



Public Transportation Grants Program

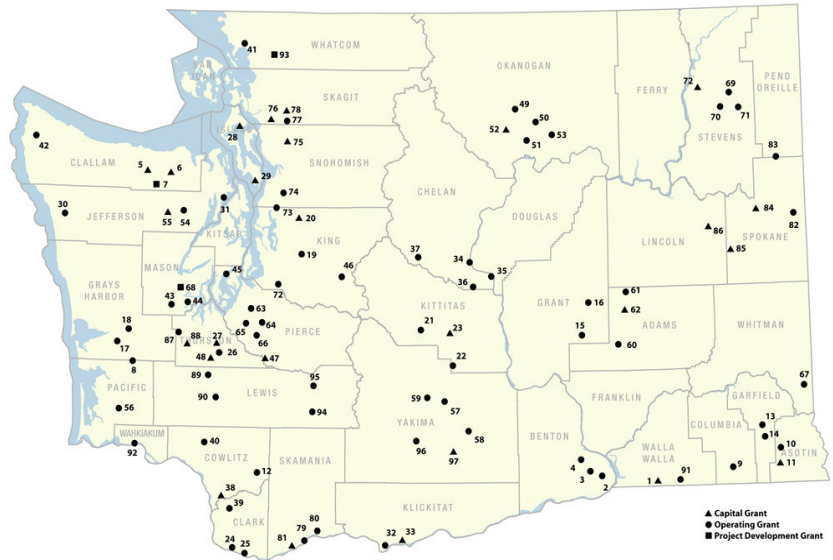
The Washington State Department of Transportation’s (WSDOT) public transportation grants help provide access, mobility, and independence to Washington residents. The 2007 State Transportation Budget continued the commitment to public transportation programs made possible by the 2003 Legislative Transportation Funding Package and the 2005 Transportation Partnership Package. Coupled with federal funds, these grants help to provide:

- Transit services within and between cities
- New buses and equipment
- Public transportation service for the elderly and people with disabilities
- Public transportation in rural areas

Who receives the grants?

Many types of organizations may qualify for public transportation grants including:

- Transit systems
- Non-profit agencies
- Tribal governments
- Senior centers
- State agencies
- Cities and counties
- Special districts such as schools and ports
- Private, for-profit operators



2007-2009 distribution of public transportation competitive grants across the state.

How are the funds put to work?

The 2007–2009 public transportation grants are at work across the state. WSDOT awarded state and federal grants in July 2007, for a record 136 projects through the state’s competitive and formula public transportation grants program. The grant funds are purchasing approximately 145 vehicles and providing transportation for people living in rural areas, people with special transportation needs and the general public in 38 counties.

What is WSDOT's role in managing the grants?

WSDOT’s grants staff are responsible for:

- Managing project selection and funding distribution
- Working with each grantee to finalize project scope, budget, and grant agreements
- Monitoring grantees for performance and compliance with state and federal regulations
- Assisting in vehicle purchases and maintaining a vehicle inventory database
- Providing training and technical assistance to grant recipients in the form of transportation planning, contract management and marketing
- Reporting to the Washington State Legislature and the Federal Transit Administration on performance of state and federally funded projects

What types of grants are awarded?

WSDOT created a consolidated grant application process in 2003 to combine the applications for state and federal public transportation grants. Timelines for all state and federal funding awards were brought in line with the state biennium. This allowed applicants to submit their proposals for all types of grant funding just once every two years instead applying separately for each grant program.

Through the consolidated grant program, WSDOT awarded nearly \$59 million in public transportation grants for July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009 projects statewide. The funding was provided from a combination of state and federal sources.

2007-2009 State Grants

In 2003, the legislature provided the 10-year Legislative Transportation Funding Package that significantly expanded the state's rural mobility grant program and added new Paratransit/Special Needs grants. The Legislature provided an additional \$5 million in Paratransit/Special Needs grants through the 2005 Transportation Partnership Package.

For 2007-2009, WSDOT awarded approximately \$33 million in the competitive process and \$28 million in formal grants.

Rural Mobility Grants - \$16.9 million

Rural mobility grants provide a lifeline for many rural citizens who rely on public transportation to hold jobs and maintain their independence. Through a competitive grant application process, \$8.4 million was awarded to transportation providers. Through formula based grants, \$8.5 million was also provided to rural and small city transit agencies.

Paratransit/Special Needs Grants - \$25 million

Paratransit/Special Needs grants support public transportation for persons who, because of their age, disabilities, or income status, are unable to provide



Helping people get to work and back home

their own transportation. Through a competitive grant application process, \$5.5 million was awarded to non-profit transportation providers. Through formula based grants, another \$19.5 million was awarded to assist transit agencies with maintaining public transportation services for people with special transportation needs.

2007-2009 Federal Grants

WSDOT administers several Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs. For 2007-2009, WSDOT matched state and local funds with FTA funds and administered more than \$21.5 million in federal public transportation grants.

Elderly and People with Disabilities Grant \$2.26 million

This program benefits the elderly and people with disabilities that cannot provide transportation for themselves. FTA allows funding to be used for capital purposes. Recipients are primarily restricted to non-profit organizations.

Rural Public Transportation Grant \$12.7 million

This program provides a lifeline for people in rural areas who need access to health care, education, employment, public services, shopping and recreation. The funds can be used for operating, capital and planning purposes.

Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant \$2.54 million

This program benefits people with low-income by providing transportation to employment or employment related activities. FTA allows funding to be used for operating, capital and planning purposes.

New Freedom Grant \$1.5 million

This program provides additional tools to people with disabilities seeking the ability to enter the work force and other societal activities.

FTA allows funding to be used for operating capital, and planning purposes.



Providing mobility for people with disabilities