



Tribal Transit Mobility Report

REMOVING BARRIERS TO IMPROVE TRIBAL ACCESS TO GRANT FUNDS

SEPTEMBER 2024



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This report is a summary of WSDOT’s engagement with tribes and barriers identified and removed from the Tribal Transit Mobility and other public transportation grant funds to date ESHB 2134– 2023, Sec. 221(12)(a).

ABOUT THE TRIBAL TRANSIT MOBILITY GRANT PROGRAM

The Washington State Legislature established the [Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program](#) in 2022 as part of the Move Ahead Washington \$17-billion, 16-year transportation funding package ([ESSB 5974 – 2021-22, Sec. 103](#)). The grant program is intended to provide additional support for the transportation needs of tribal communities ([ESHB 1125 – 2022-23, Sec. 221\(11\)](#)).

In its 2023 and 2024 sessions, the Legislature directed WSDOT to engage with tribes for recommendations on how to remove barriers for tribes to access Tribal Transit Mobility and other public transportation grant funds in ([ESHB 1125 – 2022-23, Sec. 221\(11\)\(a\)](#)) and [ESHB 2134– 2023, Sec. 221\(12\)\(a\)](#).

Recommendation based on the recent engagement with tribes that requires legislative action in 2025:

- Align the delivery of a prioritized list of projects and other program recommendations to the Legislature with other public transportation grants (i.e., Dec. 1 biennially) to limit administrative burdens that create tight Tribal Transit Mobility Grant timelines for applications.

2023 ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIONS TO REMOVE GRANT PROGRAM BARRIERS

In 2023, WSDOT used a survey to engage and better understand barriers to tribes accessing Tribal Transit Mobility and other grant funds. The survey received responses from 11 tribes.

This engagement resulted in the following administrative changes, which WSDOT was able to make to the 2025-2027 Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program:

- Eliminated the match requirement.
- Worked with partners to develop, update, and deploy training directly to tribes, specifically around grant application writing, creating partnerships, coordination, and grant management.
- Simplified the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant application.

Tribes also recommended the following changes to the program, which required Legislative action:

- Remove the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program from the [Consolidated Grant Program](#).
- Limit administrative burdens that create tight Tribal Transit Mobility Grant timelines.

The Legislature took action to remove the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program from the Consolidated Grant Program in 2024.

REMOVING THE TRIBAL TRANSIT MOBILITY GRANT PROGRAM FROM THE CONSOLIDATED GRANT PROGRAM

The Legislature removed the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program from the Consolidated Grant Program in its 2024 session.

WSDOT's Public Transportation Division administers many of its state and federal grant programs through the Consolidated Grant Program. Administering state and federal dollars under one grant program allows the division to help grantees meet federal match requirements with state funds and vice versa. This lets the division provide more and larger grants to organizations across the state.

However, administering the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program under the Consolidated Grant Program created barriers for tribes. Specifically, the Consolidated Grant Program requires applicants' projects to be documented in a coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan and ranked by a regional transportation/metropolitan planning organization. The Consolidated Grant application also has extensive questions to account for oversight of state and federal funds.

Managing the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program as a standalone program streamlines application for and award of grant funding to tribes.

ADDING A WSDOT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DIVISION TRIBAL LIAISON

WSDOT's Public Transportation Division added one full-time-equivalent employee in a tribal liaison role in late 2023. The tribal liaison conducts ongoing engagement with tribes to:

- Foster close partnerships among tribes, WSDOT, and the state's public transportation sector.
- Meet or exceed the state's goal of 10 percent of Climate Commitment Act public transportation funding benefitting or supporting tribes.
- Increase transit accessibility and use in tribal areas.
- Encourage more tribes to submit applications for transit projects.

WSDOT Public Transportation Division's investment in tribal engagement equates to one, full-time-equivalent employee. Staff assigned to this work are dedicated to the public transportation needs of the [29 federally recognized tribes](#) in Washington.

If it's the Legislature's intent to meet the tribes needs in the grant writing and administration process, additional staff would be necessary.

2024 ENGAGEMENT AND ACTION TO REMOVE GRANT PROGRAM BARRIERS

WSDOT surveyed tribes again in 2024 to better understand barriers to tribes accessing Tribal Transit Mobility and other grant programs. The survey received responses from five tribes. WSDOT Public Transportation Division tribal liaisons also conducted one-on-one discussions with 14 tribes to supplement the survey.

The following sections detail barriers and recommended changes from the survey and one-on-one discussions.

BARRIERS

WSDOT used the survey results and one-on-one discussions to identify the following barriers for tribes' access to Tribal Transit Mobility and other public transportation grant funds:

- **Consolidated grant match requirement:** While individual barriers exist for multiple tribes, the grant match requirement is a barrier for most. Multiple tribes communicated their willingness to apply for the Tribal Transit Mobility Grant because the program doesn't require match. However, they cited the match requirement as the reason they're hesitant or unable to apply to the Consolidated Grant Program.
- **Grant application and management training availability:** Tribes noted the benefit of sending staff to meet with tribes, discuss transportation needs, and walking through the application process. Multiple tribes requested additional training on all grant topics, specifically how to write a grant.
- **Grant administration burdens:** Tribes noted that their capacity to administer a grant after it's awarded is constrained due to managing other projects.
- **Proprietary information:** Tribal governments noted that public disclosure laws in Washington run the risk of releasing unrelated proprietary tribal information as part of public transportation grant applications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

WSDOT used the survey results and one-on-one discussions to identify the following recommendations to remove barriers for tribes' access to Tribal Transit Mobility and other public transportation grant funds.

Continuing WSDOT administrative changes:

- Continue work with partners to develop, update, and deploy training directly to tribes, specifically around grant application writing, creating partnerships, coordination, and grant management.

WSDOT administrative changes underway for 2027-2029 grant program biennium:

- Eliminate match requirements for tribes for the Consolidated Grant Program.
- Change grant documentation requirements for audits to respect tribal sovereignty.

Tribes also recommended the following changes to the program, which required Legislative action:

- Align the delivery of a prioritized list of projects and other program recommendations to the Legislature with other public transportation grants (i.e., Dec. 1 biennially) to limit administrative burdens that create tight Tribal Transit Mobility Grant timelines for applications.

APPENDIX: SURVEY AND RESULTS

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

WSDOT executive tribal relations and Public Transportation staff collaborated to create a 10-question survey that reflected the objectives outlined by the Legislature in ESHB 2134- 2023, Sec. 221(12)(a).

The survey asked tribes about their history of public transportation grant funding, what barriers they experience obtaining grant funding, and how WSDOT can assist in their future grant applications.

Staff sent the survey to the 29 federally recognized tribes in Washington. The survey was active June 5–July 12, 2024, and received responses from five tribes:

- Colville Confederated Tribes
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Chehalis Confederated Tribes
- Nooksack Tribe
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe

The map below shows tribes that responded to the survey.



SUMMARY SURVEY RESULTS

The following are summarized survey results.

Note: The Tribal Transportation Mobility Grant survey included optional questions and used “skip logic.” Due to these variables, total responses will vary for certain questions.

- Two out of five respondents have applied for public transportation grant funding.
- Two of the five respondents are interested in all types of training.

Summarized individual written responses:

- Removing the match increases access to funding.
- Meeting with tribes is the best way to learn about their transportation needs and provide assistance with the application process.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

The survey data below includes summarized and individual data. WSDOT has made data anonymous when possible and minor grammatical and spelling edits to survey comments.

Question: Have you ever applied for public transportation grant funding?

Response	Number of respondents
Yes	3
No	2

Question: Did you apply for Tribal Transit Mobility funding in the 2023-2025 biennium?

Response	Number of respondents
Yes	1
No	—
I’m not sure	2

Question: What training would assist you in applying for grant funds (select all that apply)?

Answer	Number of respondents
Grant application process	—
How to write a grant	1
Grant basics 101	—
Partnering and coordination	—
Understanding community engagement	—
Other (please specify)	3

Other (please specify):

Response
I think all of these should be an option instead of "select one".
Writing grants is not the issue for us, we can do that. It's administering the grant once we get it that we don't have the capacity for.
All of it. I do not know enough about grants and the processes.

Question: Why didn't you apply for Tribal Transit Mobility funding for the 2023-2025 biennium?

Response
Don't have the staff to administer a grant funded project.
I am in the process of trying to apply.

Question: Did you receive any assistance from Public Transportation Division staff? Do you have suggestions for how we could improve the help we offered?

Response
I found the information provided very useful. The best thing to do is send staff to meet with and discuss with the Tribe what they see as transportation related needs.
No assistance requested.
No and these grants help a lot with our operations for our tribal transit program 'The moccasin Express'. We are always fortunate when we receive funding through this program.
Yes, they all have been very nice and helpful.

Question: How can we help you apply for future grant funds?

Response
Listen to the needs of the Tribe and don't think it's set in stone. Tribal needs change often.
We need additional staff to administer grant funds.
Normally the application process is straight forward and we have the capacity to write the application in house.

Question: Is there anything else you would like to share? Is there anything you want us to be sure to include in the report to the Legislature?

Response
One-on-one consultations could be very beneficial to the applicant when going through the application process along with funding programs that support sustainable and environmentally friendly transportation options, such as electric buses and charging infrastructure.

ACRONYMS

ESHB	Engrossed Substitute House Bill
ESSB	Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill
WSDOT	Washington Department of Transportation

WEBSITES FEATURED

The Tribal Transit Mobility Grant Program	https://wsdot.wa.gov/business-wsdot/grants/public-transportation-grants/grant-programs-and-awards/tribal-transit-mobility
ESSB 5974 – 2021-22, Sec. 103	https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/Session Laws/Senate/5974-S.SL.pdf?q=20230711152724#page=4
ESHB 1125 – 2023-24, Sec. 221(11)	https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/1125-S.PL.pdf?q=20230516094653#page=77
ESHB 2134– 2023, Sec. 221(12)(a)	https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2134-S.E.pdf
Consolidated Grant Program	https://wsdot.wa.gov/business-wsdot/grants/public-transportation-grants/grant-programs-and-awards/consolidated
29 federally recognized tribes	https://goia.wa.gov/tribal-directory/federally-recognized-indian-tribes-washington-state

ADA/TITLE VI/TRANSLATION SERVICES

ENGLISH

Title VI Notice to Public

It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OECR's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7090.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equity and Civil Rights at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

ESPAÑOL

Notificación de Título VI al Público

La política del Departamento de Transporte del Estado de Washington (Washington State Department of Transportation, WSDOT) es garantizar que ninguna persona, por motivos de raza, color u origen nacional, según lo dispuesto en el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, sea excluida de la participación, se le nieguen los beneficios o se le discrimine de otro modo en cualquiera de sus programas y actividades. Cualquier persona que considere que se ha violado su protección del Título VI puede presentar una queja ante la Oficina de Equidad y Derechos Civiles (Office of Equity and Civil Rights, OECR) del WSDOT. Para obtener más información sobre los procedimientos de queja del Título VI o información sobre nuestras obligaciones contra la discriminación, comuníquese con el coordinador del Título VI de la OECR al (360) 705-7090.

Información de la Ley sobre Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés)

Este material puede estar disponible en un formato alternativo al enviar un correo electrónico a la Oficina de Equidad y Derechos Civiles a wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov o llamando a la línea sin cargo 855-362-4ADA(4232). Personas sordas o con discapacidad auditiva pueden solicitar la misma información llamando al Washington State Relay al 711.

한국어 – KOREAN

제6조 관련 공지사항

워싱턴 주 교통부(WSDOT)는 1964년 민권법 타이틀 VI 규정에 따라, 누구도 인종, 피부색 또는 출신 국가를 근거로 본 부서의 모든 프로그램 및 활동에 대한 참여가 배제되거나 혜택이 거부되거나, 또는 달리 차별받지 않도록 하는 것을 정책으로 하고 있습니다. 타이틀 VI에 따른 그/그녀에 대한 보호 조항이 위반되었다고 생각된다면 누구든지 WSDOT의 평등 및 민권 사무국(OECR)에 민원을 제기할 수 있습니다. 타이틀 VI에 따른 민원 처리 절차에 관한 보다 자세한 정보 및/또는 본 부서의 차별금지 의무에 관한 정보를 원하신다면, (360) 705-7090으로 OECR의 타이틀 VI 담당자에게 연락해주시십시오.

미국 장애인법(ADA) 정보

본 자료는 또한 평등 및 민권 사무국에 이메일 wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov 을 보내시거나 무료 전화 855-362-4ADA(4232)로 연락하셔서 대체 형식으로 받아보실 수 있습니다. 청각 장애인은 워싱턴주 중계 711로 전화하여 요청하실 수 있습니다.

русский – RUSSIAN

Раздел VI Общественное заявление

Политика Департамента транспорта штата Вашингтон (WSDOT) заключается в том, чтобы исключить любые случаи дискриминации по признаку расы, цвета кожи или национального происхождения, как это предусмотрено Разделом VI Закона о гражданских правах 1964 года, а также случаи недопущения участия, лишения льгот или другие формы дискриминации в рамках любой из своих программ и мероприятий. Любое лицо, которое считает, что его средства защиты в рамках раздела VI были нарушены, может подать жалобу в Ведомство по вопросам равенства и гражданских прав WSDOT (OECR). Для дополнительной информации о процедуре подачи жалобы на несоблюдение требований раздела VI, а также получения информации о наших обязательствах по борьбе с дискриминацией, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с координатором OECR по разделу VI по телефону (360) 705-7090.

Закон США о защите прав граждан с ограниченными возможностями (ADA)

Эту информацию можно получить в альтернативном формате, отправив электронное письмо в Ведомство по вопросам равенства и гражданских прав по адресу wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov или позвонив по бесплатному телефону 855-362-4ADA(4232). Глухие и слабослышащие лица могут сделать запрос, позвонив в специальную диспетчерскую службу штата Вашингтон по номеру 711.

tiếng Việt – VIETNAMESE

Thông báo Khoản VI dành cho công chúng

Chính sách của Sở Giao Thông Vận Tải Tiểu Bang Washington (WSDOT) là bảo đảm không để cho ai bị loại khỏi sự tham gia, bị từ khước quyền lợi, hoặc bị kỳ thị trong bất cứ chương trình hay hoạt động nào vì lý do chủng tộc, màu da, hoặc nguồn gốc quốc gia, theo như quy định trong Mục VI của Đạo Luật Dân Quyền năm 1964. Bất cứ ai tin rằng quyền bảo vệ trong Mục VI của họ bị vi phạm, đều có thể nộp đơn khiếu nại cho Văn Phòng Bảo Vệ Dân Quyền và Bình Đẳng (OECR) của WSDOT. Muốn biết thêm chi tiết liên quan đến thủ tục khiếu nại Mục VI và/hoặc chi tiết liên quan đến trách nhiệm không kỳ thị của chúng tôi, xin liên lạc với Phối Trí Viên Mục VI của OECR số (360) 705-7090.

Thông tin về Đạo luật Người Mỹ tàn tật (Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA)

Tài liệu này có thể thực hiện bằng một hình thức khác bằng cách email cho Văn Phòng Bảo Vệ Dân Quyền và Bình Đẳng wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov hoặc gọi điện thoại miễn phí số, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Người điếc hoặc khiếm thính có thể yêu cầu bằng cách gọi cho Dịch vụ Tiếp âm Tiểu bang Washington theo số 711.

العربية – ARABIC

العنوان 6 إشعار للجمهور

تتمثل سياسة وزارة النقل في ولاية واشنطن (WSDOT) ضمان عدم استبعاد أي شخص، على أساس العرق أو اللون أو الأصل القومي من المشاركة في أي من برامجها وأنشطتها أو الحرمان من الفوائد المتاحة بموجبها أو التعرض للتمييز فيها بخلاف ذلك، كما هو منصوص عليه في الباب السادس من قانون الحقوق المدنية لعام 1964. يمكن لأي شخص يعتقد أنه تم انتهاك حقوقه التي يكفلها الباب السادس تقديم شكوى إلى مكتب المساواة والحقوق المدنية (OECR) مع لوزارة النقل في ولاية واشنطن. للحصول على معلومات إضافية بشأن إجراءات الشكاوى وأو بشأن التزاماتنا بعدم التمييز بموجب الباب السادس، يرجى الاتصال بمنسق الباب السادس في مكتب المساواة والحقوق المدنية على الرقم (360) 705-7090.

معلومات قانون الأمريكيين ذوي الإعاقة (ADA)

يمكن توفير هذه المواد في تنسيق بديل عن طريق إرسال رسالة بريد إلكتروني إلى مكتب المساواة والحقوق المدنية على wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov أو عن طريق الاتصال بالرقم المجاني: (4232) 855-362-4ADA يمكن للأشخاص الصم أو ضعاف السمع تقديم طلب عن طريق الاتصال بخدمة Washington State Relay الرقم 711.

中文 – CHINESE

《权利法案》Title VI公告

<華盛頓州交通部(WSDOT)政策規定，按照《1964年民權法案》第六篇規定，確保無人因種族、膚色或國籍而被排除在WSDOT任何計畫和活動之外，被剝奪相關權益或以其他方式遭到歧視。如任何人認為其第六篇保護權益遭到侵犯，則可向WSDOT的公平和民權辦公室(OECR)提交投訴。如需關於第六篇投訴程式的更多資訊和/或關於我們非歧視義務的資訊，請聯絡OECR的第六篇協調員，電話(360) 705-7090。

《美国残疾人法案》(ADA)信息

可向公平和民權辦公室發送電子郵件 wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov 或撥打免費電話 855-362-4ADA(4232)，以其他格式獲取此資料。听力丧失或听觉障碍人士可拨打711联系Washington州转接站。

Af-soomaaliga – SOMALI

Ciwaanka VI Ogeysiiska Dadweynaha

Waa siyaasada Waaxda Gaadiidka Gobolka Washington (WSDOT) in la xaqiijiyoo in aan qofna, ayadoo la cuskanaayo sababo la xariira isir, midab, ama wakanku kasoo jeedo, sida ku qoran Title VI (Qodobka VI) ee Sharciga Xaquuqda Madaniga ah ah oo soo baxay 1964, laga saarin ka qaybgalka, loo diidin faa'iidooyinka, ama si kale loogu takoorin barnaamijyadeeda iyo shaqooyinkeeda. Qof kasta oo aaminsan in difaaciisa Title VI la jebiyay, ayaa cabasho u gudbin kara Xafiiska Sinaanta iyo Xaquuqda Madaniga ah (OECR) ee WSDOT. Si aad u hesho xog dheeraad ah oo ku saabsan hanaannada cabashada Title VI iyo/ama xogta la xariirta waajibaadkeena ka caagan takoorka, fadlan la xariir Iskuduwaha Title VI ee OECR oo aad ka wacayso (360) 705-7090.

Macluumaadka Xeerka Naafada Marykanka (ADA)

Agabkaan ayaad ku heli kartaa qaab kale adoo iimeel u diraa Xafiiska Sinaanta iyo Xaquuqda Madaniga ah oo aad ka helayso wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov ama adoo wacaaya laynka bilaashka ah, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Dadka naafada maqalka ama maqalku ku adag yahay waxay ku codsan karaan wicitaanka Adeega Gudbinta Gobolka Washington 711.

If you have difficulty understanding English, you may, free of charge, request language assistance services by calling 360-705-7921 or email us at: PubTrans@wsdot.wa.gov

ESPAÑOL - SPANISH

Servicios de traducción

Aviso a personas con dominio limitado del idioma inglés: Si usted tiene alguna dificultad en entender el idioma inglés, puede, sin costo alguno, solicitar asistencia lingüística con respecto a esta información llamando al 360-705-7921, o envíe un mensaje de correo electrónico a: PubTrans@wsdot.wa.gov

한국어 - KOREAN

번역 서비스

영어로 소통하는 것이 불편하시다면 360-705-7921, 으로 전화하시거나 다음 이메일로 연락하셔서 무료 언어 지원 서비스를 요청하실 수 있습니다: PubTrans@wsdot.wa.gov

русский - RUSSIAN

Услуги перевода

Если вам трудно понимать английский язык, вы можете запросить бесплатные языковые услуги, позвонив по телефону 360-705-7921, или написав нам на электронную почту: PubTrans@wsdot.wa.gov

tiếng Việt - VIETNAMESE

các dịch vụ dịch thuật

Nếu quý vị không hiểu tiếng Anh, quý vị có thể yêu cầu dịch vụ trợ giúp ngôn ngữ, miễn phí, bằng cách gọi số 360-705-7921, hoặc email cho chúng tôi tại: PubTrans@wsdot.wa.gov

العَرَبِيَّةُ - ARABIC

خدمات الترجمة

إذا كنت تجد صعوبة في فهم اللغة الإنجليزية، فيمكنك مجاً طلب خدمات المساعدة اللغوية عن

طريق الاتصال بالرقم 360-705-7921 أو مراسلتنا عبر البريد الإلكتروني: PubTrans@wsdot.wa.gov

中文 - CHINESE

翻译服务

如果您难以理解英文，则请致电：360-705-7921，或给我们发送电子邮件：PubTrans@wsdot.wa.gov，请求获取免费语言援助服务。

Af-soomaaliga - SOMALI

Adeegyada Turjumaada

Haddii ay kugu adag tahay inaad fahamtid Ingiriisida, waxaad, bilaash, ku codsan kartaa adeegyada caawimada luuqada adoo wacaaya 360-705-7921 ama iimayl noogu soo dir: PubTrans@wsdot.wa.gov



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