

# Columbia Gorge Transportation Summit

## Public Transportation Discussion

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# What is the Recommended Sequence of Events for Providing Public Transportation?

- Formally Organize the Discussion Using the Public Transportation Improvement Conference (PTIC)
- Decide What Type of Transportation Authority Would Fit Best and Determine Boundaries of Such an Authority
- Provide for a Transit Development Plan – what services and what funding mechanism
- Form a Transit Authority and Seek Voter Approval of Funding Mechanism
- Determine How Services Are Provided

# What is the Recommended Sequence of Events for Providing Public Transportation?

- **Formally Organize the Discussion Using the Public Transportation Improvement Conference (PTIC)**

## What does it take of convene a PTIC?

A County or Counties may convene the PTIC by sending registered letters to every city within the proposed boundary of the area to be studied. Two cities from within that area may also convene a PTIC.

A legal notice must be advertised in local papers covering the area 30 days in advance of the first PTIC meeting.

# What is the Recommended Sequence of Events for Providing Public Transportation?

- **Decide What Type of Transportation Authority Would Fit Best and Determine Boundaries of Such an Authority**

Determining the boundary of the area to be studied is very important. Once the study is started and it is determined that the study area should change (either larger or smaller) the process must be re-started with new notices to the cities and the legal notice posted.

The type of authority to create can be part of the study or it can be an early action of the PTIC to move the process forward.

# What Are The Options Available For A Transportation Authority?

- Establishing a City Transit System which provides other services outside of the City
- Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA)
- County Transportation Authority (CTA)
- Unincorporated Transportation Benefit Area (UTBA)
- Special Needs Public Transportation Benefit Area (SNPTBA)

# What is the Recommended Sequence of Events for Providing Public Transportation?

- **Provide for a Transit Development Plan (TDP) – what services and what funding mechanism**

A TDP will evaluate the area designated for study and determine what types of public transportation service would be of value to the area. The TDP will propose service types and levels and estimate the cost of that service.

The TDP will evaluate the types of funding mechanisms available and what level of funding would be required to provide the recommended level of service.

# What Are The Funding Options For A Transportation Authority?

- General Fund Contributions by the Member Agencies
- State and Federal Grants
- Locally Imposed or Voted Taxes – Household, Utility Tax, B&O or Sales Tax, License Plate Fees.

# What Funding Options Are The Existing Transportation Authorities Using?

- City of Everett – 0.6% Sales Tax
- City of Pullman – 2.0% Utility Tax
- City of Yakima – 0.3% Sales Tax (Selah 0.3, Union Gap 0.2)
- King County Metro – 0.9% Sales Tax
- Sound Transit – 0.4% Sales Tax
- Grays Harbor County CTA – 0.6% Sales Tax
- Garfield County UCTA – General Fund As Needed
- 21 PTBA's – Sales Tax ranging from 0.1% in Cowlitz County to 0.9% in Snohomish County

# What Kinds of Transportation Services Are Being Provided Within Washington?

- Fixed Route Services with Vehicles varying from 15 Passenger to 80 passenger
- Route Deviation Services Usually With 18 Passenger or Smaller Vehicles
- Demand Response for General Public and Special Needs
- Commuter Services Such As Vanpools or Worker/Driver Buses

# What is the Recommended Sequence of Events for Providing Public Transportation?

- **Form a Transit Authority and Seek Voter Approval of Funding Mechanism.**

If a decision about the type of transit authority has not already been made the TDP can make that recommendation along with a recommendation of funding.

If a funding mechanism is selected which requires a vote then the counties would need to coordinate a ballot issue that would have identical language throughout the area of the transit authority.

# What is the Recommended Sequence of Events for Providing Public Transportation?

## ▪ Determine How Services Are Provided

Transportation systems generally follow three models –

- A small administrative staff provides all Authority support and oversight of contractor(s).
- A complete staff is assembled to provide direct operation of services with some subcontracting of specialized services or portions of vehicle maintenance.
- All services are provided by Authority staff.

This discussion can be dealt with in the TDP or can occur concurrently with the funding approval discussion.

Do you have Questions or need Additional Assistance?

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