



To: RTC Board of Directors
Date: December 31, 2024
From: Jennifer Campos, Principal Planner
Subject: Draft Consolidated Grant Project Rankings

Background

The Public Transportation Consolidated Grant Program is a biennial program that provide funds for public transportation improvement projects within and between rural communities, tribal transportation, transportation services between cities, purchases of new buses and equipment, and public transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) manages the Consolidated Grant Program and is responsible for distributing state and federal grants to support public transportation programs.

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) has a role in the Public Transportation Consolidated Grant process because project applicants are required to participate in the planning process with the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)/Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), which includes the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP). RTC is responsible for developing HSTPs for Clark County and Klickitat and Skamania counties every four years as a federal requirement and as a condition for funding eligibility under the Consolidated Grant Program.

Ranking Process

As part of the WSDOT Consolidated Grant process, MPOs/RTPOs evaluate and rank projects and then submit them to the state. All projects are ranked by the region as either A, B, or C categories. The number of allotted letter grades for each region is determined by criteria including its population, population density, rural population and numbers and percentages of those under 18 years, over 65, with disabilities, living in poverty and veterans.

Each regional ranking category has different points associated them with higher points assigned to A projects and lower points for C category projects. The points associated with each ranking that are assigned by the region are then added to the statewide score. For the ranking process the letter grade (A, B, C, D) equals the points for a project application as follows: A = 50 points; B = 25 points; C = 12 points; and D = 0 points.

Based on the demographic analysis completed by WSDOT, the RTC region, which includes Clark, Klickitat and Skamania counties, has been allocated 13 available rankings for the 2025-2027 grant process that breaks down to 3 A's, 5 B's, 5 C's. Agencies have an unlimited number of D category projects they could submit, but they would not be assigned a regional score so it would have to compete at the statewide level with only a state score.

Project Evaluation Process

RTC utilized an evaluation panel that is a subcommittee of the Accessible Transportation Coalition Initiative (ATCI) to help evaluate and rank the Consolidated Grant projects utilizing the below set of criteria that aligns with the strategies identified in the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP). These rankings are then shared with the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC), Transportation Policy Committees (TPCs)), and the RTC Board of Directors before being submitted to WSDOT through the state Grant Management System (GMS).

Criteria	Description
Sustains Existing Service	Preserves existing services that have a demonstrated need and measurable benefit
Underserved Populations	Provides services to areas with underserved or vulnerable populations
HSTP Alignment	Addresses needs and strategies identified in the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP)
Community Connections	Supports a sustainable network of transportation services within and between communities
Project Coordination	Coordinates services with other transportation and service providers in the area
Multimodal Elements	Includes multimodal elements that connect with other services or infrastructure

There were 11 applications eligible for the Consolidated Grant Program that were evaluated by the subcommittee. The following table shows the project ranking letter category assignment.

Agency	Project	Ranking
Skamania County Senior Services	Skamania County Senior Services Dial A Ride	A
Skamania County Senior Services	Skamania County Transit Service	A
Klickitat County Senior Services	Mt. Adams Express Connector Route White Salmon/Bingen/Lyle/ Murdock/Dallesport	A
Skamania County Senior Services	Dial-A-Ride and Transit Vehicle Request	B
Community in Motion	Employment Transportation Program	B
Klickitat County Senior Services	Mt. Adams Express Connector Route Vehicle	B
Hood River Transportation District	Weekend White Salmon/Bingen - Hood River Fixed Route Service	B

MCEDD	Gorge TransLink Alliance Mobility Management	B
MCEDD	The Gorge Regional Transit Network: Inclusive Outreach and Education Project	C
Hood River Transportation District	Dog Mountain Seasonal Shuttle	C
MCEDD	Gorge Regional Transit Infrastructure Development Project	C

Project Summaries

Summarized information on the 11 applications is provided along with the associated project rankings (in alphabetical order by agency name).

Project Title: Employment Transportation Program		
Agency: Community in Motion		Ranking: B
Service: Sustains Existing	Timeline: 4-year	Type: Operation
Project Cost: \$1,243,212	Grant Request: \$1,117,987	Match: \$125,225
Description: Community in Motion has operated the Employment Transportation Program since 2003 to address unmet transportation needs by helping low income residents of Clark County get to work, conduct job searches, conduct job interviews, and participate in training and other employment activities that lead to self-sufficiency.		

Project Title: Dog Mountain Seasonal Shuttle		
Agency: Hood River County Transportation District		Ranking: C
Service: Expands Existing	Timeline: 2-year	Type: Operation
Project Cost: \$200,000	Grant Request: \$160,000	Match: \$40,000
Description: Expand the seasonal transit service to the Dog Mountain Trailhead provides access to locals and tourists offering service roughly every 30 min (potentially Friday - Monday) during peak wildflower season. It also assists the USFS due to limited parking at the trailhead. This service mitigates increased traffic and safety concerns for travelers along SR-14.		

Project Title: Weekend White Salmon/Bingen - Hood River Fixed Route Service		
Agency: Hood River County Transportation District		Ranking: B
Service: Expands Existing	Timeline: 2-year	Type: Operation
Project Cost: \$180,600	Grant Request: \$167,570	Match: \$9,030

Description: Deviated fixed route service that provides year-round weekend access between White Salmon, Bingen and Hood River. Deviations will be allowed for ADA Paratransit program participants only. The service operates each Saturday and Sunday, 6 times a day with a frequency on average of every 2 hours. The service will also operate on holidays.

Project Title: Mt. Adams Express Connector Route Vehicle		
Agency: Klickitat County Senior Services		Ranking: B
Service: Expands Existing	Timeline: 2-year	Type: Capital
Project Cost: \$161,000	Grant Request: \$152,950	Match: \$8,050
Description: Purchase a new 14 passenger ADA cutaway bus for the Mt. Adams Express Connector Route to provide fixed route service connecting 2 existing fixed routes and expanding access to multiple transit services in the Columbia River Gorge.		

Project Title: Mt. Adams Express Connector Route White Salmon/Bingen/Lyle/ Murdock/Dallesport		
Agency: Klickitat County Senior Services		Ranking: A
Service: Expands Existing	Timeline: 2-year	Type: Operation
Project Cost: \$430,390	Grant Request: \$403,370	Match: \$21,520
Description: New Intercity Route between Bingen, Lyle, Murdock, Dallesport, The Dalles providing service to previously unserved populations with stops at Native American community access points (Mt. Adams Express Connector route connects existing service that runs between Goldendale and The Dalles and White Salmon/Bingen and Hood River M-F 7am to 7pm.		

Project Title: Gorge TransLink Alliance Mobility Management		
Agency: Mid-Columbia Economic Development District		Ranking: B
Service: Sustains Existing	Timeline: 4-year	Type: Operation
Project Cost: \$217,814	Grant Request: \$173,814	Match: \$44,000
Description: Sustain the Gorge TransLink Alliance Mobility Management project which enhances transportation services for older adults, people with disabilities, and other special needs populations across five rural counties in Washington and Oregon. Provide the coordination, public outreach, and programs needed to address critical gaps in the regional system.		

Project Title: The Gorge Regional Transit Network: Inclusive Outreach and Education Project		
Agency: Mid-Columbia Economic Development District		Ranking: C
Service: Sustains Existing	Timeline: 4-year	Type: Operation
Project Cost: \$218,295	Grant Request: \$174,636	Match: \$43,659

Description: Sustain the Gorge Regional Transit Network Inclusive Outreach and Education project which provides a part time travel trainer and innovative outreach activities that target the transportation disadvantaged communities in rural Skamania and Klickitat counties, increasing awareness of and confidence in using the regional transit system.

Project Title: Gorge Regional Transit Infrastructure Development Project		
Agency: Mid-Columbia Economic Development District		Ranking: C
Service: New	Timeline: 2-year	Type: Planning
Project Cost: \$87,000	Grant Request: \$69,600	Match: \$17,400
Description: MCEDD will lead the planning work necessary to expand operational capacity and transit access in Klickitat and Skamania counties. Plans will be developed for bus barns infrastructure, interagency bus stops in key locations, and transit access to unserved rural and Native American communities with a goal of producing shovel-ready projects.		

Project Title: Skamania County Senior Services Dial A Ride		
Agency: Skamania County Senior Services		Ranking: A
Service: Sustains Existing	Timeline: 4-year	Type: Operation
Project Cost: \$1,947,645	Grant Request: \$1,156,588	Match: \$791,057
Description: Skamania County Senior Services (SCSS) is the sole transportation provider in Skamania County. This request is to maintain the demand response/dial-a-ride service for the elderly, special needs individuals, and the general public. Service runs Monday-Friday, 7 a .m. to 6 p.m., excluding major holidays, covering local areas in Oregon and Washington.		

Project Title: Skamania County Transit Service		
Agency: Skamania County Senior Services		Ranking: A
Service: Expands Existing	Timeline: 2-year	Type: Operation
Project Cost: \$974,195	Grant Request: \$844,105	Match: \$93,790
Description: Skamania County Transit to offer a route-deviated service from Skamania County to C-Tran Fisher's Landing Transit Center(Vancouver), Klickitat County, Bingen and over to Cascade Locks, OR. This service will run Monday-Friday, excluding major holidays and will connect with different transit agencies.		

Project Title: Dial-A-Ride and Transit Vehicle Request		
Agency: Skamania County Senior Services		Ranking: B
Service: Expands Existing	Timeline: 2-year	Type: Capital

Project Cost: \$174,191	Grant Request: \$139,353	Match: \$34,838
Description: This project will replace one ADA minivan and add an ADA Van for our transit program. The ADA minivan will be used to support the Skamania County Dial-A-Ride program. The ADA Van will serve under the route-deviated transit program, which will be expanding service and routes, to include a new local route.		