



## SANDY AREA METRO

Sandy Area Metro (SAM) has been a vital regional connection for rural Sandy, Eagle Creek, Estacada, and Gresham for over 24 years. This January, Sandy added service to Boring and Damascus, two areas of Clackamas County with no transit service, along our new Clackamas Town Center (SAM CTC) route (see above!). SAM was established to enhance mobility and accessibility for residents and operates a range of services including a local in-town Shopper Shuttle, demand-response transportation, and connections to regional transit systems in Gresham, Clackamas and Estacada. The agency plays a crucial role in fostering economic development, improving public health through increased mobility and reducing environmental impacts by promoting the use of public transit.

*“SAM has allowed me to take a part-time job in Sandy as supplemental retirement income. Hugely appreciated!”*  
Anonymous

### Impact of STIF funding on Service Enhancement

The Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) has played a crucial role in enhancing the services provided by Sandy Area Metro. These funds have been instrumental in addressing various challenges and improving overall transit operations. Especially impactful for SAM have been the Regional Coordination funds made available through a TriMet collaboration. STIF Discretionary funds have been also been instrumental in partnerships with other transit providers making significant improvements across the region. Some examples of STIF Discretionary funded projects are a County wide efare feasibility study, the new Ride Clackamas webpage and trip planner, and a multi-task transit technology project that will bring efares to rural services among other technology upgrades.

**Expansion:** STIF funding has enabled SAM to expand its service hours and frequency. This enhancements ensures that residents have greater access to transportation, particularly during peak times and weekends. Extended hours mean that individuals can rely on public transit for late-night shifts or early morning appointments, which is essential for employment and healthcare access. SAM-Gresham added a late night, weekday run. SAM-Estacada added an additional evening run. SAM Shopper added 3 weekday runs and 6 runs on Saturday. Using Regional Coordination funds providing through a collaboration with TriMet, the new SAM Clackamas Town Center route began in January of 2024, providing 6 runs daily, Monday-Saturday.

*“This is awesome. It'll save gas for people, it'll get more vehicles off the roads and it'll give access to people that otherwise didn't have transportation. All good things.”*

Leila P.



**Fleet Improvement:** Regional Coordination funds provided through a collaboration with TriMet allowed SAM to purchase 2 new medium sized cutaway vehicles. Without these vehicles, SAM would not have adequate fleet vehicles to operate the new Clackamas Town Center route. New vehicles improve reliability, decrease maintenance costs and enhance the overall passenger experience.



**Enhanced Accessibility:** STIF funding (formerly STF) has been directed toward making services more accessible for individuals with disabilities. These improvements ensure that all community members, regardless of mobility challenges, can utilize public transportation. Sandy Area Metro has made significant strides in improving public transportation services in the Sandy region, largely due to the support of STIF funding.

**Technology Implementation Project (STIF Discretionary):** STIF Discretionary supported the procurement and administration of a contracted technology team to assess Recipient's technologies, identify areas of redundancies/efficiencies, maximize the value of the technology in use, develop a technology maintenance plan, evaluate, update and maintain current technology and procure/implement a mobile payment option. Project will implement and improve several technology areas, all of which are designed to improve the passenger experience, promote coordination, and encourage resource sharing.

SAM is the project lead in coordination with: Canby Area Transit (CAT), South Clackamas Transit District, Clackamas County (MHX and Clackamas Shuttles), Hood River Transit District (Columbia Area Transit) and City of Wilsonville - South Metro Area Transit (SMART).

**Sustainability Initiatives:** STIF funding has facilitated sustainability projects such as implementing eco-friendly practices and exploring alternative fuel options for the fleet. This commitment to sustainability not only helps reduce the carbon footprint of the transit system but also resonates with the community's values around stewardship.

**Driver Equity:** STIF funds have enabled SAM to provide living wages which leads to driver retention and satisfaction. Drivers are the face of the agency and the ability to hire highly skilled, customer service oriented, safety conscious drivers increases public trust in the service. During a time of driver and staff shortage, increased wages has given SAM the ability to attract and retain new drivers.

**Infrastructure Improvements:** STIF funds have helped facilitate the design of an operations and maintenance building that was identified in the Sandy Transit Master Plan. The construction of the new maintenance building will improve workspace infrastructure of two rural transit agencies, decrease maintenance costs, move toward sustainable transportation options and move SAM toward new, zero emission technologies.

