



Gorge Transit: Existing and Proposed Routes



Transit Moves People. People Move Oregon.

Public transportation does a lot of important things that you might not even notice. It enables workers to get to jobs, older adults to medical facilities, younger people to schools, bike riders to urban centers, disabled adults to appointments and family members to shopping areas.

As public transportation matures and expands in Oregon, it will do many more important things. Electric buses will cut carbon emissions. Dial-a-ride and weekend service will give people more mobility options. Inter-community routes will expand the concept of neighborhood. On-demand scheduling and integrated payment platforms will empower statewide car-free travel. And that’s just the beginning.

Oregon’s 41 transit agencies have benefitted from additional funding through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) approved by the 2017 legislature.

In the attached backgrounders, the agencies tell their stories – what they did during the pandemic, how they invested their STIF funds and where they could invest additional STIF funding if it was available.



Check out the backgrounders at TransitMovesOregon.com

House District 51



Your Guide to Sandy Area Metro (SAM)

Why SAM is so vital

When COVID hit, the Senior Center had no volunteers and few staff for Meals on Wheels, SAM delivered meals every Thursday for nine months.

SAM partnered with Sandy Helping Hands and Fred Meyer Click List to deliver groceries.

SAM maintained its service – and waived fares – during the pandemic and wildfires, despite moving the fleet to an alternate site due to evacuations.

SAM provided free rides for people to obtain vaccinations.

SAM provides free rides to warming centers during cold weather periods.

One grateful rider said, "During Covid and shutdowns, SAM has been amazing in keeping us connected and safe."

Sandy Area Metro is owned and operated by Sandy, Oregon (pop 12,000). SAM operates in Clackamas County with commuter routes to the Gresham Transit Center and Estacada City Hall where it connects with TriMet buses and trains. At the Sandy Transit Center, SAM pulses with the Mount Hood Express service which travels to Mount Hood's Timberline Lodge.

SAM operates an in-town Shopper Shuttle. This shuttle operates five runs Monday-Friday from noon to 7:15 pm, offering neighborhood transportation to local schools and shopping centers. This Shopper and the Estacada route can deviate $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the route to accommodate anyone not able to get to the fixed route bus stop. All in-town SAM fixed route services are free of charge. Travel out of town, or that originates out of town, is \$1.

SAM operates an in-town dial-a-ride service, SAM rides. This dial-a-ride service is available to anyone within three miles of the city's town center. Any rides that qualify as an ADA ride is free; non-ADA qualifying rides are \$1. Our vehicles proudly state, "Call us, we'll pick you up."

SAM provides a non-emergency medical rides program for the frail elderly and/or disabled for medical services that are not available in city limits. These rides are commonly used for dialysis, hospital procedures and VA Hospital appointments.



Service in the Snow



"I know most of the drivers and the operators who do the scheduling. They are hard-working people. I have trouble with my balance and the staff is always helpful with my walker and helping with groceries. They have become friends."

How many buses, vans and other vehicles do you operate?

- Two 35' buses used daily on SAM Gresham route
- One 25' Trolley used for Shopper Shuttle
- One 25' Trolley used on Estacada route
- One Medium low-floor cut-a-way used for SAM rides
- One Ford Transit Van used for SAM medical rides

Key priorities for making service route decisions?

The Transit Master Plan, adopted April 2020, guides service decisions. Annual rider surveys and quarterly Transit Advisory Board meetings gather public and stakeholder satisfaction and suggestions and are incorporated into future decision making. The most recent Master Plan process showed a 60% to 40% preference to expand regional connections over in-town routes.

How has SAM applied its funding from the STIF?

- Expanded fixed route service to provide better connectivity to partnering agencies for more seamless transfers.
- Updated dispatch software, computer and monitors.
- Rebranded all bus stop signs.
- Saved for future capital expansions.

How would SAM apply additional STIF funding?

- A new route to Clackamas Town Center
- New electric vehicles and infrastructure
- Training for electric vehicles
- Funding for capital expansion at Sandy Operations Center to include administrative space and a maintenance bay
- Add shuttle service to low income, migrant worker housing complex
- More weekend service (most popular request by riders on annual on-board surveys)
- Expanded service connections to SAM Estacada route
- Capital improvements
- Increased staffing



SAM Shopping Shuttle
The Trolley is fun to ride, and beautiful to see.