



2023-2025 TRIBAL TRANSIT MOBILITY GRANT PROGRAM PRIORITIZED PROJECT LIST

Public Transportation Division

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CONTACT

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ABOUT THE TRIBAL TRANSIT MOBILITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is pleased to present its prioritized project list for the Tribal Transit Mobility grant program to the Washington State Legislature.

The Legislature established the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program as part of the Move Ahead Washington \$17-billion, 16-year transportation funding package ([ESSB 5974 – 2021-22, Sec. 103](#)). In its 2023 session, the Legislature added its intent for the grant program to support the transit needs of tribal communities ([ESHB 1125 – 2023-24, Sec. 221\(11\)](#)).

Tribal Transit Mobility Grant funds may be used for any transit purpose, including planning, operating, mobility management, and capital costs. Funds can support:

- Public transportation services within and between rural communities and cities.
- Public transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Purchases of new buses and equipment.

Any federally recognized tribe in Washington state is eligible to apply. Tribes in bordering states that provide service to and from Washington are also eligible to apply for this grant.

2023-2025 BIENNIUM BUDGET

Tribal Transit Mobility Grant funding is identified under the spending summary at up to \$10 million per biennium for the next 16 years. WSDOT's Public Transportation Division administers the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program as a competitive grant under the [Consolidated Grant Program](#).

Funding for the first call for projects in the 2023-2025 biennium totals approximately \$5.95 million. These projects are listed in [Table 1: Tribal Transit Mobility projects](#) and are derived from the [2023-2 LEAP list](#).

Over \$4 million remained available after the 2023-2025 competitive Consolidated grant round. The Legislature directed the Public Transportation Division to award the remaining funds through an additional call for projects by Sept. 1, 2023. The enacting language also directs that the prioritized awards list must be submitted to the Legislature along with recommendations to reduce barriers for tribes applying for grants.

CALL FOR PROJECTS

WSDOT eliminated complex and burdensome requirements by streamlining the grant application to reduce barriers for tribes when applying. Specifically, WSDOT took the initiative to eliminate the cost cap for planning projects in the 2023-2025 biennium and the match requirement for tribal applicants in the 2025-2027 grant cycle.

NEW PROJECTS

WSDOT received 16 grant applications requesting \$4,749,855 for the 2023-2025 biennium and \$1,516,454 for the 2025-2027 biennium.

WSDOT Public Transportation Division staff performed an initial assessment of the applications for completeness and reasonableness of performance estimates. The Public Transportation Division then used an independent evaluation panel that included subject matter experts in the fields of capital investment, mobility management, planning, operations, and tribal relations to review eligible applications.

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The panel produced a prioritized project list for WSDOT. These prioritized projects are listed in [Table 2: New projects proposed for funding for the 2023-2025 biennium](#). These projects will be funded with the remaining 2023-2025 Tribal Transit Mobility Grant program funding along with using other funds from the 2023-2025 Consolidated Grant program.

There was one project that was unfunded because of lack of available funding and is shown in [Table 3: Unfunded Projects](#).

TABLE 1: TRIBAL TRANSIT MOBILITY PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM

Project identification number	Applicant	Project title	Legislative district	Project type	Project description	2023-2025 funded	2025-2027 unfunded	Project total
PTD0664	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Sustain Clallam Transit System Route 50 Fixed Route Service to Blyn	24	Operating	Sustain the stand-alone transportation Route #50 service to serve the general public and members of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in and around the Jamestown Tribal Campus in Blyn.	\$277,326	\$300,021	\$577,347
PTD0685	Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation	Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation	42	Operating	Sustain the operations of two (2) fixed routes with services within the Lummi Reservation and one route to the City of Ferndale.	\$991,041	\$0	\$991,041
PTD0689	Makah Tribal Council	Makah Tribal Council Makah Public Transit	24	Operating	Sustain the deviated fixed-route and curb-to-curb paratransit services for the general public, disabled, low-income, elders, and persons with special needs throughout the Makah Reservation.	\$187,945	\$206,783	\$394,728
PTD0642	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Cowlitz Tribal Transit Service - Rural Demand-Response	18, 20	Operating	Provide on-demand transportation service to the general public, and special needs riders in low-density, and rural communities in Lewis, Clark, and Cowlitz Counties.	\$658,782	\$0	\$658,782
PTD0716	Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe	2023-2025 Consolidated Grant Program – Operating	2	Operating	Expansion of a fixed route transit service between Darrington, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe Reservation, and Concrete in rural Snohomish and Skagit counties.	\$463,463	\$532,984	\$996,447
PTD0735	Squaxin Island Tribe	Operating Assistance for Squaxin Transit	35	Operating	Sustain Squaxin Transit's fare-free fixed route, demand response (Dial-A-Ride), and deviated route transit services for residents of the Squaxin Tribal Community and the surrounding Kamilche area.	\$224,139	\$239,828	\$463,967
PTD0377	Spokane Tribe	Moccasin Express	6, 7	Operating	Sustain the Moccasin Express fixed-route and paratransit services for the general public, elderly, low-income persons, veterans, and persons with special needs on and around the Spokane Indian Reservation in Stevens and Spokane counties.	\$744,150	\$0	\$744,150
PTD0663	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Purchase New Electric Transit Shuttle	24	Capital	Purchase one (1) expansion ADA electric light duty vehicle.	\$90,250	\$0	\$90,250
PTD0734	Spokane Tribe	Spokane Tribe Moccasin Express Fleet Replacement	3, 5, 6, 7, 9	Capital	Purchase two (2) replacement ADA light duty vehicles.	\$304,000	\$0	\$304,000
PTD0736	Squaxin Island Tribe	Squaxin Transit Capital Equipment	35	Capital	Purchase one (1) replacement ADA light duty vehicle.	\$117,130	\$0	\$117,130
PTD0688	Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation	Acquisition of pole mounted seating at 12 stops	42	Capital	Purchase twelve (12) bus stop seats with poles to improve safety.	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000

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Project identification number	Applicant	Project title	Legislative district	Project type	Project description	2023-2025 funded	2025-2027 unfunded	Project total
PTD0686	Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation	Vehicles and Equipment - Retrofit to Propane	42	Capital	Convert six (6) buses from gas to propane.	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000
PTD0684	Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation	Vehicles and Equipment	42	Capital	Purchase one (1) expansion electric bus.	\$799,613	\$0	\$799,613
PTD0665	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Commuter Trip Reduction Survey and Mobility Plan for Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's Employees	24	Planning	Develop a Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Workforce Commuter Trip Reduction Survey and Mobility Plan for Government and Enterprise employees with professional transportation planners in Carlsborg, Sequim, and Blyn on tribal lands.	\$78,375	\$0	\$78,375
PTD0643	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Cowlitz Tribal Transit Service - Rural Demand - Planning	18, 20	Planning	Develop a Zero-Emission fleet Transition Plan for the Cowlitz Tribal Transit Service (CTTS).	\$42,500	\$32,500	\$75,000
PTD0639	Yakama Nation	2023-2025 Consolidated Grant Program – Operating, Extended route continuation	14	Operating	Sustain the expanded fixed route transit service to continue to be fare-free and connect riders in the lower Yakima Valley.	\$120,252	\$0	\$120,252
PTD0687	Lummi Tribe of the Lummi Reservation	Acquisition of a propane-powered pickup half ton truck	42	Capital	Purchase one (1) replacement propane support vehicle.	\$59,900	\$0	\$59,900
PTD0890	Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe	2023-2025 Consolidated Grant Program - Operating	2	Operating	Sustain commuter bus to connect Sauk-Suiattle Tribe with Darrington and Arlington.	\$529,000	\$0	\$529,000
Totals						\$5,952,866	\$1,312,116	\$7,264,982

TABLE 2: NEW PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR FUNDING FOR THE 2023-2025 BIENNIUM

Project identification number	Applicant	Project title	Legislative district	Project type	Project description	2023-2025 proposed	2025-2027 proposed	Project total
	Lummi Indian Business Council	Lummi Nation Transportation Buses	42	Capital	Replacement of two (2) transit buses. Both buses are 2007 Ford All Star E450s with approximately 375,000 miles each with high maintenance and fuel costs. Both buses are beyond the useful life expectancy.	\$256,500	\$0	\$256,500
	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Cowlitz Indian Tribe Transit Program	3	Operating	The Cowlitz Tribal Transportation Service (CTTS) is requesting funding to pay for operations for the second fiscal year of the 2023-2025 biennium. CTTS provides transit services to the public and special needs riders throughout Lewis, Clark, and Cowlitz counties for low-density, rural communities.	\$341,800	\$0	\$341,800
	Makah Tribal Council	New Bus Purchase 2023	6,24	Capital	Replacement of one (1) cutaway bus used to provide public transportation services on the Makah Reservation.	\$171,000	\$0	\$171,000

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Project identification number	Applicant	Project title	Legislative district	Project type	Project description	2023-2025 proposed	2025-2027 proposed	Project total
	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually Rural Mobility Initiative-EV Capital Project	22	Capital	Purchase of three (3) electric 10-passenger transit vans with ADA accessibility to provide rural mobility services on the Nisqually reservation and within rural Thurston County.	\$242,250	\$0	\$242,250
	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Whistler Expansion Operations & Maintenance	16	Operating	The Whistler route provides rural fixed-route commuter public transportation services between Pendleton, Oregon; the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and Walla Walla, Washington. The Kayak transit network connects 18 communities in four counties with no passenger fare and ensures free access of Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation tribal members to their ancestral homeland.	\$406,238	\$449,618	\$855,856
	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Purchase & Install Bus Shelters, Bike Lockers, and Racks	6, 24	Capital	Support Clallam, Jefferson, and, in the future, Dungeness Line Transit systems by providing new bus shelters and bike lockers/racks along the US 101 and East Washington Street in the territory of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.	\$283,955	\$0	\$283,955
	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Whistler Expansion Bus Purchase	16	Capital	Purchase two (2) buses that will be used to increase the frequency of the Whistler route between Pendleton, Oregon, and Walla Walla, Washington, from the current four trips per day Monday-Friday and two trips per day on Saturday; to six trips per day Monday-Friday and four trips per day on Saturday.	\$551,000	\$0	\$551,000
	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Biennium 4 FY2024-2025	14	Operating	The project will fund the second year of the 2023-2025 services that will provide the extended weekend service that will allow the fixed routes to run seven days a week. The fare-free service would connect all riders within the lower Yakima Valley to local businesses, shopping facilities, exercise facilities, and educational facilities.	\$108,227	\$0	\$108,227
	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	FY2023 WSDOT Capital/Fleet Tribal Grant	13	Capital	The project will support the purchase of two (2) ADA-equipped vehicles for rural services on the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation within the Yakama Indian Reservation boundaries. The existing Pahto Tribal Transportation Program will add these two vehicles to the fleet. They will assist with the maintenance schedule.	\$257,931	\$0	\$257,931
	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Hermiston to Tri-Cities Route Study	8, 15, 16	Planning	This project will analyze regional demand and institutional capacity for the restoration of transit service between Hermiston, Oregon, and the Tri-Cities area of Washington.	\$87,400	\$0	\$87,400
	Samish Nation	Samish Nation Elders' Transportation Project	10, 39, 40, 42	Capital	Purchase of one (1) 12-passenger ADA-accessible bus and one (1) 7-passenger ADA-accessible van. These vehicles will serve Samish Nation elders and Samish citizens with limited mobility over a four-county area in Western Washington.	\$261,250	\$0	\$261,250

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Project identification number	Applicant	Project title	Legislative district	Project type	Project description	2023-2025 proposed	2025-2027 proposed	Project total
	Spokane Tribe of Indians	The Moccasin Express Continued Operations	3, 5, 6, 7, 9	Operating	This project will supplement the vehicle maintenance and fuel expenses to ensure that The Moccasin Express can maintain its highly effective fixed-route and demand (paratransit) services at current levels.	\$450,000	\$0	\$450,000
	Snoqualmie Indian Tribe	Snoqualmie Tribal Transit Program	19	Operating	This project funds operating costs for Snoqualmie Valley Transit to provide transit service to Snoqualmie Tribal members and other members of the community, in and around the Snoqualmie reservation and the Snoqualmie Valley, providing access to medical services, social services, education, employment, recreation, and cultural activities.	\$539,446	\$0	\$539,446
	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Cowlitz Indian Tribe Electric ADA Van Purchase	3	Capital	Purchase of one (1) fully electric ADA transit van to assist the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Transit Service in their transition to an environmentally friendly fleet.	\$142,500	\$0	\$142,500
	Samish Nation	Samish Nation Elders' Transportation Project	10, 39, 40, 42	Operating	This project will support a half-time salary for one (1) transportation driver through June 30, 2025, for demand-response service for Samish citizens living within Samish homelands over a four-county area in Western Washington, including Island, Skagit, San Juan, and Whatcom counties.	\$114,699	\$0	\$114,699
Totals						\$4,214,196	\$449,618	\$4,663,814

TABLE 3: UNFUNDED PROJECTS

Project identification number	Applicant	Project title	Legislative district	Project type	Project description	2023-2025 unfunded	2025-2027 unfunded	Project total
	Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe	Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Transit Program	1	Operating	This project creates a new demand-response service and provides upgraded transportation technology from the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Reservation to King, Snohomish, and Skagit counties, serving seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and the general public for the purposes of medical appointments and basic activities of life.	\$575,000	\$575,000	\$1,150,000
Totals						\$575,000	\$575,000	\$1,150,000

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ESHB	Engrossed Substitute House Bill
ESSB	Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation

WEBSITES FEATURED

- ESHB 1125
<https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1125-S.PL.pdf?q=20230516094653#page=77>
- ESSB 5974
<https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5974-S.SL.pdf?q=20230711152724#page=4>
- 2023-2 LEAP list
<https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2023proposals/Documents/ct/ctLEAPTransportationDocument2023-2AllProjects-042123.pdf>

English

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Español

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中文 – Chinese

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Af-soomaaliga – Somali

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한국어-Korean

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