

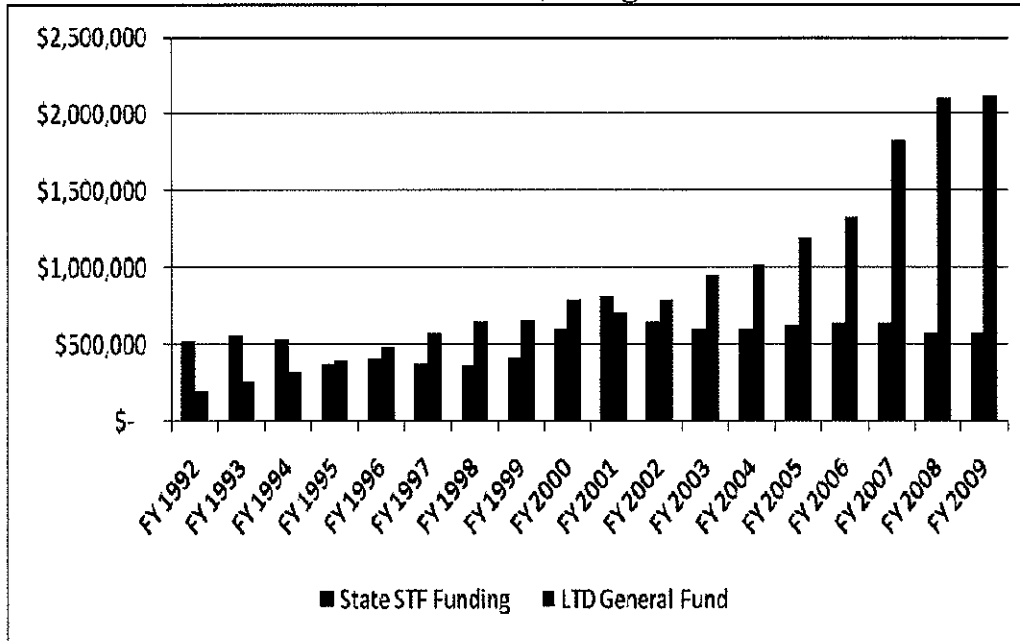


Senior and Disabled Transportation Support HB 2582

Lane Transit District, in partnership with other transit districts throughout the State, requests additional ongoing, dedicated funding for elderly and disabled transportation.

MEASURE: HB 2582
EXHIBIT: 6
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
DATE: 3/18/2011 PAGES: 2
SUBMITTED BY: MARK PANGBORN

Lane Transit District's Funding of RideSource



RideSource is an LTD service for persons with disabilities that meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Demand for this service, and corresponding cost, has been increasing significantly since the ADA



became law in 1990. At the same time, the current economic recession has created a revenue shortfall that required a service reduction in fixed route LTD service of 16 percent for FY 2009-11. Increasing use of LTD funds for RideSource has the effect of reducing the funds available for fixed-route service. Ironically, LTD carries many more seniors and people with disabilities on the fixed-route system (where the cuts occurred) than on RideSource, which is protected from service reductions by the federal ADA mandate.

State Funding

The 2009 Legislative session provided some much needed financial support for elderly and disabled transportation. Funding was provided using Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds, which are flexible federal funds allocated by the Oregon Transportation Commission. In addition, the Legislature approved \$10 million from the General Fund for elderly and disabled transportation. LTD received about 7.5 percent of this funding.

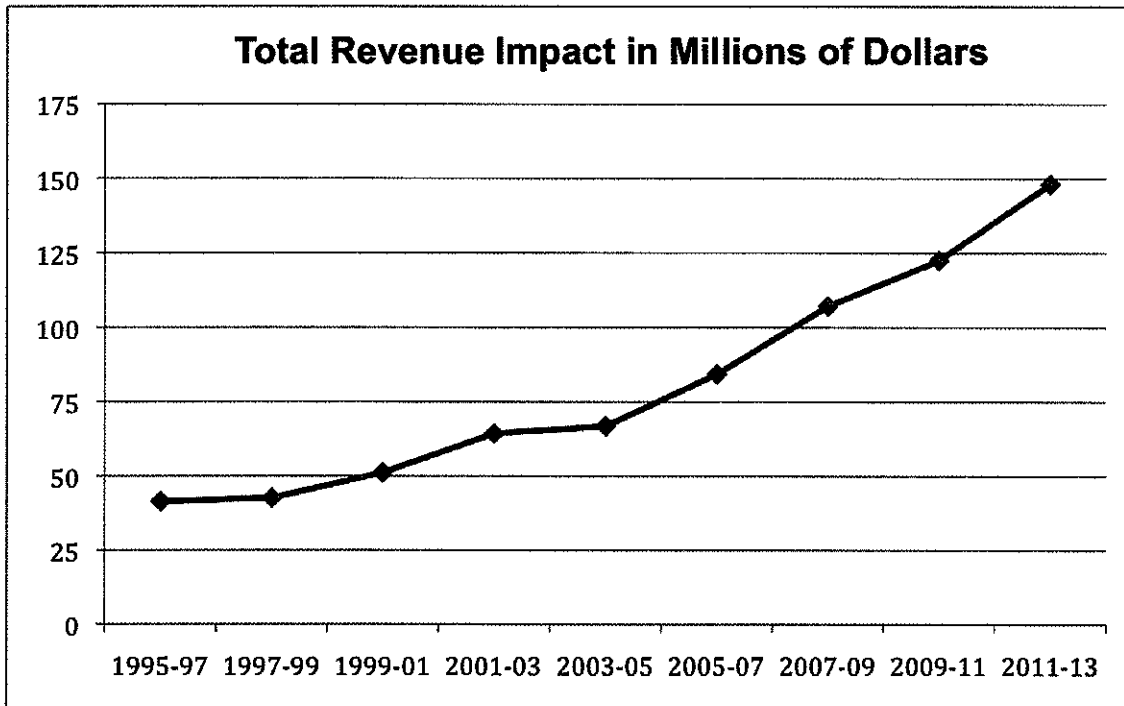
More Information

Mark Pangborn, LTD General Manger, 541-682-6100, mark.pangborn@ltd.org
Doug Barber, Lobbyist, 541-221-3072, doug@lobbyoregon.com



Oregon's Senior Medical Tax Deduction Support HB 2582

Oregon gives seniors an income tax deduction for every dollar they spend on medical and dental care. To qualify for this program, taxpayers must be 62 or older and itemize their deductions. The cost of this tax deduction is escalating rapidly, as Oregon's population gets proportionally older. By 2025, one out of every five Oregonians will be over the age of 65.



Oregon is the only state that allows older taxpayers to deduct 100 percent of their medical expenses.

HB 2582 would increase the eligibility age for the deduction in two stages: to 65 and 67. It would also phase out the deduction for higher income earners. This funding from seniors could then be used to help pay for Elderly and Disabled Transit as well as other senior services such as Oregon Project Independence.

More Information

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