

# Improving Community Outcomes by Maximizing Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds



## LTD's Investment In Safe, Sustainable, and Innovative Mobility Solutions

Lane Transit District (LTD) connects passengers to the people and places most important to them through bus and paratransit services. Beyond fixed-route, paratransit, and bus rapid transit service, LTD facilitates and supports regional mobility solutions in both urban and rural settings, including mobility-on-demand, integrated electronic fare collection, and shared-ride mobility. Through innovation and collaboration, LTD is using its resources to positively impact the community's access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing.

### LTD STIF Project Objectives

- Provide fare assistance to youth and low-income populations.
- Strategically expand services to connect rural and low-income households.
- Support vehicle replacement with sustainable, very low carbon footprint R99 vehicles.
- Connect people to basic needs and social services to maintain and enhance independence.

## Outcomes of Current STIF Investments

Access to safe, affordable, and reliable transportation means access to opportunity and a more connected community. Through STIF investments, LTD is able to operate and support innovative programs that meet the community's needs.

### Access to Opportunity

LTD's RideSource ADA paratransit service provides origin-to-destination transportation for people who are unable to independently ride LTD's bus service due to a disability. In addition to rides scheduled in advance, RideSource offers a weekly group "Shopper Shuttle" for older adults to access grocery stores in a group setting, with additional assistance from a driver. As a result of STIF, LTD replaced and expanded vehicles in the RideSource fleet and plans to double the number of "Shopper" trips.

Through partnerships with service providers, LTD provides critical transportation for Veterans, individuals seeking behavioral health support, and clients of Senior and Disability Services requiring critically important trips for care who have no other transportation options. From routine trips to life-line transportation, LTD maximizes STIF investment to close transportation gaps, expand access for transportation-disadvantaged populations, and support positive health outcomes.

**56,000**

Rides provided by RideSource ADA Paratransit and the "Shopper Shuttle" in FY24.\*

**21**  
**58**  
**3,400**

Rides provided to Veterans.

Rides provided to non-Veterans who did not have access to other transportation.

Behavioral health transportation rides.





For community members who can ride fixed-route buses with some additional education and support, LTD offers Travel Training and Transit Hosts programs. Travel Training helps community members who have never ridden a bus or who need additional training due to a disability to learn to ride public transportation independently, and Transit Hosts help people with disabilities make transfers at Eugene Station.

24

People learned to ride the bus independently with Travel Training in FY24.\*

1,893

People assisted with making transfers with Transit Hosts.



In 2019, LTD launched the Student Transit Pass, made possible through STIF. The pass helps youth and low-income families reduce transportation costs, and introduces public transit habits at an early age.

30,743

The number Lane County (including rural) students eligible for a free bus pass.

13,750

Currently enrolled in the program this school year.

To increase access to public transit for low-income populations, LTD partners with non-profit social service organizations to distribute bus passes at no cost to the recipient. Agencies purchase passes at a significantly reduced rate and distribute to clients to access employment, education, healthcare, and housing.

64,000

Bus passes provided to non-profits for distribution to clients in need in FY24.\*

### Improved Bus Service

The Rhody Express is a fixed-route service operating within the City of Florence. STIF allowed for the purchase of an additional vehicle and for service to expand from one-hour frequency to 30-minute frequency in June 2024.

4,500

Rhody Express rides logged in FY24.\*

To complement fixed-route services in Cottage Grove and Creswell, LTD uses STIF to provide origin-to-destination service options. This service, combined with a mobility-on-demand service called the Cottage Grove Connector, serves the area's concentrated low-income and older adult populations.



831

Rides provided due to service expansions in South Lane County in FY24.\*

10,000

Approximate rides provided by the Cottage Grove Connector.

\*Data from FY24 Q4 is not yet available. These outcomes reflect data from FY24 Q1-Q3.

### Enhanced Intercommunity Connections

The Florence-Yachats Link Lane service connects the rural, coastal communities of Florence and Yachats along Highway 101. The service is a key component of the statewide transportation network, allowing for continual transit availability along Oregon's coastline. Florence sits at the south end of this Link Lane route, offering connectivity to Yachats in the north, and Eugene to the east. The Eugene-Florence Link Lane service operates every day with connections to LTD buses and Amtrak in Eugene.

2,266

Rides provided by the Florence-Yachats Link Lane service in FY24.\*

6,907

Rides provided by the Eugene-Florence Link Lane service in FY24.\*

The Diamond Express intercity transportation service operates between Oakridge and the Eugene/Springfield area. With STIF investment, LTD purchased a new 40-foot Diamond Express bus and expanded service to six days per week, with four trips on weekdays and two trips on Saturdays.

1,338

Additional rides provided with the expanded Diamond Express service.

4,862

Total rides provided in FY24.\*

Together, the Florence-Yachats Link Lane, Eugene-Florence Link Lane, and Diamond Express services connect riders in Eugene, Veneta, Mapleton, Florence, Yachats, Westfir, and Oakridge to expanded opportunities in employment, education, healthcare and housing.

*\*Data from FY24 Q4 is not yet available. These outcomes reflect data from FY24 Q1-Q3.*

### Bright Futures Rely on Strong Transit

Providing fare assistance to youth and low-income populations, connecting rural communities to urban hubs, and closing transportation gaps for vulnerable populations are outcomes made possible through STIF investments. The bright future of our community relies on a strong transportation network with equitable access to employment, education, healthcare, and housing. Continued – and enhanced – investment in mobility solutions and collaboration with service providers can amplify the successful outcomes demonstrated by LTD in current and past STIF cycles.

With increased STIF investment, LTD could implement the following projects to expand and enhance service:

- Expand mobility-on-demand and non-fixed-route service to additional areas with significant mobility needs and concentrated populations of transportation-disadvantaged individuals.
- Develop, pilot, and maintain coordinated mobility options with partners to provide affordable and climate-friendly travel options within Lane County.
- Support cities in meeting statewide Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities regulations by offering mobility options that reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled.
- Collaborate with jurisdictional roadway owners to improve safe and comfortable access to stops and stations through first and last mile projects along the frequent transit network.
- Implement and maintain fixed-route service increases through sustainable funding to meet the needs of current and future riders.

### About LTD

Lane Transit District (LTD) is a special district of the State of Oregon led by a seven-member volunteer board of directors appointed by Oregon's governor. LTD's budget is funded through a combination of fares, taxes paid by local employers and employees, and from state and federal sources. LTD lives its mission to connect our community by delivering more than 5 million annual passenger boardings from 30 fixed bus routes and two EmX Bus Rapid Transit lines. LTD's paratransit service, RideSource, provides more than 250,000 trips annually for people with disabilities and Medicaid recipients.



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