



Public Transit

ODOT's Public Transit Division administers state and federal grant programs to help local jurisdictions pay the cost of providing rides to people who either need or choose to use public transit services.

- In 2003, more than \$15 million in federal funds and more than \$9 million in state funds were disbursed to transit programs throughout the state.
- Oregonians took 102.7 million rides in urban transit districts and 2.1 million rides in rural areas in 2002. People with special transportation needs (seniors and people with disabilities) took 3.3 million van or volunteer trips. Total trips provided averaged 24 rides per Oregonian.

Special Needs Transportation

- About \$16 million a year in grants are made to transit providers to address the transportation needs of people unable to drive.
- Through PTD grants made in 2003, local government and nonprofit organizations were able to purchase 132 transit vehicles, increase ridership, and coordinate transportation options throughout the state.

General Public Transit

- About \$6 million a year in grants are provided to finance the cost of delivering bus service to the general public in small cities (those with population less than 50,000), tribal, and other rural areas.
- Oregon's 36 small city and rural grant recipients are among 1,200 across the nation. Of these 1,200 grant recipients, only 12 are tribal governments; one of the 12 is in Oregon. PTD is contacting other tribes to learn what it would take to provide public transportation services.
- In both small and larger cities, PTD is investing resources to help maintain or replace larger buses near the end of their useful lives. This investment will improve safety, comfort, and reliability, making transit use more attractive.

Inter-city Passenger Transportation

- About \$500,000 a year in grant funds are used to fund vehicles, accessibility devices, and bus service connecting people living in communities of 2,500 or more to larger communities and other transportation modes.
- Recent grants have improved access from Pendleton to Portland, Oakridge to Eugene, Salishan to Salem, Canyonville to Klamath Falls, and among Medford, Klamath Falls, and Lakeview.

Transportation Options

- Transportation Options works with regional coordinators, employers, and others to promote carpooling, vanpooling, ridesharing, park-and-ride, and public transit.
- Reducing single-occupancy trips during peak travel periods reduces collisions, emissions, congestion, and commuting costs.
- PTD helps manage grant funds committed by three ODOT Regional Managers to support six regional rideshare programs serving Portland, Salem, Albany/Corvallis, Eugene, Medford, and Bend.
- In the Portland area, government and business have formed Transportation Management Associations.
- The state also constructs park-and-ride lots to make it easier for people to use carpools, vanpools, and public transit.
- PTD is implementing a \$1.5 million, statewide program to encourage people to reduce drive-alone trips.

Statewide Transportation Planning

- PTD does statewide public transportation planning, while developing guidelines and managing grants for the transportation planning efforts of Oregon's six Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Approximately \$400,000 a year is distributed to the six MPOs to assist their work; \$127,000 supports other statewide efforts.