



City of Florence

250 Hwy 101, Florence, OR 97439
www.ci.florence.or.us

July 17, 2024

Oregon State Legislature
Attn: Joint Commission on Transportation
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter of Support for LTD Financial Support for Rhody Express ODOT STIF

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Florence is writing in support of the Oregon Department of Transportation's Statewide Improvement Fund (STIF) Program continuing to fund, in part, Lane Transit District's (LTD) Rhody Express public transit service in the City of Florence Oregon during the 2025 legislative session when the funding will be up for review.

LTD's Rhody Express is an important service for providing the public with access to local medical, shopping, and other services as well as providing regional connections. This is the only public transit system that provides local service along a fixed route within the City limits, but also serves as a connection service for Link-Lane's Florence-Yachats and Eugene-Florence Connectors and Coos County Area Transit's regional services. Learn more about the City's Public Transit Options at this link <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/community/transportation-florence>

In April 2024 the City's Transportation Committee worked in partnership with LTD to launch a ridership survey that ran from April 27th through May 10th. The survey results demonstrated that 41% of riders use this service more than 1 time per week. Of the respondents the most common uses were shopping (47%), social/recreation/religious (38%), and medical services (38%). This survey provided valuable information into how the service is used. 28% of respondents have been using this service for more than 5 years.

The City of Florence adopted an updated Transportation System Plan (TSP) in October 2023. The advisory committee for this project included representation from LTD and the local Rhody Express operator. The TSP included a plan to increase service frequency from once per hour to every 30 minutes, which has been implemented and operating since June 17, 2024. Beyond providing the City with valuable services, LTD continues to partner with the City to improve and expand services.

The continued funding of LTD's Rhody Express service is essential to providing access for residents to local services as well as connections for residents and visitors alike to regional transit services.

Sincerely,

Erin Reynolds, City of Florence City Manager

Public Works
989 Spruce St.
(541) 997-4106

**City Manager/
City Recorder**
(541) 997-3437

**Community Development:
Planning & Building**
(541) 997-8237

**Finance/
Utility Billing**
(541) 997-3436

Justice Center
900 Greenwood St.
(541) 997-3515

Florence Events Center
715 Quince St.
(541) 997-1994

