



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

Office of the Director, MS 11

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DATE: January 10, 2022
TO: Oregon Transportation Commission

FROM: Kristopher W. Strickler
Director

SUBJECT: **Consent Item 04** – *Approval of Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation (RVHT) Program Project Recommendations*

Requested Action:

Approve projects recommended by the Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) to fund proposals submitted by Special Transportation Fund (STF) Agencies under the RVHT program.

Background:

At its meetings in July and October 2020, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) approved 11 projects for the pilot cycle of RVHT. In July of 2021, HB 2139 codified this funding in statute. In collaboration with its partners at the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), Public Transportation Division (PTD) has completed the first of two 2021-23 RVHT solicitations under House Bill 2139. Per OAR 732-020-0030, PTD consulted a committee of veterans and allied professionals in veterans' services, transit, and healthcare to evaluate applications and developed an initial slate of 2021-23 project funding recommendations to present for PTAC consideration at its January 3, 2022 meeting. Attachment 1 lists projects considered and advanced by the Committee for Commission approval. The budget for the RVHT program was increased to \$650,000 for this cycle, and this first recommendation of the project selection committee programs just over half of the available funding. A second round of applications will close on January 14, 2022. Recommendations programming the balance of the available funding will be reviewed and recommended by PTAC for Commission approval in March 2022.

Projects approved under this first recommendation will take effect February 1, 2022 and expire June 30, 2023.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – *Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Award Recommendation*

Supporting Links:

RVHT Awards: [July 2020](#), [October 2020 House Bill 2139 OAR 732-020-0030](#)

**Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Program Discretionary Grant
(Special Transportation Fund) Award Recommendation**

Region	Applicant/ Project	Project Type	Recommended Award
1	Hood River County <i>Initiate GOrge Vets Transit Connect service to local veterans, which includes a free GOrge Pass, access to the Veterans Van, Veterans dial-a-ride service and travel training.</i>	Operations	\$38,502.00
2A	Tillamook County Transportation Service District <i>Tillamook County Veterans Services Transportation Project: Continue to connect with DAV van to expand the reach of medical rides for veterans.</i>	Operations	\$41,500.00
4	Basin Transit <i>Continue "Veterans on the Go" program within Basin Transit's service boundary.</i>	Mobility Management	\$26,688.00
4	Basin Transit <i>Expands "Veterans on the Go" program to include locations outside Basin Transit's service boundary.</i>	Mobility Management	\$20,342.00
4	Lake County <i>Continue to offer NEMT medical rides to local veterans. Supplements an otherwise insufficient level of funding under the federal Highly Rural Veterans program.</i>	Purchased Service	\$10,000.00
4	Jefferson County <i>Continued Support of Rural Veteran On-Demand Transit Operations: Removes the barriers of geography and accessibility that have traditionally characterized rural central Oregon. Expands the pilot effort beyond Jefferson County to include the following partnered STF Agencies.</i>	Operations	\$40,000.00
	The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Operations	\$20,000.00
	Deschutes County	Operations	\$80,000.00
	Crook County	Operations	\$40,000.00
4	Sherman County <i>Veterans Transportation Operations: Provide discrete transportation for local Veterans to medical appointments in The Dalles, Portland, Vancouver, Bend and other surrounding areas.</i>	Operations	\$20,000.00

TOTAL RECOMMENDED AWARDS: \$337,032

PLEASE NOTE: The partnership with Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs through House Bill 2139 was apportioned \$650,000 to preserve and expand the Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation Program. There will be \$312,968 in remaining RVHT funding for the second solicitation in January 2022 if all of the requests referenced above are funded.