



## SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

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### **Reduced State and Federal Special Transportation Funding Available for 2017-19 Biennium**

Government and non-profit agencies will have the opportunity to maintain or seek financial support for projects for the 2017-19 Biennium that maintain or improve transportation services for seniors age 60+ and individuals with disabilities.

State Special Transportation Funds are allocated to Oregon Counties, transit districts, and Tribes for transportation of seniors and persons with disabilities. Federal 5310 funds for Mobility of Seniors and Persons with Disabilities are granted to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and a share of these are also in turn apportioned to Benton County for allocation to local transportation programs.

Using these funding sources, the Benton County Special Transportation Fund Program supports projects which maintain or improve transportation services for Benton County residents 60 and older, or people of any age who have disabilities. Public agencies and non-profit entities can apply for funding to support planning, training, mobility assistance, education, purchased services operations, and capital (vehicle and passenger shelters) for transportation-related projects serving those specific populations.

The Benton County Special Transportation Advisory Committee (STAC) is responsible for reviewing service applications and recommending grant allocations to the County Board of Commissioners for the 2017-19 biennium Benton County budget. STAC meetings are open to the public; more information can be found at <https://www.co.benton.or.us/stac/page/special-transportation-advisory-committee-stac>

Most funds are already allocated under existing multi-year service contracts, the largest of which is the contract with Benton County Dial a Bus, Inc., for countywide transportation of seniors and persons with disabilities. Other smaller specialized contracts are awarded competitively every two years.

For the 2017-19 Biennium, the STAC has been notified through ODOT of significant reductions in funding for both State and Federal transportation grant programs serving seniors and persons with disabilities. State funds are being reduced by 17%, and Federal funds are being reduced by an 7%. **Through the adopted Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, the STAC and the Board of Commissioners have identified the preservation of existing services as the top priority for allocation of the County's public transportation funds. It is unlikely that any new projects can be considered unless additional funds should become available.**

Use of federal 5310 funds require that all federal requirements be met, including but not limited to Title VI non-discrimination, Buy America requirements, disadvantaged business enterprise, suspension and debarment, political and lobbying activity prohibitions, and other federal requirements which may be found at this link: [http://www.fta.dot.gov/12825\\_16199.html](http://www.fta.dot.gov/12825_16199.html)

Eligible applicants include government and non-profit agencies. For-profit businesses are not eligible for these public funds.

Applications are available by emailing STF Coordinator Lee Lazaro at [lee.lazaro@corvallisoregon.gov](mailto:lee.lazaro@corvallisoregon.gov) and providing a return email address. Eligibility and general information may be found at the ODOT website, at this link: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/PT/Pages/programs/enhanced-mobility.aspx>

Applications must be received **no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2017**, addressed to Benton County Special Transportation Program, Attn: Lee Lazaro, special transportation coordinator. Applications may be mailed to P.O. Box 1083 Corvallis, OR 97339; or faxed to 541-766-6920, or emailed to Mr. Lazaro, but regardless of delivery method the 3pm 1/11/17 deadline applies.

At the STAC's discretion, eligible applicants may be invited to make a presentation and/or to answer questions in a telephone interview. The STAC will consider applications, and recommend a final list of projects and funding to the Benton County Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners will make the final decision regarding prioritization and funding of projects in February.

For information about the process, those interested can contact Mr. Lazaro at 541-754-1748 or by email at [lee.lazaro@corvallisoregon.gov](mailto:lee.lazaro@corvallisoregon.gov).