



Public Transportation Grants

October 2005

WSDOT's public transportation grants help provide access, mobility, and independence to Washington residents.

Made possible by the 2003 Legislative Transportation Funding Package, the 2005 Transportation Partnership Package, and federal funds, these grants:

- provide transit services within and between cities.
- purchase new buses and other equipment.
- provide public transportation service for the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- improve public transportation in and between rural communities.

**2005-2007 Public Transportation Grant Projects
\$50 Million for Over 100 Projects**



- *Projects funded through WSDOT's 2005-2007 public transportation grants program including competitive and formula-based grants.*

Highlights of 2005-2007 Projects

Here are some examples of projects funded with WSDOT's public transportation grants:

- **Columbia County Public Transportation (CCPT)** uses grant funding to operate basic community public transportation services. CCPT, the newest transportation system in the state, is asking voters to approve a local sales tax to use as match for their federal rural mobility grant.
- **L.E.W.I.S. Mountain Highway Transit** is purchasing two mini-buses and is establishing a new rural fixed route and intercity bus service connecting to Pierce Transit allowing eastern Lewis County riders access to the entire Puget Sound area.
- **Lower Columbia Community Action Council** is replacing a wheelchair accessible van and is operating dial a ride and fixed route services in Thurston, Lewis, Clark, and Cowlitz Counties filling a long existing gap in services.
- **Makah Indian Tribal Council** is purchasing a bus and operating dial a ride and fixed route transportation services on the Makah Reservation with connections to transit services in Clallam County.
- **Northwestern Stagelines** is operating intercity bus service along Hwy 97 between Omak, Wenatchee, and Ellensburg.
- **Olympic Community Action Programs** is operating three vanpools in a JOB LIFT program to help people get to jobs in Clallam and Jefferson Counties. During their commute to work, riders in one vanpool are learning English as a second language.
- **People For People** is purchasing one bus, 13 minibuses, and five minivans and is operating service in Adams, Grant, Lincoln and Yakima Counties with intercity service where Greyhound eliminated stops in September 2004.
- **Skamania County Senior Services** is continuing to operate public transportation service along Hwy 14 serving rural residents in Skamania and east Clark Counties.
- **Senior Services of Seattle/King County** is operating Senior Shuttles with volunteer drivers to provide seniors with local rides to medical appointments, grocery stores, and the hot lunch program at the senior center.
- **Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services Department**, a first time WSDOT grant recipient, is purchasing a minibus and a van and is expanding public transportation service in Wahkiakum County with connections to transit systems in Pacific and Cowlitz Counties.



Who is eligible for public transportation grants?

Many types of organizations may qualify for WSDOT's 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



Tribal governments receiving 2005-2007 grants include Colville Confederated Tribes, Cowlitz Tribe, Makah Indian Council, Squaxin Island Tribe, and the Stillaguamish Tribe.

How are the funds put to work?

As the map on the cover illustrates, the 2005–2007 public transportation grants are at work across the state. WSDOT awarded state and federal grants in July 2005, for a record 100 projects through the state's competitive public transportation grants program. The grant funds are purchasing approximately 111 vehicles and providing transportation for people living in rural areas, people with special transportation needs, and the general public in 38 Washington counties.



Public transportation grants provide seniors with access, mobility, and independence.

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 for each type of grant program.

Through the consolidated grant program, WSDOT awarded over \$50 million in public transportation grants for July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007 projects statewide. The funding was provided from a combination of state and federal sources.

State Grants for 2005-2007

The Washington State Legislature established a rural mobility grant program in 1993 with a \$1.5 million appropriation to WSDOT. Since then, WSDOT has provided state grants to transportation providers serving rural areas.

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 2005-2007, WSDOT awarded approximately \$36 million in state grants for the following programs:



Grant funds allow Okanogan seniors to get around within six small communities.

Rural Mobility Grants — \$11.1 million

Rural mobility grants improve transportation in rural areas where public transportation is limited or does not exist. The 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, \$7.6 million was awarded to transportation providers in areas not served by transit agencies. Through formula based grants, \$3.5 million was also provided to rural and small city transit agencies. WSDOT anticipates awarding another \$3.5 million to transit agencies for the second year of the biennium.

ParaTransit/Special Needs Grants — \$25 million

ParaTransit/special needs grants support public transportation for persons who, because of their age (youth or seniors), disabilities, or income status, are unable to provide or purchase their own transportation. Through a competitive grant application process, \$5.5 million was awarded to non-profit providers of transportation services for the elderly and persons with disabilities. Through formula based grants, another \$19.5 million was awarded to assist transit agencies with providing additional public transportation services for people with special transportation needs.



ParaTransit/special needs grants help transit systems provide additional service for people with disabilities.

Federal Grants for 2005-2007

WSDOT administers several Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant programs. For 2005-2007, WSDOT matched state and local funds with FTA funds and administered approximately \$14.1 million in federal public transportation grants for these programs:

FTA Section 5310—Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Transportation — \$3.3 million

Elderly and persons with disabilities transportation grants were awarded to non-profit agencies serving urban and rural areas. In 2005-2007, approximately \$3.3 million was awarded through the competitive grant process to provide capital purchases, such as vehicles.

FTA Section 5311—Rural Public Transportation — \$7.3 million

Transportation providers competed for federal rural public transportation grants. Approximately \$7.3 million was awarded for capital, operating, and planning activities for public transportation in rural areas.

FTA Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Transportation — \$1.9 million

Approximately \$1.9 million in intercity bus transportation grants were awarded to establish, preserve, and enhance rural and small urban intercity transportation.



Grant funding provides intercity bus service and connects communities.

FTA Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) — \$1.6 million

WSDOT started administering job access grants in 2003 and is managing approximately \$1.6 million in JARC grants during 2005-2007. JARC grants are awarded through a competitive process for employment related transportation. The program recognizes that a lack of transportation prevents low-income people from getting to jobs, education, training, child-care, and other job related activities.

FTA Section 5309 Rural Capital Projects — \$3.9 million

In addition to the consolidated grant program, WSDOT assists rural and small city transit systems with applying for federal funding to purchase buses and for bus facilities in rural areas. For federal fiscal year 2005, 11 transit systems were allocated a total of \$3.9 million. For federal fiscal year 2006, WSDOT submitted a group request for approximately \$4 million. Congress earmarks the funding in the annual Transportation Appropriation.

Managing WSDOT's Grants Takes a Team

Thanks to the Washington State Legislature's investment in the public transportation grant program, WSDOT's Grants Team manages more funds than ever before.

For each two-year grant cycle, WSDOT's Grants Team is involved in planning the program, evaluating applications, writing dozens of contracts, providing training, purchasing vehicles, paying invoices, reviewing progress reports, and assisting grant recipients.



WSDOT's grant team was honored on the Wall of Fame at the 2005 Washington State Public Transportation Conference.

The Team Supports Grant Recipients

During the grant performance period, WSDOT staff help grant recipients understand and comply with state and federal program regulations. The staff provide technical assistance through written materials, training, telephone calls, e-mail, and on-site visits.



WSDOT held 2005-2007 grant management training in SeaTac, Olympia, Spokane, and Yakima.

The Team Manages Group Vehicle Purchases

On behalf of 2005-2007 grant recipients, WSDOT is contracting for 50 minibuses, 9 minivans, and 6 vans through a combined bidding process. By offering a consolidated vehicle procurement program, grant recipients can save from \$3,000 to \$10,000 per vehicle, avoid administrative costs, and ensure compliance with federal and state regulations.



Mason Transit is ordering four minibuses through WSDOT's 2005-2007 consolidated vehicle procurement program.

What is WSDOT's role in managing public transportation grants?

WSDOT's grants staff are responsible for:

- **Managing both state and federal public transportation grants** including 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 through reporting, financial tracking, and site visits.
- **Assisting in vehicle purchases** and maintaining vehicle inventories.
- **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.

When can public transportation providers apply for grants?

WSDOT is no longer accepting grant applications for the 2005-2007 grant cycle. The next opportunity to apply will be in the fall of 2006 for the 2007-2009 grant cycle. To get on the grant announcement list, please contact WSDOT's Public Transportation and Commute Options Office.

Contact Us

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To learn more about WSDOT's public transportation grants:

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