



Your Guide to Sunset Empire Transit District

Why SETD service is so vital

In April of 2023, SETD ceased all services due to financial difficulties. Clatsop County had no para transit or fixed route bus service for any of its citizens. The community was in an uproar as the most vulnerable people in Clatsop County had no access to medical appointments, social services, or even shopping at stores.

With the help of Governor Kotek, SETD was able to secure a 1 million dollar loan which enabled SETD to restart services. This loan was secured with the help of STIF funds. Without STIF, SETD would not have been able to restore services as fast as we have. We have had a 38% increase in our ridership in the last 5 months!

Sunset Empire Transportation District (SETD) was approved as a special district by Clatsop County commissioners in 1993. Its service area includes all of Clatsop County, covering 1,085 square miles on the North Oregon Coast.

SETD provides rural transportation services between five incorporated cities, serving more than 41,000 county residents.

SETD offers routes for hotel and restaurant workers on the Oregon coast. Routes also serve Clatsop Community College and Tongue Point Job Corp Center staff and students. Employees from fish processing plants along the waterfront in Astoria and Warrenton also rely on SETD services.



SETD routes go to Providence Seaside Hospital and clinic, Cannon Beach Providence clinic, Seaside Providence Urgent care clinic, Columbia Memorial Hospital, the Knight Cancer Center, the Astoria Dialysis Center and several other medical clinics in Astoria.

NW Connector

SETD is a member of the NW Connector, a coordinated regional transit system that includes five transit agencies in NW Oregon: Columbia County Rider, Sunset Empire Transportation District, Tillamook County Transportation District, Benton County Transit and Lincoln County Transit.



What would SETD do with additional funding?



SETD implemented real-time bus location programs, online ticket purchasing and trip planning for riders in the last Five years

Add micro-transit on-demand service, reduce fares for all of our passengers, increase accessibility and safety of bus stops and shelters and improve information to the public, travel assessments and travel trainings. These services would improve access to employment, human services, medical appointments and encourage shared ride service.

Expand service in underserved rural areas, hire and train more drivers and build a new Operations Center out of the tsunami zone. Upgrade vans and buses, transit monitoring and maintenance systems. Create a public transit education and mobility training center. Replace older public transit vehicles with newer lower or no emissions ones.

Ordinary People Doing the Extraordinary

The transportation industry made profound changes in a short time during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sunset Empire Transit and partners Tillamook County Transportation District/NW Rides responded by bringing food to seniors and disabled persons. “There was an elderly couple eating leaves off their garden plants for two days before their meal box delivery arrived,” recalled Jennifer Geisler, Chief Operations Officer for Sunset Empire Transit. “It was devastating to hear.”

Drawing on resources from Ecolane and its scheduling software, Geisler set up routes, then coordinated with the food bank to pick up food boxes and deliver them. It turns out a paratransit van can hold 12 people – or 200 food boxes that weigh 30 pounds each.

In the first three weeks of the service, transit workers delivered 900 pounds of badly needed food. “We saw firsthand happiness and tears of joy,” Geisler says.

