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TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

PTD 1-2026

CHAPTER 732

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

FILED

01/22/2026 2:38 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Allow STIF discretionary moneys to fund operations projects to sustain existing services

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/15/2026 THROUGH 08/13/2026

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 01/22/2026

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Filed By:
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NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

Transit agencies across Oregon are experiencing increased costs and funding uncertainty. This instability has led and is expected to continue to lead to service reductions. This especially impacts rural communities and populations with special transportation needs. Additionally, there is a risk of disruption to transit connections statewide, further compounding the impacts.

Currently, OAR 732 Division 044 does not permit STIF Discretionary funds to be used to support ongoing operations projects. To address the current funding environment, ODOT requests to amend the purpose of OAR 732-044-0000 to allow funding operations projects to sustain existing public transportation services. This change will provide ODOT greater flexibility to respond to community priorities, helping to preserve services and minimize disruptions.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

This rule requires immediate action to ensure the rule change is in effect prior to the 2027-2028 grant solicitation cycle and Oregon Transportation Commission approval in 2027. Without timely adoption, transit agencies may be forced to implement service cuts and layoffs, impacting transit service continuity across the state.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

None.

AMEND: 732-044-0000

RULE TITLE: Purposes of the Funds

RULE SUMMARY: This rule outlines the purpose of the State Transportation Improvement Fund Discretionary Fund and Intercommunity Discretionary Fund. The changes to this rule allow STIF Discretionary moneys to fund ongoing operations projects submitted for funding for the 2027-2028 grant solicitation cycle to sustain existing services.

RULE TEXT:

(1) The Discretionary Fund is intended to provide a flexible funding source to improve public transportation in Oregon.

It is not a source of ongoing operations funding, except for operations projects to sustain existing services that the Oregon Transportation Commission approves after review of projects submitted for funding for the 2027-2028 grant solicitation cycle.

(2) The Intercommunity Discretionary Fund is for improving connections between communities and between communities and other key destinations important for a connected Statewide Transit Network. As a competitive funding source, ongoing operations Projects are subject to risk of not receiving continuous funding.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 184.619, 184.758, 184.761

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 184.751-184.766