

Flexing Federal Highway Formula Funding to Public Transportation

JCTPM Workgroup on Transit, Bike/Ped, Safe Routes and Safety

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Current Flexing of Federal Funds to Transit

“Flexing” federal highway formula funds to transit refers to the process of allocating funds to eligible public transportation purposes and transferring their administration to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

In the draft 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, the Oregon Transportation Commission will flex \$20 million each year to public transportation in the following categories:

- Public transit (primarily senior and disabled service): \$12.5m/year
- Mass transit (vehicles for urban transit agencies): \$2m/year
- Bus replacements for rural providers: \$5m/year
- Transportation options: \$0.5m/year

In addition, a portion of the Enhance Non-Highway Program (which totals \$35 million over three years for bike/ped and transit projects) will go to public transportation projects. Metropolitan planning organizations also flex to transit a significant amount of funding they receive by statutory formula and agreement under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program.

Additional Funds that Can be Flexed to Transit

ODOT estimates that an additional \$167 million in federal highway formula funding per year could be flexed to public transportation. These funds are currently dedicated to projects in the draft 2018-2021 STIP, including freight, bridge, pavement, and safety programs.