

DATE: May 9, 2011

TO: **Public Transit Advisory Committee**

FROM: Michael Ward
Administrator

SUBJECT: **Public Transit Division Biennial Discretionary Grants**

Submission for PTAC Comment:

PTAC members provide advisory comment to Public Transit Division on program policy and priorities. The division used these policies and priorities to select projects for 2011 - 2013 discretionary projects. There are estimated \$33,472,046 in program funding for the state's "Older Adult's and People with Disabilities", "Jobs Access and Reverse Commute", "New Freedom" and "Transit Planning Program" transit program participants for Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013. Program participants will use the funds to carry out their public transportation activities in accordance with local transportation coordination plans and to meet the requirements of federal and state law. The funding amounts passing through to the public transportation providers are listed in the attachments. Funds are estimates of state and federal funds available and do include a small contingency for changes in project or appropriation amounts.

1. \$28,400,000 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA 5310) and Federal Highway Program Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding for the state's "Older Adult's and People with Disabilities" program participants for Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013. (Attachment A)
2. \$2 million in state Special Transportation Discretionary Grant Funds to the state's Special Transportation Fund (STF) Agencies for Fiscal Year's 2012 and 2013. (Attachment B)
3. \$1,819,298 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA 5316) funding for the state's "Job Access and Reverse Commute" (JARC) program participants for Fiscal Year's 2012 and 2013. (Attachment C)
4. \$1,213,377 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA 5317) funding for the state's "New Freedom" (NF) program participants for Fiscal Year's 2012 and 2013. (Attachment D)
5. \$372,061 in Federal Transit Administration (FTA 5304) funding for the state's Transit Planning Grant Program (TPGP) participants for Fiscal Year's 2012 and 2013. (Attachment E)

Discretionary Grant Programs for Older Adults and People with Disability(OA&PD)

Public Transit Division (PTD) partners with 42 Special Transportation Fund (STF) Agencies to implement a statewide coordinated network of transportation for older adults and people with disabilities. These agencies are the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon, public transit districts where they exist, and county governments where there is no transit district formed. The division applies a formula for distributing the federal 5310 funds and STF Discretionary based on populations within the 42 designated agencies to receive funds directed to this purpose. The formula is derived as follows from the total available funds: A county's total population is 50% of its allocation, older adults' proportion is 25%; and the population of people with disabilities is another 25%. The allocations are published prior to applications being available.

OA&PD Discretionary Grant Funding Sources: ODOT Public Transit Division coordinates funding from several sources to support local transportation services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities:

- The division receives an annual allocation of Federal Transit Administration 5310 funding based on state population. For 2012 and 2013 combined appropriations are anticipated to be \$3,200,000, pending final federal legislation.
- The division receives ODOT FHWA Surface Transportation Program funds for transportation projects to benefit older adults and people with disabilities. The biennial total of \$25.2 million from this source is made of \$10 million initiated by the 1999 legislature for the program to meet growing rural and special transportation capital needs and \$15.2 million through 2009 legislative efforts that begin to address the "tsunami" of growing mobility needs as Oregonian Baby Boomers age. The 2009 legislature requested that 10% percent of ODOT's surface transportation funds be provided for this purpose.
- The division receives state funds for Special Transportation Fund Program from cigarette tax, excess revenues from Photo ID Card sales and non-road gas tax. After subtraction of the state administration, 75% of the funds are allocated by population to the 42 STF Agencies for their use. The remaining 25% form the \$2 million Special Transportation Discretionary Grant Program.

OA&PD Transportation Project Selection Process: The 42 STF Agencies each manage a local public process to solicit for projects and recommend them to ODOT PTD based on local priorities as described in coordinated human service/public transportation plans. ODOT PTD confirms eligibility of applicants and projects and processes the eligible awards. If projects are determined to be ineligible, a brief period of time is allowed for funding a different eligible project. Timing of the process is coordinated with the division's other grant programs available to support older adults and people with disabilities so that maximum local coordination options are possible.

OA&PD Funds Held for Technical Assistance or Projects of Statewide Significance: The division has reserved some FTA 5310 funds to use for program improvements that benefit the statewide system. Plans for this period are the following:

- "Bariatric" vehicle pilot – several transit agencies and DHS have requested information and assistance on procuring specialty vehicles for people with disabilities who need rides that

cannot be served with current fleets due to an individuals weight. People who are obese that use larger mobility devices cannot enter transit vehicles as built today. In requesting information nationally, PTD found no other states had specifications or had procured specialty vehicles that would accommodate larger devices **and** heavier weights than the ADA requirements. ODOT PTD plans to develop specs and find if any vehicle manufacturers are available to build vehicles to meet this growing need.

- TriMet battery test on cutaway buses – TriMet conducted a successful innovation project on larger buses that serve urban fixed route services. PTD is interested in a project that would test these batteries on the smaller “cutaway” vehicles. These vehicles are the size and type used for most public transportation service for older adults and people with disabilities in Oregon, especially in rural areas.
- Provider training, technical assistance, and contracted compliance reviews – The division uses a set-aside of funds for training activities to help providers gain important skills required for efficient, safe and successful operations as well for activities that monitor providers for critical program compliance.
- Contingency - The division holds \$285,165 in 5310 funds, \$210,000 in STF funds in contingency for cost adjustments to the projects, additional local projects if ready, or emergency use.

OA&PD Project Selection Results (Attachments A and B):

The 2012 and 2013 program will fund the following projects for local transportation providers:

- 112 vehicle replacements for 12 agencies;
- 10 vehicle expansions for 10 agencies;
- 39 preventive maintenance projects for 32 agencies;
- 1 facility development project;
- 1 shelter project to purchase and install 5 shelters;
- 11 equipment projects for 8 agencies;
- 4 federal funded and 36 state funded operating projects;
- 40 purchased services projects (contracted service) for 37 agencies;
- 8 mobility management projects that help individuals be able to access to public transportation service

Discretionary Grant Programs for Job Access and Reverse Commute (5316) and New Freedom (5317) Transportation Programs:

ODOT Public Transit Division receives annual allocations of Federal Transit Administration 5316 and 5317 funding based on population-based formulas. For 2012 and 2013, the 5316 combined appropriation is anticipated to be \$1,819,298 pending final federal legislation. The 5317 allocation is

anticipated to be \$1,213,377. JARC program provides funding for transit strategies that assist low income and people with disabilities to access employment or education. The New Freedom program provides funding for transit strategies that expand access for people with disabilities beyond ADA minimum requirements.

Process for JARC and NF Project Selection: Projects are selected using a statewide competitive process. The process timeline is coordinated with the local activities conducted for the Older Adult and People with Disabilities project selection so that projects can be best leveraged to meet community goals. The Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) appoints a subcommittee, who, with PTD staff review and score all applications. Funds are applied to the highest scoring applications.

The 2011-2013 review subcommittee met April 22, 2011 to review the results of the scoring and to make funding recommendations. The subcommittee was comprised of Mary Jo Carpenter of Community Connection of NE Oregon; Roxanne Daniels of Salem Area Mass Transit District; and Public Transit Division staff Jean Palmateer, JARC and New Freedom Program Manager.

JARC Project Selection Results. (Attachment C):

- 13 Operating projects to connect to jobs and education sites
- 2 Mobility Management projects

New Freedom Project Selection Results. (Attachment D):

- 9 mobility management projects
- 5 projects improving sidewalks, ramps, crossings, shelter and benches, facility improvements to provide access
- 6 expanded hours or areas of service

Discretionary Grant Program for Transit Planning Grant Program (5304):

The ODOT Public Transit Division (PTD) Planning Grant Program (TPGP) provides funding for planning projects in areas of under 200,000 population that lead to improved mobility and accessibility for citizens; more livable and economically vital communities; and efficient, coordinated public transportation systems. Projects must show a benefit to rural and small urban service areas. The objective of the TPGP is to help transit providers with technical planning to:

- Expand the system and enhance connectivity to meet future transportation demands;
- Start a new service;
- Enhance the movement of people to spur economic development, growth and job creation.
- Enhance safety and security of the system and the people who use it;
- Remove barriers and enhance accessibility;
- Find transportation solutions that balance and integrate community;
- Enhance the environment;
- Encourage public involvement in transportation decisions.

Process for Transit Planning Grant Program Selection: Planning program grants are selected using a statewide competitive process. For 2011 – 2013 staff completed a technical review of seven projects. Further review was not required as funds were sufficient.

Planning Grant Selection Results (Attachment E): All seven project applications met program objectives and were able to be included within the funds available for the biennial program.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: 2011-2013 ODOT Public Transit Division Awards; Federal FTA 5310 Funds for Older Adults and People with Disabilities Transit Program
- Attachment B: 2011-13 ODOT State Special Transportation Fund Discretionary Funds for Older Adults and People with Disabilities Program
- Attachment C: 2011-2013 ODOT Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) 5316
- Attachment D: 2011-2013 New Freedom (NF) 5317 Federal discretionary Funds
- Attachment E: 2011-2013 ODOT Federal FTA 5304 Transit Planning Grant Program for non urban areas