



Public Transit

ODOT's Public Transit Division administers state and federal grant programs to help local jurisdictions provide rides to people that either need or choose to use public transit services.

- In the 2003–2005 biennium, \$26.7 million in federal funds and \$17.6 million in state funds were disbursed to transit programs throughout the state.
- Oregonians took 111.7 million rides in urban transit districts and 5.6 million rides in rural areas in 2005. People with special transportation needs (seniors and people with disabilities) took 3.6 million van or volunteer trips. Total trips provided averaged more than 32 rides per Oregonian.

Special needs transportation

- Transit providers receive about \$16 million per year in grants to address the transportation needs of people unable to drive.
- Through PTD grants made in 2005, local government and nonprofit organizations were able to purchase 148 transit vehicles, increase ridership and coordinate transportation options throughout the state.

ODOT Public Transit staff, in conjunction with external partners Metro, TriMet, Washington County and others, launched the 'Drive Less, Save More' campaign, designed to increase public awareness about transportation choices and reduce single person car trips.

Pam Peck, Metro Regional Travel Options Program manager, Kelly Stoner, PacWest Communications, and Dan Kaempff, ODOT Transportation Options Program manager, discuss the campaign.

General public transit

- About \$8.3 million per year was granted 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 in 2003–2005.
- Oregon's 36 small city and rural grant recipients are among 1,200 across the nation. Of these, only 12 are tribal governments, and one of the 12 is in Oregon. PTD is working with other tribes to learn about opportunities to provide public transportation services.
- In both small and larger cities, PTD invests resources to help maintain or replace larger buses near the end of their useful lives. This investment improves safety, comfort and reliability and makes transit use more attractive.

Intercity passenger transportation

- About \$800,000 per year was used in 2003–2005 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 Medford to Klamath Falls.



Drive less. Save more.



Public Transit (continued)

Transportation Options program

- The Transportation Options program assists regional coordinators, employers and others in promoting ridesharing, bicycling, walking, telework and public transit.
- Reducing single-occupant auto trips reduces collisions, emissions, congestion and commuting costs. Using alternative transportation modes also promotes public health and supports Oregon's land use planning goals.
- PTD manages grants to support six regional rideshare programs serving Portland, Salem, Albany/Corvallis, Eugene, Medford and Central Oregon.
- In the Portland area, government and business have formed Transportation Management Associations to assist employees with using alternative modes.
- The state also constructs park-and-ride lots to make it easier for people to rideshare and use public transit.
- PTD is implementing two educational campaigns, "Drive Less. Save More." and "TravelSmart" to encourage people to reduce drive-alone and single-errand 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, distributing more than \$500,000 to assist efforts statewide.
- To learn more about public transit in Oregon, visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT/PT/index.shtml.