

LINN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO LINN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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Transportation Services for Linn County Residents

February 1, 2019

Applications for Linn County Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Formula Funds are Due by 5:00pm Wednesday February 20, 2019

As previously reported, funding is available from the new ODOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) program to improve or expand public transportation services.

The Legislative Assembly, with the passage of HB 2017 (the 2017 comprehensive transportation funding bill) established a one-tenth of 1% employee payroll tax dedicated to public transportation. 90% of the revenue is allocated, by formula, to counties, transit districts and Native American tribes for allocation to public transportation service providers. 5% is allocated to a statewide competitive discretionary grant program. 4% is allocated to a statewide competitive grant program for intercommunity transportation services. 1% is allocated to ODOT for administration and for technical assistance to rural communities.

The published estimated formula fund allocation to Linn County for the first STIF cycle (two quarters of 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021) is approximately \$4 million. No local match is required for formula funds; but a local match is required for statewide competitive grants.

“Public transportation service providers” (a city, county, special district, Native American tribe, intergovernmental entity or any other political subdivision or municipal or public corporation that provides public transportation services) are eligible to apply for/receive STIF funds. Nonprofit and for-profit transit providers are not eligible. However, eligible applicants may contract with a non-profit or for-profit entity to provide transportation services under an approved grant.

Eligible projects funded through Linn County STIF formula funds will expand or improve public transit services within one or between communities inside and adjacent to Linn County.

HB 2017 and Oregon Administrative Rules place a high priority on transportation projects which serve areas with a high concentration of low-income households. Low-income households are those with an annual income of 200% or less of the current federal poverty limit. The statewide average of low-income households is 34%. 38% of Linn County households are reported by the U.S. Census Bureau to have an annual income of 200% or less of the current federal poverty level.

Other HB 2017 and OAR priorities include improving the frequency and reliability of service connections between communities, fostering coordination to reduce fragmentation of transportation services and projects that expand transit services for students in grades 9 through 12.

The Linn County Board of Commissioners will allocate and help ODOT administer STIF funds with the assistance and recommendations of the Linn County Transportation Advisory Committee (the long-standing TAC meets the OAR requirements of the STIF Advisory Committee).

Applicants for Linn County STIF formula funds must complete an application form and submit it to the Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator by 5:00 Wednesday February 20. Applicants will be requested to make a presentation to the Linn County TAC on March 5. The Committee will evaluate eligible projects and make allocation recommendations to the Linn County Board of Commissioners for its consideration on March 19. Linn County will then develop a potential STIF Plan (application). The STIF Plan will be reviewed by the Linn County TAC which will forward a recommendation regarding the STIF Plan to the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners will thereafter forward the Linn County STIF Plan to the Oregon Department of Transportation for review by ODOT staff and the ODOT Public Transit Advisory Committee before it is submitted for action by the Oregon Transportation Commission.

Copies of the project application packet, and questions about the packet or process may be addressed to Mark Volmert, Linn County Special/Rural Transportation Coordinator, mvolmert@co.linn.or.us, 541-231-8903.

STIF information is also available at ODOT's website

<https://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/RPTD/Pages/Funding-Opportunities.aspx>