

# Council Business Meeting

November 15, 2022

<b>Agenda Item</b>	Letter of Support – Rogue Valley Transportation District State Transportation Improvement Funding	
<b>From</b>	Scott Fleury PE	Public Works Director
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:Scott.fleury@ashland.or.us">Scott.fleury@ashland.or.us</a>	

## **SUMMARY**

Before the Council is a request to approve letters of support for competitive funding applications put forth by the Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) for State Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF).

## **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

### **City Council Goals:**

Enhance Value Services:

- Address Climate Change

CEAP Goals:

- Strategy ULT-1: Support Better Public Transit and Ridesharing
  - ULT-1-1. Coordinate with neighboring local governments to promote use of transit, carpooling, and car-sharing.
  - ULT-1-2. Work with RVTD to implement climate-friendly transit.
  - ULT-1-3. Establish policies to support development near transit hubs without displacing disadvantaged populations.
  - ULT-1-4. Evaluate feasibility of expanded local transit options.

## **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION**

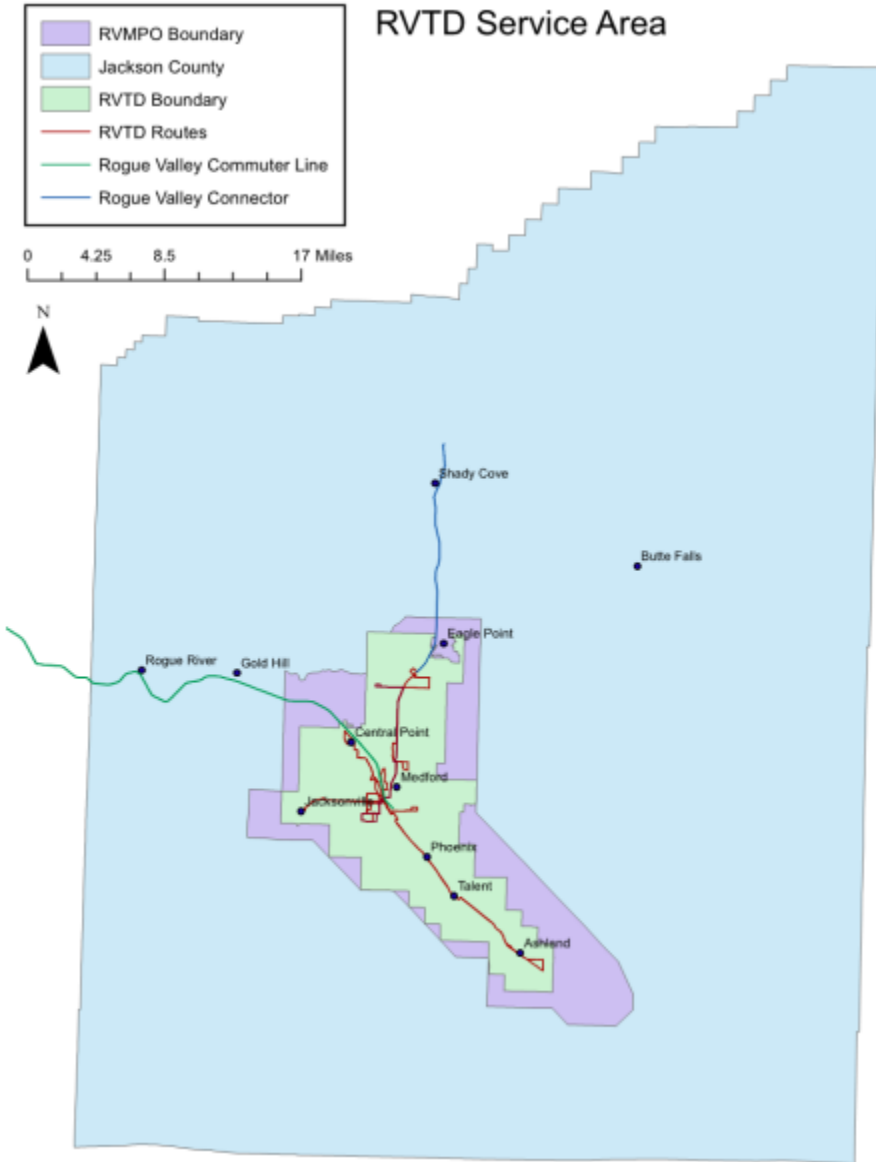
The Council has previously approved letters of support for various grant applications.

## **BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Rogue Valley Transportation District is the transit provider for the Rogue Valley region. RVTD was created by public vote in 1975 to provide public transportation services in the urbanized areas of the lower Rogue Valley. It is organized as a transportation district under Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 267 and is governed by an elected seven-member board. RVTD provides fixed-route, demand-responsive, non-emergency medical transportation, and other public transportation services in the greater Medford area. RVTD's fixed-route service area covers approximately 168 square miles, including the cities of Medford, Ashland, Central Point, Talent, Phoenix, Jacksonville, and unincorporated areas such as White City. The additional area within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of a fixed route where RVTD provides complimentary paratransit (demand-responsive) services is approximately 50 square miles. RVTD's mission is to "provide quality public transportation, viewed by residents and visitors as a realistic and viable alternative to the personal automobile, and to thereby improve the quality of life in the Rogue Valley."

The RVTD district boundary is the area where property taxes are generated to help provide local transit service. The district boundary was set when the district was formed in 1975 and has changed little since that time. RVTD also provides services outside of their district boundary as they administer state and federal funds for rural transit throughout Jackson County, including the new STIF transit funds.

Figure 1: RVTD Service Area



Recently RVTD presented projects they wish to pursue competitive grant funding for to the Transportation Management Advisory Committee with an interest in obtaining letters of support to utilize in the application process. The MAC recommended support for the proposed RVTD projects and to bring forward letters of support to the City Council for consideration. RVTD primary focus is for competitive funding is for three distinct projects outlined below.

- **Funding for our Transportation Operations Building**
  - RVTD recently received a \$12.5 million dollar grant to build a modern operations building. Due to inflationary impacts the grant funding does not provide the total amount necessary to construct the new facility and the request by RVTD is for additional supplemental grant funding to provide the full amount necessary to construct the facility.

- **ADA Vehicle Maintenance Facility**
  - This project would support the design and construction of a stand-alone ADA vehicle maintenance facility located adjacent to their Translink building in Medford.
  
- **ADA Sidewalk Repair at Front Street Station**
  - This project improves the current pedestrian features at the Front Street Station and includes ADA upgrades to the current facility.

**FISCAL IMPACTS**

The only City associated fiscal impacts for the letter of support are tied to the staff time necessary to bring the item forward for consideration.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Council approve the letters of support.

**ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS**

I Move to approve the Mayor sign the three attached letters of support for RVTD to be utilized in the competitive grant funding process.

**REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment #1: Letters of Support

Oregon Transportation Commission,

The Ashland Transportation Safety and Modal Equity Management Advisory Committee is writing in support of Rogue Valley Transportation District's (RVTD) grant application for Oregon Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund discretionary funding for the construction of a new 10,000 sf Transportation Building on their main campus.

RVTD is requesting funds to support the construction of a new transportation building that will assist RVTD in meeting the growing transportation demands of our community over the next 20 years and beyond. The building will alleviate RVTD's space constrained campus and support the operations directly associated with RVTD's plans to increase vehicle fleet and service to meet our region's growing transportation demands.

An investment from ODOT's STIF discretionary funds would enable RVTD to support the construction of this new transportation operations building and cover the funding shortfall caused by the unexpected increase of costs associated with inflation and global supply chain issues.

We respectfully urge your strong consideration of this project and the benefits it would provide our region.

Sincerely,

Julie Akins  
Mayor  
City of Ashland



Oregon Transportation Commission,

The Ashland Transportation Safety and Modal Equity Management Advisory Committee is writing in support of Rogue Valley Transportation District's (RVTD) grant application for Oregon Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund discretionary funding for a sidewalk improvement and beautification at Front Street Station.

Front Street Station serves as our region's main transfer station and provides an estimated 5,000 daily bus trips and transfers. An improvement to the sidewalks at Front Street Station to bring them into ADA compliance and add beautification features benefits all transit passengers.

Funding from the Oregon Department of Transportation's STIF discretionary funds to support this project would allow RVTD to provide a more quality experience for passengers and meet ADA standards.

Thank you for your consideration of this important grant application.

Sincerely,

Julie Akins  
Mayor  
City of Ashland



Oregon Transportation Commission,

The Ashland Transportation Safety and Modal Equity Management Advisory Committee is writing in support of Rogue Valley Transportation District's (RVTD) grant application for Oregon Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund discretionary funding to construct a dedicated ADA Vehicle Maintenance Facility.

The addition of an ADA vehicle maintenance facility is vital for RVTD's plans to increase their ADA fleet size serving older adults and people with disabilities and to meet the growing demands of our community. This facility would allow RVTD to continue to serve ADA populations for years to come and meet their vehicle maintenance needs with their projected fleet growth.

A funding investment for this project from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund's discretionary funding would support the vital service that RVTD provides in our community and throughout the region. This project will support the important service RVTD provides to our community's most vulnerable populations.

We respectfully urge your strong consideration of this project and the benefits it would provide our region.

Sincerely,

Julie Akins  
Mayor  
City of Ashland

