

Council Business Meeting

December 6, 2022

Agenda Item	Letter of Support – Rogue Valley Transportation District State Transportation Improvement Funding	
From	Scott Fleury PE	Public Works Director
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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

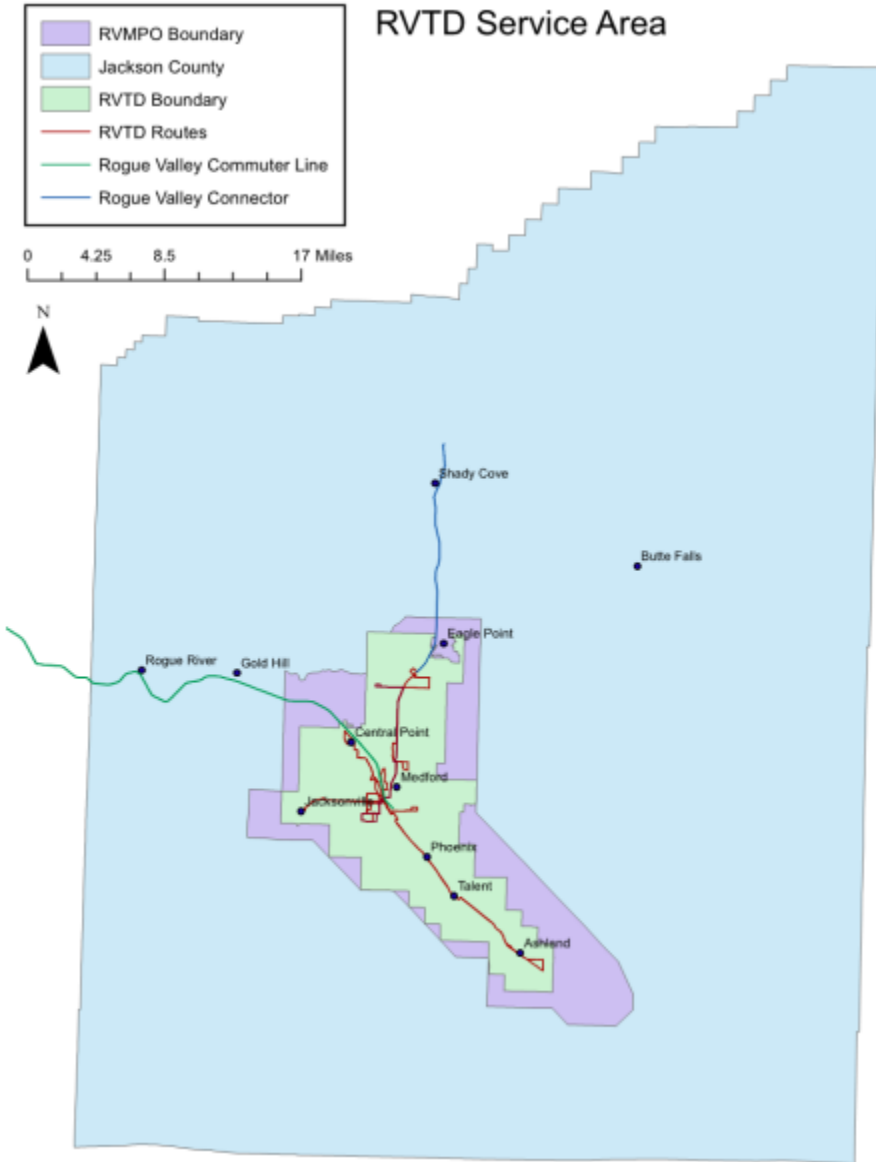
The Council has previously approved letters of support for various grant applications.

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