregon Contact for Rep. Blumenauer: Sarah Masterson, (503) 231-2300**