

I have been an advocate for senior and disabled transportation since 1986 when there was virtually no transportation available outside a few TriMet bus lines/LIFT. Today is it much better but for Washington County, we continue to lag behind in the Metro area.

The issue relates to finding additional operational funding. TriMet has excelled in building a community based network through Ride Connection in Washington County that is very cost effective. They have used operating funds from various sources to fund their Service Enhancement Plans and possibly provide more services similar to GroveLink/the North Hillsboro Link in Washington County.

But, cuts in those funds means less service despite growing demand. Washington County's senior/disabled riders have an increased unmet need of medical trips due to cuts in federal funds. The unmet need for medical and service needs totals nearly 390,000 trips each year in Washington County.

To meet the demand for rides by Washington County senior and disabled riders, we need an estimated \$1.9Million in new funds annually for Ride Connection's network and more for TriMet's Lift and other services.

This unmet need is by far not unusual in Oregon, many transit and nonprofit providers have similar struggles to meet demand.

Please fund an increase in Transportation funding!

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