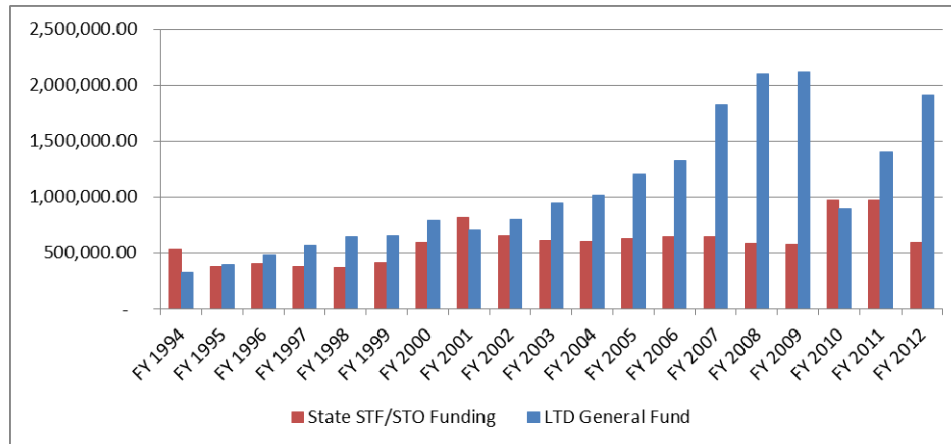




Senior and Disabled Transportation

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

Lane Transit District RideSource ADA/Paratransit Service Funding



RideSource is an LTD service for persons with disabilities who meet 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.

In FY 2011-12, nearly 70 percent of the \$2.7 million cost for operating RideSource was funded by LTD General Funds

In May 2008 LTD began operating the RideSource Call Center transportation brokerage coordinating the ADA paratransit service with other human service programs. This one-stop portal links callers to a variety of transportation programs, coordinating shared rides and allocating costs across the various programs. Participating programs benefit through shared administrative costs, grouped purchasing, cost sharing, ride sharing, and optimizing economies of scale. Although the coordination gains efficiencies, growth in demand for ADA paratransit service continues to burden District General Funds, which reduces funds available to provide fixed-route service.

State Funding

The 2009 Legislative session provided some much needed financial support for elderly and disabled transportation. While it was very limited, this funding infusion reduced the burden on LTD's General Fund and enabled the district to limit recession related service reductions on the fixed route to 15 percent for FY 2009-11. In 2011 and 2012, the Legislature was unable to develop a sustained funding source for elderly and disabled transportation and pressure on the District's general fund is mounting once again, as evidenced in the chart above.

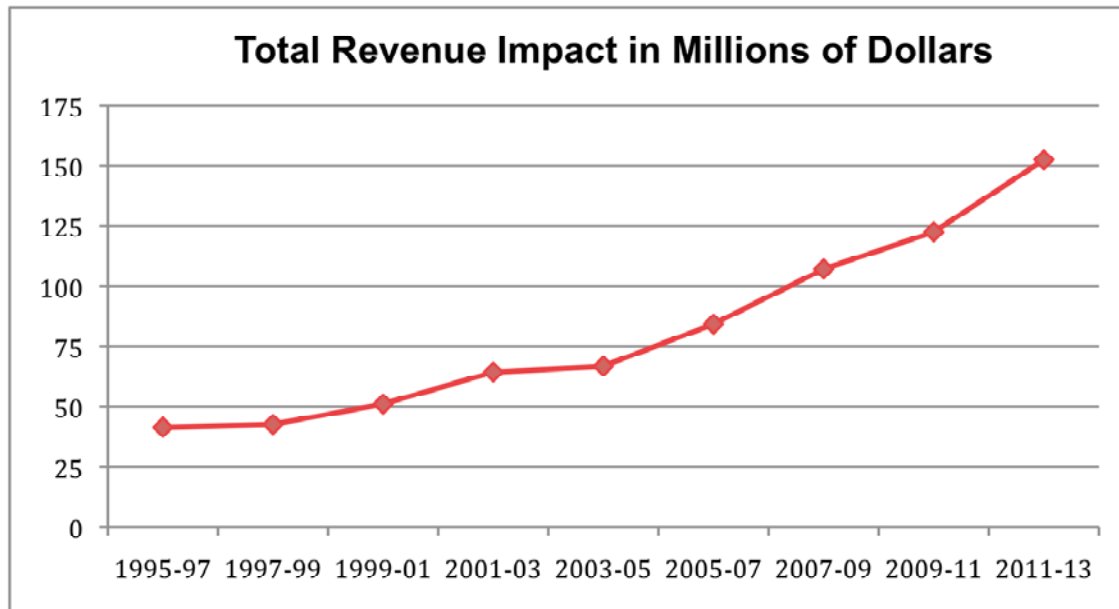
More Information

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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.



In 1995-97 this deduction totaled \$41.4 million

By 2011-13 its cost climbed to \$152.5 million

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

Options for Reform:

- Increase the eligibility age for the deduction in two stages: to 65 and 67.
- Phase out the deduction for higher income earners.
- Limit the deduction to seniors only, not their household members.

Use the Savings to help Seniors:

Savings from these reforms could 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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