



TO: Yamhill County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Cynthia Thompson, Transit Manager

Cc: Ken Huffer, Christian Boenisch, Carolina Rook, Megan Marasco, Tonya Manley, Casey Kulla

DATE: April 22, 2022

Re: Board Action Items for Yamhill County Transit

Yamhill County Transit Action Items
Board of Commissioners and YCT Board of Directors
Date: BOC Formal Session April 28, 2022

#1 Project Description

Approve the ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities grant applications for seven (7) replacement buses \$1,050,000 and Facility Design and Engineering for \$1,000,000.

1 Board Action Requested:

Approve the submittal of two 5339 federal grant applications to ODOT/FTA for bus and bus facilities for a total of \$2,050,000. Authorize County Administrator to sign the grant applications for submittal. Approval may be based on recommendation by YCTAC.

1 Background Info:

These grant proposals will be presented to YCTAC on April 28, 2022, at 3:00 pm for recommendation to the YCT Board of Directors and Board of Commissioners. Unfortunately, YCTAC meets after BOC so you may make this approval based on recommendation by YCTAC if preferred.

As a rural system, YCT is required to submit an intent to apply with a cost estimate of the request. YCT submitted this to ODOT on April 1, 2022.

YCT's grant applications are as follows.

1. Replace seven (7) YCT vehicles \$1,050,000. (Minivans and mid-size buses)
2. Request funding for design and engineering for a new admin/ops/maintenance facility \$1,000,000



The supply chain issue is creating uncertainty in the bus manufacturing industry. The research regarding cost estimates for buses is alarming. YCT is proposing using more minivans for ADA paratransit and Dial a Ride so this application will be for 4 mini-vans and 3 mid-size low floor buses. This could change by the time this grant is approved and a grant agreement is in place. There is a strong push for agencies to purchase zero emission vehicles which is in line with YCT Transit Development Plan goals. Yet, there is a new requirement that a zero-emission plan be in place. YCT has a Fleet Transition plan in the works, but it is not complete so therefore YCT can not apply for the Lo-No funding in this round.

It may seem pre-mature to seek funding for a facility, yet I am recommending we get this project in the queue while the funding opportunities are available. It will be a large expensive project and by the time this grant is approved, and an agreement is in place I think we will have the information necessary to obligate the funds. If not, we can decline the grant and wait for a future opportunity. It is important for ODOT and FTA to be aware of the need for a facility for YCT.

The local match required for buses is \$15%
The local match required for facilities is 10%

The match funds will be paid for using STIF and YCT's portion of County general fund

Below is a copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity for more detailed information about the funding program, requirements, timeline, match etc.

Notice of FTA National Competitive Funding Opportunity

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a FY22 [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) on Friday (03/04) for both the national competitive Low and No-Emission Vehicle program FTA Section 5339 (c) and the national competitive Bus and Bus Facilities opportunity FTA Section 5339 (b).

Agencies that are designated direct FTA recipients can apply to the FTA on their own behalf. ODOT will apply on behalf of eligible rural transit agencies.

These programs support FTA's priorities and objectives through investments that (1) renew our transit systems; (2) reduce greenhouse gas emissions from public transportation, (3) advance racial equity, (4) maintain and create good-paying jobs with a free and fair choice to join a union, and (5) connect communities. These programs also support the President's Building a Better America initiative to mobilize American ingenuity to build a modern infrastructure and an equitable, clean energy future. In addition, this NOFO will advance the goals of the President's January 20, 2021, Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad and Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

Eligible recipients: 5339(b) - designated recipients that allocate funds to fixed route bus operators, States or local governmental entities that operate fixed route bus service, and Indian tribes. Eligible subrecipients include all otherwise eligible applicants and private nonprofit organizations engaged in public transportation.



5339(c) - designated recipients, States, local governmental authorities, and Indian tribes. State may submit consolidated State proposal for projects in rural areas.

Except for projects proposed by Indian tribes, all proposals for projects in rural (non-urbanized) areas must be submitted by a State, either individually or as a part of a statewide application.

Eligible projects: 5339(b) - capital projects to replace, rehabilitate, purchase, or lease buses, vans, or related equipment; or to rehabilitate, purchase, construct, or lease bus-related facilities regardless of propulsion type or emissions.

5339(c) - (1) Purchasing or leasing low or no emission buses; (2) acquiring low or no emission buses with a leased power source; (3) constructing or leasing facilities and related equipment for low or no emission buses; (4) constructing new public transportation facilities to accommodate low or no emission buses; or (5) rehabilitating or improving existing public transportation facilities to accommodate low or no emission buses. 5 percent of the requested Federal award must be used for workforce development to retrain the existing workforce, unless the applicant certifies via the application that less funding is needed to carry out the workforce development element of their fleet transition plan.

Additional Information and Requirements:

For applications related to zero-emission vehicles under either the Low-No or Buses and Bus Facilities programs, applicants are required by law (49 U.S.C. 5339(c)(3)(D)) to submit a Zero-Emission Fleet Transition Plan. This plan must be a separate document from other local or regional planning documents and must: (1) Demonstrate a long-term fleet management plan with a strategy for how the applicant intends to use the current application and future acquisitions; (2) address the availability of current and future resources to meet costs for the transition and implementation; (3) consider policy and legislation impacting relevant technologies; (4) include an evaluation of existing and future facilities and their relationship to the technology transition; (5) describe the partnership of the applicant with the utility or alternative fuel provider; and (6) examine the impact of the transition on the applicant's current workforce by identifying skill gaps, training needs, and retraining needs of the existing workers of the applicant to operate and maintain zero emission vehicles and related infrastructure and avoid the displacement of the existing workforce.

Match Rates:

For vehicle purchases, maximum federal share is 85%.

For vehicle-related equipment or facilities maximum federal share is 90%.

For all other projects, maximum federal share is 80%.

Deadlines:

If you intend to apply through ODOT PTD notify PTDApplications@odot.state.or.us with an email by **April 1, 2022, COB**. Include: agency, the fixed grant amount you are requesting, number and type of vehicle, replacement or expansion, fuel type, cost for each vehicle, project description and any costs for any project other than a vehicle. This allows PTD to obtain state approval to apply on behalf of sub recipients.

To complete your application through ODOT PTD, you must next complete and submit the [Supplemental Form application](#) to PTDApplications@odot.oregon.gov by **April 30, 2022**. For recipients applying directly to FTA, the deadline is **May 31, 2022**.