

Analysis
Department of Transportation
Low or No Emission Buses

Analyst: Gregory Jolivette

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application by the Oregon Department of Transportation to the Federal Transit Administration, in the amount of \$6,004,581 for purchase of low or no emission transit buses, associated infrastructure and training.

Analysis: ODOT is applying on behalf of local transit providers, namely the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, the Coos County Area Transit Service District, and the Sunset Empire Transit District. If awarded, the grant will be used to purchase eleven low or no emission transit buses, associated infrastructure, and training. Matching funds of \$966,231 will be provided by the above-mentioned local agencies. The application is due May 14, 2019.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Approve the request.

Oregon Department of Transportation

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Request: The Oregon Department of Transportation, Rail & Public Transit Division requests authorization to apply for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emissions Bus Discretionary Program grant of \$6,004,581.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The national notice of funding opportunity for the Federal Fiscal Year 2019 competitive program was announced on March 18, 2019 for a total amount of \$85 million with a due date of May 14, 2019 for all applications.

The Low or No Emissions Bus Discretionary Program is part of FTA's initiative to support the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient vehicles. States are eligible to apply on behalf of public transit providers including rural and small urban transit districts, cities, counties, and non-profit transit providers.

The Department solicited potential applications from transit providers on whose behalf they may apply. Based on this solicitation, the Department received a number of proposals and intends to apply for \$6,004,581 for the purchase of 11 low or no emission transit buses, the associated infrastructure, and training needed for deployment. Matching funds would be provided by the local agencies on whose behalf the Department is applying.

If awarded, this grant would assist in the electrification of transit in Oregon outside of the large urban areas. The replacement of the traditionally diesel-fueled buses with electric buses would reduce emissions in each of the provider's service areas and would improve air quality impacting community health.

Based on the proposals, the Department identified three areas buses and associated infrastructure would be deployed:

- Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (five Diesel-Electric Hybrid Vehicles and the associated infrastructure and training);
- Coos County Area Transit Service District (five Gas-Electric Hybrid Vehicles); and
- Sunset Empire Transportation District (one Battery Electric Bus and associated infrastructure and training).



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Office of the Director

355 Capitol Street NE MS #11

Salem, OR 97301-3871

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Rail & Public Transit Division, Transit Section, requests permission to apply for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emissions Bus Discretionary Program Grant not to exceed \$6,004,581 (\$5,038,350 in Federal Funds with \$966,231 in local match). Although the application would take place during the 2017-19 biennium, projects, if awarded, would be delivered during the 2019-21 Biennium.

BACKGROUND

The Low or No Emissions Bus Discretionary Program is part of the FTA's initiative to support the transition of the nation's transit fleet to the lowest polluting and most energy efficient vehicles. The national notice of funding opportunity for the federal fiscal year 2019 competitive program was announced on March 18, 2019 for the amount of \$85,000,000. States are eligible to apply on behalf of public transit providers including rural and small urban transit districts, cities, counties, and non-profit transit providers. The grant application is due May 14, 2019.

ODOT solicited potential applications from transit providers on whose behalf we may apply and received a number of proposals. Based on this solicitation, ODOT intends to apply for \$6,004,581 for purchase of eleven low or no emission transit buses and associated infrastructure and training needed for deployment:

- Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (5 Diesel-Electric Hybrid Vehicles and associated infrastructure and training)
- Coos County Area Transit Service District (5 Gas-Electric Hybrid Vehicles)
- Sunset Empire Transportation District (1 Battery Electric Bus and associated infrastructure and training)

Matching funds will be provided by the local agencies on whose behalf ODOT is applying.

This grant would assist in the electrification of transit in Oregon outside of the large urban areas. The replacement of traditionally diesel fueled buses with electric buses would reduce emissions in each of these provider's service areas and improve air quality that impacts community health. Additionally, the replacement of older buses would decrease the proportion of the statewide transit fleet that exceeds useful life by federal standards, an ODOT Key Performance Measure. Decreasing the proportion of the statewide transit fleet that exceeds federal useful life standards will also aid in meeting FTA Transit Asset Management goals for Oregon.

AGENCY ACTION

ODOT is preparing an application for a Low or No Emissions Bus Discretionary Grant Program not to exceed \$6,004,581.

ACTION REQUESTED

ODOT requests approval to submit a grant application to the Federal Transit Administration for up to \$6,004,581 for the Low or No Emissions Bus Discretionary Grant Program.

LEGISLATION AFFECTED

None.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Garrett', is written over the typed name.

Matthew L. Garrett
Director, Oregon Department of Transportation