



Utilizing Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds:

The Key to Sustainable Transit Services Along the Northwest Oregon Coast

The Tillamook County Transportation District (TCTD) was established in July 1997 as an Oregon transportation district whose mission is to “Connect Communities Through Sustainable Transit Services.” The District accomplishes its mission by providing a variety of public transportation services throughout northwest Oregon, including local deviated fixed-route bus services, intercity/commuter bus services, general public Dial-A-Ride, and non-emergency medical transportation services.

The key to sustainability is having the resources that allow you to continue operating the services you provide. Those resources could be buses or the employees to drive and maintain them; and the cost to purchase and maintain those vehicles and pay a livable wage to those employees has increased substantially since 2017 when the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) was passed. Those costs spiked again in 2020 and have left transit agencies reeling from the impacts of employee shortages and vehicle delivery delays brought about by supply-chain issues.

While STIF has been an invaluable lifeline to Oregon’s transit providers and has allowed them to somewhat absorb the difficulties of the past few years, increased funding could help advance the types of transportation improvements that Oregonians want and need. Enhancements that were intended with the passage of HB 2017 to improve, expand, and maintain public transportation services throughout Oregon. Innovative projects that can begin to make great strides toward a more equitable, safer, convenient, reliable, and resilient statewide transportation system.

Benefits of STIF Can Be Seen in our Community Today

The STIF has been instrumental to the TCTD for the expansion and continued operations of services and for projects and programs that benefit our customers and enhance where we live. TCTD and the community it serves has benefited from the following STIF-sponsored projects:

- Subrecipient operations support for local human service organizations
- Enhanced fixed-route and Dial-A-Ride services
- Reduced fare program
- Short- and long-term transit planning and human service transportation coordination
- Continued operating funds and capital rolling stock purchases.



**TILLAMOOK COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT**

NEW SERVICE EXPANSION

Coming January 2023

- ✓ 13 Town Loop Trips
- ✓ 5 Trips to Oceanside
- ✓ 6 Trips Northbound
- ✓ 4 Trips to Lincoln City
- ✓ 3 Trips to Portland

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RIDE THE WAVE

The poster features a blue and orange color scheme. On the right, there is a photograph of a white bus with a blue stripe and the 'RIDE THE WAVE' logo. The logo itself is a circular emblem with a sun rising over waves. The text 'NEW SERVICE EXPANSION' is prominently displayed in large white letters on a blue background.

Using STIF to Plan for a More Impactful Future

The allocation of additional STIF would enable TCTD to:

- Explore innovative service models that could accommodate more customers, more efficiently; and implement those innovations to be more beneficial to vulnerable populations and attractive to choice riders
- Increase frequencies on high-ridership in-county routes
- Implement additional intercity Coastliner service between Tillamook and Portland, with connections to Amtrak at Union Station
- Acquire right-sized rolling stock to support the operation of the abovementioned improvements
- Advance efforts toward transitioning District vehicles to low- or zero-emission technologies.

By providing more convenience and reliability to the existing service and incorporating more of the types of services that our current and future customers want, the Tillamook County Transportation District can expand its reach by continuing to connect people to employment opportunities, medical care, and shopping and social needs. An expanded STIF can make that happen in Tillamook County and throughout Oregon.

Coordinating and Collaborating Along the Northwest Oregon Coast

TCTD is one of five transit agencies working together as the Northwest Oregon Transit Alliance (branded as **NW CONNECTOR**). This collaboration of transit organizations spread across northwest Oregon partners to connect and coordinate our systems to better meet the region's transportation needs.

Consisting of Tillamook County Transportation District, Columbia County Rider, Sunset Empire Transportation District, Benton County Transit, and Lincoln County Transit, this unique and innovative collaboration allows for seamless travel between the Willamette Valley and the Oregon Coast, from Astoria to Yachats. The **NW CONNECTOR** makes transit an easy-to-use alternative for travelers by providing a network of routes that allows customers to plan multiple stops and trip destinations, and also offering bicyclists a car-free alternative to get to the coast to cycle.

This collaborative partnership aims to:

- Improve transit connections between northwest Oregon communities
- Brand and market the **NW CONNECTOR** transit service in all five counties as a single, seamless service
- Improve interagency coordination
- Promote environmentally conscious travel
- Build community partnerships to increase transit ridership while promoting regional business and economic development opportunities.

About Tillamook County Transportation District

TCTD provides a range of transportation services to customers throughout Tillamook County, with routes traveling into Clatsop, Lincoln, Washington, and Multnomah counties.



With a county population of approximately 27,400 residents living within 1,100 square miles, a majority of its residents are scattered among seven incorporated cities and 14 unincorporated communities. Around 80% of the County's residents live along U.S. Route 101. The City of Tillamook serves as the county seat and is the largest population center in the County with just over 5,200 people.

Operating a fleet of approximately 30 vehicles, ridership has responded positively since the pandemic. The past year, TCTD provided 124,000 passenger trips. Despite being challenged with a

shortage of available transit drivers, made worse by a shortage of affordable housing, the District continues to provide essential transportation services to a large rural environment.

Reach Out

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