



**MEMBERS:**

- City of Lacey
- City of Olympia
- City of Rainier
- City of Tenino
- City of Tumwater
- City of Yelm
- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Town of Bucoda
- Thurston County
- North Thurston Public Schools
- Olympia School District
- Tumwater School District
- Intercity Transit
- LOTT Clean Water Alliance
- Port of Olympia
- PUD No. 1 of Thurston County

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**

- Lacey Fire District #3
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- The Evergreen State College
- Thurston Conservation District
- Thurston Economic Development Council
- Timberland Regional Library



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Executive Director

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Thurston Regional Planning Council  
**FROM:** Katrina Van Every, Transportation Manager  
**DATE:** November 29, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** Consolidated Grant Rankings

**PURPOSE**

Staff will provide a first review of the proposed rankings for applications seeking Consolidated Grants.

**Summary:**

- Consolidated grants provide funds for public transportation improvements within and between rural communities; tribal transportation; transportation services between cities; purchases of new buses and equipment; and public transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities.
- To be eligible for the Consolidated Grant, applicants must participate—and have their project need identified—in Thurston Regional Planning Council’s (TRPC) [Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan \(HSTP\)](#).
- TRPC can impact project rankings and whether a project is funded by a Consolidated Grant. Based on demographics, WSDOT provides each Regional Transportation Planning Organization/Metropolitan Planning Organization (RTPO/MPO) with a certain number of regional rankings and points that can be applied to projects. For this cycle, TRPC has:
  - 1 A. The project will automatically be awarded funding.
  - 3 Bs. These projects will be given 25 regional points.
  - 3 Cs. These projects will be given 12 regional points.
  - Unlimited Ds. These projects receive no additional points.
- For this grant cycle, Council will consider two projects. Based on the priorities outlined in the HSTP, staff recommends that Council rank the projects as follows:
  - A: Thurston Regional Planning Council’s *Continuation of Expanded Rural Transit Service (Operating)*.
  - B: TransServe PNP’s *TRPC Replacement Vehicles 2024 (Capital Vehicle)*.

**REQUESTED ACTION**

This is a first review; no action required.

kve:bl

## EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

[Consolidated grants](#) provide funds for public transportation improvements within and between rural communities; tribal transportation; transportation services between cities; purchases of new buses and equipment; and public transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities.

The [Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan](#) identifies available transportation services, needs, gaps, and recommendations to benefit those who – because of age, income, or ability – may face limited transportation options, which includes populations who may not traditionally participate in planning efforts.

## BACKGROUND

Consolidated grants are awarded through a competitive process supported by state and federal funding. Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) works with an advisory committee to consider the priorities of regional planning councils like TRPC when establishing ranking criteria for the competitive process.

To be eligible for the Consolidated Grant, applicants must participate—and have their project need identified—in TRPC's Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. For purposes of ranking, TRPC focuses on the following:

- Continuing and enhancing existing successful strategies and programs.
- Maintaining/replacing vehicles that support existing successful strategies and programs.
- New programs that fill gaps identified in the Human Services Transportation Plan.

TRPC can impact project rankings and whether a project is funded by a Consolidated Grant. Based on demographics, WSDOT provides each RTP/MPO with a certain number of regional rankings and points that can be applied to projects. For this cycle, TRPC has:

- 1 A. The project will automatically be awarded funding.
- 3 Bs. These projects will be given 25 regional points.
- 3 Cs. These projects will be given 12 regional points.
- Unlimited Ds. These projects receive no additional points.

Once WSDOT completes its initial review and ranking of submitted projects, the regional points are applied to the total. WSDOT will then fund as many projects as possible; projects given As have funding priority; after that, projects are funded in order based on their total ranking points until the funding is exhausted.

APPLICATIONS AND PRIORITIES

The following projects that operate in the Thurston region applied for Consolidated Grants and have been organized by priorities found in the Human Services Transportation Plan:

**Continuing and enhancing existing successful strategies and programs.**

**Thurston Regional Planning Council. Continuation of Expanded Rural Transit Service (Operating)**

Grant Request: \$3,030,888 (2025-2029)

Match: \$353,566

Description: Sustain the expansion of the Rural Transit (rT) service added in 2023: Saturday service; route to Yelm from Rainier; Tenino mid-day route; and transfer connection with Grays Harbor and Lewis Transit. Enhances rT's backbone service, providing transportation throughout rural Thurston County through partnerships with area non-profits and businesses.

**Maintaining/replacing vehicles that support existing successful strategies and programs.**

**TransServe PNP. TRPC Replacement Vehicles 2024 (Capital Vehicle)**

Grant Request: \$1,096,155 (2025-2027)

Match: \$57,690

Description: TranServe PNP is a 501 (c) 3 private non-profit agency and will submit a grant to obtain eight replacement vehicles to support TRPC's operations. The service operates three deviated routes using four vehicles Mon-Sat. The smaller vehicles will be used to aid the assistance of special needs transportation.

**New programs that fill gaps identified in the Human Services Transportation Plan.**

No applications for this priority were forwarded to TRPC for consideration.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Council rank the projects as follows:

- A: Thurston Regional Planning Council. Continuation of Expanded Rural Transit Service (Operating).
- B: TransServe PNP. TRPC Replacement Vehicles 2024 (Capital Vehicle)