



Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund
Low-Income Impact Mitigation **Cover Letter**
(For Qualified Entities)

Per OAR 732-040-0025(1), each Qualified Entity (QE) receiving Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) funds is required to submit an Annual STIF Low-Income Tax Mitigation Report, detailing any actions taken by Public Transportation Service Providers (PTSPs) located within the area of that QE to mitigate the impact of the STIF tax on passengers who reside in low-income communities. Under STIF, “low-income household” is defined as a household the total income of which does not exceed 200% of the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

It is the QE’s responsibility to complete this cover letter and bundle it along with all low-income impact mitigation forms received from PTSPs (including PTSPs receiving STIF Discretionary funds) for submittal to ODOT. PTSPs are responsible for submitting an annual low-income mitigation form to the QE to be submitted alongside the QE’s own mitigation form. The QE will coordinate with PTSPs in order to ensure that ODOT receives the Annual STIF Low-Income Tax Mitigation Report. QEs must submit these documents to ODOT no later than 45 days after the end of each Fiscal Year in which the QE receives STIF funds.

Reference:

OAR 732-040-0025 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUND – QUALIFIED ENTITY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund
Qualified Entity
Low-Income Impact Mitigation Cover Letter

Instructions: Complete all sections of this cover letter, providing as much detail as is feasible. Once completed, submit with the low-income mitigation forms to ODOT as an attachment to the STIF Periodic Report (SPR).

Name of QE:

Columbia County

Explain how the QE defines and identifies passengers in low-income communities:

Please See Attached

List of PTSPs who have submitted the Low-Income Mitigation Form (including QE):

Columbia County Rider

Signature: _____

John A. Dreeszen 8-9-24

Contact your RTC or Ben Goldberg (Ben.H.Goldberg@odot.oregon.gov) with questions about this form.

Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund

Qualified Entity

Low-Income Impact Mitigation Cover Letter

Explain how the QE defines and identifies passengers in Low-Income Communities:

Columbia County defines low-income households as follows: "Areas of High Percentage of Low-Income Households" shall mean geographic areas within Columbia County that are determined to have a high percentage of low-income households.

Pursuant to OAR 732-040-0035(2)(a), it shall be the responsibility of the Advisory Committee to gather data and to seek public input, and to make a determination as to the areas of Columbia County in which high percentages of low-income households exist, and to publish said determination in its Committee minutes and printed public materials.

Utilizing the guidance provided by ODOT, Columbia County has used the 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates data and the US Census Bureau methodology to determine the percentage of low-income households in the County. Because Columbia County's projects impact all parts of the county, the total number of low-income households will be used. Using the above data and method, the County has determined the following:

There are 13,269 individuals below the 200% federal poverty level;

There are 2.58 persons per household on average in Columbia County;

$13,269 / 2.58 = 5,143$ households below the 200% federal poverty level;

The total population of Columbia County is 52,190;

$52,190 / 2.58 = 20,229$ households in the County;

$5,143 / 20,229 = 25.4\%$ of the household in Columbia County are below the 200% federal poverty level.



**Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund
Low-Income Impact Mitigation Form**
(For Public Transportation Service Providers and Qualified Entities)

Per OAR 732-040-0025(1), each Qualified Entity (QE) receiving Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) funds is required to submit an Annual STIF Low-Income Tax Mitigation Report, detailing any actions taken by Public Transportation Service Providers (PTSPs) located within the area of that QE to mitigate the impact of the STIF tax on passengers who reside in low-income communities. Under STIF, “low-income household” is defined as a household the total income of which does not exceed 200% of the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2).

Each PTSP receiving STIF funds must complete this form and return it to the appropriate QE. The identified QE will use collected responses to complete its Annual STIF Low-Income Tax Mitigation Report.

Reference:

OAR 732-040-0025 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUND – QUALIFIED ENTITY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund
Public Transportation Service Providers
Low-Income Impact Mitigation Form

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all sections of this form, providing as much detail as is feasible. Once completed, return the completed form to the Qualified Entity identified in the form.

Name of PTSP: Columbia County Rider
Fund Source(s) Received (check all that apply): STIF Formula <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STIF Discretionary <input type="checkbox"/> STIF Intercommunity Discretionary <input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Qualified Entity (based on location of PTSP): Columbia County
Describe the actions, if any, that this PTSP has taken to mitigate the impact of the STIF tax on passengers residing in low-income communities. If no such actions have been taken, write "N/A." Columbia County Rider offers a \$1.00 fare reduction for all Commuter and Dial-a-Ride services. The fare reduction is available to seniors, disabled persons, veterans, students, and low-income persons.

Signature: John A. Dreeszen 8-9-24

Contact your RTC or Tammy Garcia (Tammy.Garcia@odot.oregon.gov) with any questions.