



Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Advisory Committee

Agenda

Monday, November 04; 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Madison Avenue Meeting Room, 500 SW Madison Avenue

Meeting is accessible virtually from a computer, tablet or smartphone.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-BeJb8pnTqeaYh9g6gM0ew

1. Call Meeting to Order/Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Formula Presentations (see staff report)

Benton County STIF Advisory Committee Members

Sarah Bronstein
Representative of Educational
Institution

Janece Cook, Vice-Chair
Representative of People with
Low-income

Greg Gescher
Representative of Public
Transportation Provider

Heidi Henry, Chair
Environmental Advocate

Kate Hunter-Zaworski
Representative of People with
Disabilities

Kristen Jocums
User of Transportation Services

David Rabinowitz
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advocate

Gary Stockhoff
Ex-Officio, Benton County

Tiffany Plemmons
Qualified Entity Staff

Lisa Scherf
Qualified Entity Staff

Charlene Pech
Qualified Entity Staff

This agenda is available in alternate format upon request. For an alternate format, or if you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Plemmons, Transit Program Assistant

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***** Memorandum *****

TO: Benton County Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee
FROM: Lisa Scherf
Public Transportation Services Supervisor
SUBJECT: STIF – Formula Fund Payroll and Population Applications
DATE: October 25, 2024 for November 4, 2024 Meeting

Background

At its October 14 meeting, the Benton County STIF Advisory Committee (Committee) voted to recommend to the Benton County Board of Commissioners (BOC) a sub-allocation methodology, as required by Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), to use as a starting point for the STIF Formula Payroll funding process. The Committee voted to recommend a starting allocation based solely on payroll by geographic entity, as this is the only factor specifically called out in OAR. This represented a shift in methodology from prior cycles, when other factors such as job sites and number of jobs were equally considered. It still does not constitute an entitlement nor guarantee of funds to any specific Public Transportation Service Provider (PTSP).

Formula Population and Payroll Applications

STIF Formula Population project applications were received by the following providers: Benton Area Transit, Janus House, Grace Center for Adult Day Services, OCWCOG, and ATS Call-a-Ride. STIF Formula Payroll project applications were received by the following Public Transportation Service Providers (PTSPs): Benton Area Transit (BAT), Corvallis Transit System (CTS), Philomath Connection (PC), Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG), and Albany Transit System (ATS), which also operates the Linn Benton Loop.

At the next STIF Advisory Committee meeting, staff will provide information on new/carryover Payroll funding, the status of ongoing operations project costs, how the funding requests from each PTSP compares to their initial calculated suballocation amount, criteria used to evaluate projects, and a preliminary ranking by staff to assist the Committee in arriving at a final prioritized order.

Projects described below are for a full biennium of funding.

STIF Formula Population Projects (Attachment A)

POP-1 Benton Area Transit: BAT Lift Special Transportation Services (\$479,170)

BAT Lift is the primary transportation service in Benton County for seniors and individuals with disabilities, offering countywide rural service as well as paratransit in local urban areas. The associated funds support operational costs and provide matching funds for additional grants or programs.

POP-2 Grace Center: Community Outing Program & Client Transportation Services (\$8,000)

The Grace Center Community Outing Program facilitates at least three community outing activities per month. These outings allow participants to safely explore the community as a group. The program uses a 15-passenger wheelchair accessible bus to ensure all participants have access to outings regardless of physical or cognitive abilities. The Community Outing Program is one of the most successful programs at Grace Center. In addition to this program, Grace Center provides transportation assistance to participants attending our program including medical appointments and pick/drop-off transportation from their homes.

POP-3 OCWCOG: Senior Companion Program (\$14,000)

OCWCOG, an Area Agency on Aging, serves as the local recruiter, trainer, and Benton County sponsor to AmeriCorps' Senior Companion Program. Senior Companions are local volunteers, ages 55+ and at 200% FPL who provide assistance and friendship to homebound Benton County seniors who have difficulty with activities of daily living, including transportation needs. Volunteers can assist with shopping, transport, unloading and putting away groceries and errands. The project will serve an estimated 30 Benton County seniors, with prioritization for service outside of Corvallis.

POP-4 Janus House: Mental Health Association of Benton County (\$12,000)

Janus House provides residential group home care for individuals with severe and pervasive mental illness. Staff provides supervised transportation to medical appointments, recreational opportunities, and shopping for the participants who reside at Janus House. These services include Janus House individuals who receive services from the crisis and respite program.

POP-5 City of Albany: North Albany Call-a-Ride Service (\$15,000)

Albany Call-A-Ride provides paratransit and STF rides throughout Albany, and increasing ridership demand comes from North Albany, which is in Benton County. This funding helps offset the costs associated with providing Albany Call-A-Ride STF transportation services in Benton County.

STIF Formula Payroll Projects (Attachment B)

ATS-1 Linn-Benton Loop Expanded Service (\$860,000)

This project provides funds for the preservation of expanded services for the Linn-Benton Loop, which serves the communities of Corvallis and Albany generally, and both Oregon State University and Linn Benton Community College directly. The expansion is described in the Linn Benton Loop Service Development Plan and includes extended hours and increased frequency, along with some route redesign. It began in December 2021 and the cost is split equally between Benton and Linn Counties.

ATS-2 ATS Expansion – North Albany Expanded Service (\$160,000)

In the FY23-25 STIF cycle, the City of Albany implemented a total service redesign and expansion as envisioned in the Albany Transit Development Plan. They were provided funding from Benton County to continue operating this service in North Albany (which is in Benton County). The request is proportional to the Benton County portion of the overall \$2.03 million project.

ATS-3 Linn-Benton Loop Bus Purchase Match (\$90,000)

This provides matching funds to a STIF Discretionary grant for a replacement Linn-Benton Loop bus. The match will be split between Linn County and Benton County and replace a 2010 Eldorado National bus that has reached its useful life. ATS plans to purchase its first low emission hybrid vehicle.

BAT-1 BAT Preservation of Service (\$368,000)

This project combines several individual existing activities identified in previous biennia as separate projects within the STIF Plan. The project maintains essential transit services provided by Benton Area Transit (BAT) throughout Benton County and nearby communities. BAT operates commuter services, countywide demand-response for seniors and people with disabilities, and paratransit for the cities of Corvallis and Philomath. This comprehensive project will address operational costs, staffing, administrative support and licensing, training, branding and marketing objectives, and fleet maintenance needs to ensure reliable service delivery. Additionally, the project will support fare-free transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities to increase access to essential services.

BAT-2 5311 Formula Grant Match (\$262,862)

Match funding for a federal Section 5311 grant that supports operations, preventative maintenance, and administrative costs to maintain BAT's two intercommunity commuter routes-99 Express and Coast to Valley Express.

BAT-3 Innovative Mobility Grant Match (Rural Shuttle Planning Study) (\$8,216)

Match funding for an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Innovative Mobility Grant. This study will evaluate the need for and feasibility of delivering flexible and efficient public throughout rural regions of Benton County.

BAT-4 Self-Perform Analysis (\$150,000)

Evaluates transitioning BAT operations from outsourcing to in-house, aiming to improve service delivery, oversight and cost control.

BAT-5 Bus Stop Amenities (\$50,000)

This project will allow for improved bus stop amenities such as pads, lighting, trash receptacles, bike racks, benches and shelters.

BAT-6 STIF Discretionary Grant Match; Bus Purchases (\$72,000)

This provides the match cost for an FY25-27 STIF Discretionary Grant to replace four vehicles in the BAT Lift fleet that have reached the end of their useful life.

BAT-7 STIF Discretionary Grant Match; Security Fencing (\$50,000)

This provides the match required for an FY25-27 STIF Discretionary grant to construct a security fence and gates at the BAT bus yard at the County's Sunset Facility in Corvallis. Vehicles are currently experiencing vandalism and fuel theft.

BAT-8 99W Pilot Project Discretionary Grant Match

This is match to a STIF Discretionary grant for a new service on the 99W corridor, carried from the prior biennium.

BAT-9 99W Project Ongoing Operations (\$92,000)

Project supports the ongoing operations of the 99W pilot project, in conjunction with Yamhill County Transit. Funding for the discretionary grant ends 06/30/2026 and additional funding is needed to continue this service in FY2027. This project is envisioned to serve Junction City, Monroe, Corvallis, Adair Village, and Monmouth/Rickreall, aiming to enhance regional transit connectivity.

BAT-10 Bus Purchases Full Project Contingency (\$300,000)

Allocates funds to purchase new vehicles if discretionary grant is not awarded or does not cover the full purchase of BATLift replacement vehicles, aiming to ensure fleet reliability and service continuity.

BAT-11 Bus Yard Security Fencing Full Project Contingency (\$250,000)

The funds for this project will provide full funding for construction of a security fence and gates at the BAT bus yard at the County's Sunset Facility in Corvallis. Vehicles are currently experiencing vandalism and fuel theft.

BAT-12 BAT Self-Perform Operations (\$400,000) Contingency

This provides funding to implement recommendations that might result from the analysis of how best to deliver countywide public transportation services.

CTS-1 Corvallis Transit System Expanded Service (\$1,980,000)

This project will maintain a service expansion of the Corvallis Transit System, implemented in 2019. It includes the addition of Sunday service, longer weekday hours, more frequency on two routes, and modestly expanded geographic coverage.

CTS-2 Transit Support Position (\$226,500)

This project maintains the one full-time employee hired to support Corvallis Transit System and Benton Area Transit.

CTS-3 Refurbish CTS Buses (\$300,000)

This project will refurbish two Corvallis Transit System buses to preserve and extend the life of the fleet, for fewer resources than replacing them, maintaining the reliability of an aging fleet.

CTS-4 Bus Stop Amenities (\$210,000)

This project will allow for improved bus stop amenities such as lighting, trash receptacles, bike racks, benches and shelters.

CTS-5 Bus Wash Equipment (\$250,000)

This project will contribute towards a shared large equipment touchless wash system that will be located on the Public Works campus (where buses are also housed) and be shared with other large PW vehicles. The cost is not funded entirely with STIF money and instead is shared with PW funds.

CTS-6 Transit Planning Services (\$50,000)

This project will assist with procuring professional transit planning services to implement additional services envisioned by the Transit Development Plan, including microtransit and increased frequency and hours for some routes.

CTS-7 Microtransit Service Pilot Grant Match (\$81,600)

This project will pilot microtransit service pilot for Corvallis Transit System to serve downtown and possibly Monroe Avenue as a demand response service accessed through an app and using smaller vehicles. Two prior attempts to serve downtown employees and patrons with service did not fare well, as the larger buses seem out of character in the physically constrained environment and the service couldn't operate frequently enough to be convenient. This would be match to federal funds and would not pay the entire cost.

CTS-8 Late Night Transit Service Grant Match (\$154,000)

This project will bring back late night service known as the Night Owl. Corvallis and the students of OSU previously funded a late service for over a decade until declining ridership from competition with OSU's Safe Ride and then effects from the pandemic ended it. This time it's envisioned as a microtransit demand response service accessed through an app and using smaller vehicles. This would be match to federal funds and would not pay the entire cost.

CTS-9 Microtransit Vehicles Grant Match (\$120,000)

This would provide match to a federal grant to purchase four smaller accessible vehicles to be used for microtransit services for both a downtown circulator and late night service.

CTS-10 Planning Grant Match (\$100,000)

This project is intended to match a planning grant to evaluate needs and alternatives and select a location for a new secure bus facility that will meet the needs of CTS's growing fleet and plans to electrify.

COG-1 Seamless Transit Continuing Operations (\$60,000)

This project supports Benton County's portion of a regional coordination effort across three counties to provide real time vehicle information, a centralized website, and mobile ticketing to all agencies within Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties. It provides payment for an annual software and app subscriptions and general admin of the overall project. This enables riders to map their route and see live bus information across all three counties, regardless of service provider.

COG-2 OSU Mobility Hub Construction Match (\$200,000)

This will provide matching funds for an \$800,000 STIF Discretionary grant to construct the mobility hub on the Oregon State University (OSU), which would service regional public transit providers Corvallis Transit System, Benton Area Transit, and Linn Benton Loop, as well as private services Flix Bus and Groome Transportation airport shuttle. This request is for gap funding to cover unexpected design complications and a rise in costs due to post-COVID construction inflation. The remainder of this project is funded by previously awarded STIF grants.

COG-3 OSU Mobility Hub Construction *Full Project Contingency* (\$800,000)

Full funding for the construction of the mobility hub on the Oregon State University campus in case the STIF discretionary grant is unsuccessful. It is fully described in COG-2 above.

PC-1 Philomath Connection Expanded Service (\$189,400)

This project will continue an expansion to the hours and geographic coverage of the Philomath Connection (PC) funded in the current STIF cycle. This expansion provided more daily runs on the PC.

PC-2 Fareless Philomath Connection (\$82,000)

This project will remove fares from the Philomath Connection service for all passengers.

PC-3 Bus Stop Amenities (\$49,000)

This project will allow for the addition of amenities such as lighting, benches, bike racks and trash receptacles for the Philomath Connection service.

ACTION REQUESTED

Hear presentations from STIF Formula Population and Payroll projects received from area subproviders and PTSPs.

Attachments: A – Benton County FY23-25 STIF Formula Project List
B – Funding Allocation Summary by PTSP & Biennial Allocation Summary

FY25-27 STIF Formula Population Fund Projects					
Project ID	Agency	Project Title	Request for FY26	Request for FY27	TOTAL Request for FY25-27
POP-1	Benton County	"BAT Lift" Special Transportation Services	\$ 239,585	\$ 239,585	\$ 479,170
POP-2	Grace Center	Community Outing Program & Client Transportation Services	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000
POP-3	OCWCOG	Senior Companion Program	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 14,000
POP-4	Janus House	Janus House / Mental Health Association of Benton County	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000
POP-5	City of Albany	North Albany Call-a-Ride Service	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000
Providers who did not reapply			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
			\$ 264,085	\$ 264,085	\$ 528,170

Federal 5310 Urban and Rural Projects					
Project ID	Agency	Project Title	Request for FY26	Request for FY27	TOTAL Request for FY25-27
5310-R	Benton County	"BAT Lift" Special Transportation Services	\$ 153,982	\$ 152,982	\$ 306,964
5310-SU	Benton County	City of Corvallis & Philomath Paratransit	\$ 180,242	\$ 180,242	\$ 360,484
			\$ 334,224	\$ 333,224	\$ 667,448

NOTE: The total of project requests are meant to use all Benton County allocated funds without a reserve

Benton County FY25-27 STIF Formula Project List

Original Project ID	Agency	PROJECT TITLE	Request for FY26	Request for FY27	TOTAL Request for FY25-27	Projected Ongoing Operations Cost (Biennium)	Notes
ATS-1	Albany	Linn-Benton Loop Expanded Service Preservation	\$ 430,000	\$ 430,000	\$ 860,000	\$ 860,000	
ATS-3	Albany	North Albany Expanded Service Preservation	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	
ATS-4	Albany	Linn-Benton Loop Bus Purchase Match (carry over from FY23-25)	\$ 90,000		\$ 90,000	\$ -	
ATS-5	Albany	Linn-Benton Loop Bus Purchase Match *Full Project Contingency	\$ 450,000		\$ 450,000	\$ -	
		Albany Totals	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 510,000	\$ 1,560,000	\$ 1,020,000	
BAT-1	Benton County	BAT Preservation of Service	\$ 175,000	\$ 193,000	\$ 368,000	\$ 368,000	
BAT-2	Benton County	Formula 5311 Grant Match	\$ 131,431	\$ 131,431	\$ 262,862	\$ 262,862	
BAT-3	Benton County	Innovative Mobility Grant Match-Rural Shuttle Study	\$ 8,216	\$ -	\$ 8,216	\$ -	
BAT-4	Benton County	Self-Perform Analysis	\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000	\$ -	
BAT-5	Benton County	Bus Stop Amenities	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	
BAT-6	Benton County	STIF Discretionary Grant Match; Bus Purchases		\$ 72,000	\$ 72,000	\$ -	
BAT-7	Benton County	STIF Discretionary Grant Match; Security Fencing	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	\$ -	
BAT-8	Benton County	99W Pilot Project Discretionary Grant Match	\$ 63,520		\$ 63,520	\$ -	
BAT-9	Benton County	99W Project Ongoing Operations		\$ 92,000	\$ 92,000	\$ 92,000	
BAT-10	Benton County	*Bus Purchases Full Project Contingency		\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	
BAT-11	Benton County	*Security Fencing/Gates Full Contingency	\$ 250,000		\$ 250,000	\$ -	[
BAT-12	Benton County	*BAT Self-Perform Operations Contingency		\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	
		Benton County Totals	\$ 853,167	\$ 1,213,431	\$ 2,066,598	\$ 1,122,862	
POP-1	Benton County	BAT Lift & Formula 5310 STBG Match	\$ 239,585	\$ 239,585	\$ 479,170	\$ 470,170	
POP-2	Grace Center	Grace Center Community Outing Program	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	
POP-3	OCWCOG	Senior Companion Program	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	
POP-4	Janus House	Janus House Mental Health Association of Benton County	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	
POP-5	Janus House	City of Albany: North Albany Call-a-Ride Service	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	
		Population Projects	\$ 264,085	\$ 264,085	\$ 528,170	\$ 519,170	
CTS-1	Corvallis	Corvallis Transit System Expanded Service	\$ 950,000	\$ 1,030,000	\$ 1,980,000	\$ 1,980,000	
CTS-2	Corvallis	Transit Support Position	\$ 110,250	\$ 116,250	\$ 226,500	\$ 226,500	
CTS-3	Corvallis	Mid-life Rebuild for CTS Buses	\$ 160,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 340,000	\$ -	
CTS-4	Corvallis	Bus Stop Amenities	\$ 100,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 210,000	\$ -	
CTS-5	Corvallis	Bus Wash Equipment (match to local funds)	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ -	
CTS-6	Corvallis	Transit Planning Services	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -	
CTS-7	Corvallis	Microtransit Service Pilot	\$ 40,800	\$ 40,800	\$ 81,600	\$ 81,600	
CTS-8	Corvallis	Late Night Service	\$ 77,000	\$ 77,000	\$ 154,000	\$ 154,000	
CTS-9	Corvallis	Microtransit Service Vehicles (match for 5307)	\$ 120,000	\$ -	\$ 120,000	\$ -	
CTS-10	Corvallis	Bus Yard Planning Grant	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	
		Corvallis Totals	\$ 1,908,050	\$ 1,436,250	\$ 2,756,500	\$ 2,206,500	
COG-1	OCWCOG	Seamless Transit Continuing Operations	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	
COG-2	OCWCOG	OSU Mobility Hub Construction Match	\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ -	
COG-3	OCWCOG	LBCC Driver Training Center	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	
COG-4	OCWCOG	OSU Mobility Hub Construction Full Project	\$ 800,000.00	\$ -	\$ 800,000.00	\$ -	
		OCWCOG Totals	\$ 1,060,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 1,120,000	\$ 120,000	
PC-1	Philomath	Philomath Connection Expanded Service	\$ 92,400	\$ 97,000	\$ 189,400	\$ 189,400	
PC-2	Philomath	Fareless Philomath Service	\$ 41,000	\$ 41,000	\$ 82,000	\$ 82,000	
PC-3	Philomath	PC Bus Stop Amenities	\$ 24,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 49,000	\$ -	
		Philomath Totals	\$ 157,400	\$ 163,000	\$ 320,400	\$ 271,400	
			\$ 5,292,702	\$ 3,646,766	\$ 7,823,498	\$ 5,292,702	

Matching Funds