



# Better transit service for Oregon's Hub City thanks to STIF

## Significant expansion for Albany

With new funding from House Bill 2017 "Keep Oregon Moving" Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Oregon's 11th-largest and 4th-fastest growing city purchased two new buses and hired additional drivers to significantly expand service, improving access to essential services, and convenient connectivity to other destinations for residents and visitors alike.

Highlights include:

- **Better routes** Four full-day routes now link neighborhoods with Albany's main activity centers, better serving low-income and previously underserved areas.
- **More service hours**  
Daily service hours more than doubled, from 22 to 48.
- **More reliability**  
Increased frequency and reduced wait times with improved on-time performance.



## Students, commuters see improved service between OSU and LBCC

The Linn-Benton Loop also benefited from House Bill 2017, with STIF funds directed toward doubling service for Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University students and other commuters between Albany and Corvallis. Recent key service improvements include:

- **New clear, easy-to-understand service routes**  
US 20 Commuter and Heart to Hub Uniter routes were added to an enhanced Campus Connector service driven by commuter and student class times.
- **Bi-directional service** Improved access and convenience, reduced travel times, and eliminated transfers.
- **Increased frequency** More frequent service when demand is highest such as later in the evening.

The Albany Transit System and Linn-Benton Loop fixed route transit services, and Call-A-Ride paratransit service provide an essential, fareless transportation option for over 57,000 people in Oregon's 11th-largest and 4th fastest-growing city, offering coordinated connections to other regional transit partners.

All three services are operated by the City of Albany.

[albanyoregon.gov/bus](http://albanyoregon.gov/bus)  
[taketheloop.com](http://taketheloop.com)



## New (to us) transit facility

Albany has long needed adequate bus storage and operations facilities after outgrowing our “bus barn.” In the Summer of 2023, Albany learned that the local school district had a surplus school bus maintenance and storage facility for sale. We purchased it at a fraction of the cost of a newly constructed facility. While it is older, it was essentially move-in ready and provides the necessary bus parking, maintenance, and washing facilities plus an office, break room, storage, and training spaces. This new (to us) transit facility will support the growing Albany transit systems for many years to come.

*“Repurposing a school bus facility for city transit services was a creative solution and efficient use of limited funds.”*

— Marilyn Smith,  
Albany City Councillor

## Call-A-Ride a lifeline for most vulnerable

This critical paratransit service provides to eligible seniors and people with disabilities, unable to use the fixed-route bus system, curb-to-curb transportation for medical appointments, banking, shopping and other daily essential services. **In 2024, Call-A-Ride was able to purchase a new van with a wheelchair lift utilizing STIF funds.**

## The Loop goes hybrid

In 2023, STIF funds were awarded to Albany to purchase a new 35-foot hybrid diesel/electric bus to replace its oldest bus for expanded Loop service. This will be Albany's first hybrid bus and will support the City's ultimate transition plan for a low/no-emission fleet and associated charging infrastructure.



**Existing funding is not keeping up with the regional transit system needs and there is more work to be done.**

## Additional STIF funds would go directly to:



Constructing additional accessible bus stops along the new routes.



Extending service hours and increasing peak hour frequency, making public transportation a more viable daily option.



Replacing an aging fleet, transitioning to low/no emissions vehicles and infrastructure.