



# City of Canby

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April 18, 2019

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Vice Chair  
The Honorable Representative David Gomberg, Co-Vice Chair  
The Honorable Representative Greg Smith, Co-Vice Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Legislative Fiscal Office  
911 Court St. NE, Room H-178,  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Special Transportation Fund (STF) Revenue

Dear Senators and Representatives:

For many years now, the Special Transportation Fund (STF) program has been critical in supporting transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities across Oregon. Many rural and small community programs use STF funds as match for federal grants and rely heavily on STF for their core services. The City of Canby and Canby Area Transit have received STF funds for our paratransit service since 2002.

Until recently, the STF program was the only state supported transit program. STF supports lean, well-established, flexible, coordinated transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities across the state. Generally speaking, STF supports essential dial-a-ride services for paratransit customers or fixed-route services that serve vulnerable populations.

The new Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) program created by HB 2017 is a huge step forward for Oregon transit riders and providers. It will create service expansions and improvements statewide. The City of Canby is grateful for the added revenue which will allow Canby Area Transit (CAT) to implement a limited Saturday service in September; and in future years STIF will support vehicle purchases and a local Canby circulator bus route.

Unfortunately, neither non-profit organizations nor existing programs are eligible STIF projects under the current regulation. Even if existing projects were allowed to submit STIF applications it is unlikely that they would compete well under the current STIF application criterion.

STF funds have periodically provided Canby Area Transit (CAT) with federal matching funds for vehicle purchases; and regularly supported CAT's Dial-A-Ride program which is partially funded by STF (\$120,000 annually). Canby has limited medical services so many paratransit customers use Willamette Falls Medical Center and other medical offices in Oregon City. STF funds support paratransit trips between Canby and the Oregon City city limits (with no transfer between CAT and TriMet LIFT). These are generally medical, education and employment trips (trips for social services, legal and social security appointments are also provided). The highest percentage are medical trips and include dialysis, oncology, cardiology and other medical specialist trips. Providing this transfer-less service is both more efficient and less expensive than dispatching both a CAT and TriMet LIFT bus for a single paratransit customer. Imagine forcing frail, often ill, individuals to transfer between transit services in the midst of an 8-10 mile trip to and from a medical appointment. So far this year, CAT has provided 7.6 transfer-less rides per service day. These trips are provided to the most vulnerable individuals.

We urge you to approve STF funding in the General Fund Budget at the same level as the previous biennium (\$10 million). Without the General Fund support STF programs are facing a 40 percent cut and CAT's transfer-less paratransit service is threatened. These programs already operate with limited revenue and provide lean, efficient, coordinated services. Many STF programs have nothing left to cut.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Hodson,  
Mayor

cc: Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means