



# Rides to Work, Shopping, Doctors and School

*Shopping shuttles are key to older adults staying in place and taking trips to visit friends or social services.*

*All high school students in The Dalles ride for free to any destination with student ID. Younger children ride for free with a paying adult.*

*Gorge Transit Connect, which started in 2021, is a venue for community organizations to share free transit passes, travel ideas and become travel ambassadors in their communities.*

## Gorge Transit Pass

*Gorge Translink, a bistate alliance of rural transit agencies, makes it easy to go between cities and to Portland & Vancouver.*

The Link Public Transit began in 1997 to provide public transportation services to Wasco County citizens. Originally operated by the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments, The Link Public Transit service operation was taken over by the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District in 2018. Since then, The Link transit service has expanded services by adding two fixed routes, Saturday Dial-a-ride services, shopping shuttles and weekly shuttles serving Maupin, Dufur and Tygh Valley.

**Deviated Fixed Routes:** The Red and Blue Loops serve key destinations in The Dalles, Sixth Street shopping, Columbia Gorge Community College, the Veterans Service Office, Port of The Dalles, medical offices and more. The Dalles Transit Center connects riders to multiple cities and other transportation services. Passengers can request route deviation up to one quarter mile from the fixed route. Deviated Fixed Route Service runs Monday to Friday from 7 am to 7 pm.



**Dial-a-Ride:** The Dial-a-Ride, door-to-door public transportation service operates 6 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday. The Link added Saturday service in 2019, offering trips between 9 am and 4 pm. Dial-A-Ride picks up riders in the The Dalles, Dufur, Mosier, Celilo, the Lone Pine in-lieu site and unincorporated areas.

**Inter-Community Service:** The Link operates an inter-community route between The Dalles, Mosier, The Port of Hood River and the Columbia Area Transit office in Hood River five times daily on weekdays and three times daily on weekends. This route serves commuters and provides direct transfers to the Columbia Gorge Express which takes riders into Portland.

**South County Shuttle:** The Link serves riders in Maupin, Tygh Valley and Dufur every Tuesday by offering rides into The Dalles for shopping and appointments. The cost is between \$3 and \$5 depending on location.

**The Dalles and Hood River Shopping Bus:** The shopping bus offers door-to-door service to grocery stores and shopping centers in The Dalles on Monday and Wednesdays and Hood River twice a month. The cost is \$3 for unlimited stops with no shopping bag limit. Our drivers help passengers with their bags.

# STIF funding is making a difference everyday in every corner of Oregon



## How we've applied our STIF funding

STIF funds support nearly all our services. It provides funding for Dial-a-Ride operations and supports inter-community shuttles. It also supports free rides for high school students and fare subsidies for low-income community members.

In just three years, The Link transitioned from a medically focused dial-a-ride provider to an array of transit services, including cooperating with other providers on an annual transit pass that can be used for unlimited rides.



## How we would use added STIF funding

Sustain and expand intercity service between The Dalles and Hood River with reliable, consistent STIF formula funds instead of competitive STIF funding. This route is the only intercity connection between Wasco County and Hood River, providing critical service to commuters and people accessing medical care (there is no Dial-a-Ride service between the two counties). Without The Dalles to Hood River link, half of the regional transit network would be disconnected.

During our Transit Development Plan outreach, we heard a strong desire to serve more rural areas. With added funding, we could serve more rural areas, including the Native American community of Celilo village.

*“Many of our riders are transit dependent and rely on our services to reach work, medical appointments and school. Our shopping shuttles regularly book up and have proven to be a vital component of allowing seniors to age in place.”*



**Jessica Metta, Executive Director**