Re: Letter of support for Skamania County Transportation Services

The City of Stevenson is submitting this letter in support of Skamania County Senior Services grant applications for the Dial-a-Ride Program and the Transit Program.

The Dial-a-Ride program provides over 19,000 trips per year to senior citizens in our area, including disabled, low-income, those who cannot legally drive, and the general public who need transportation assistance. This program takes persons to medical, social services, financial appointments, and essential shopping opportunities. The benefit is to provide independent community living. Because Skamania County has limited opportunities for these services many citizens must travel outside of the County to receive them.

The Transit program provides transit services Monday through Friday to the Fisher’s Landing Transit Center in Clark County. This service is used to access employment, educational institutions, and shopping opportunities in the metropolitan area. It is also used by recreationists and tourists to visit Skamania County. This service provides approximately 15,000 transit trips per year.

The City of Stevenson has supported these programs financially through the award of Tourism funds to Skamania County Senior Services for these programs.

Skamania County is also requesting two replacement mini-vans for the Dial-a-Ride program and ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) grant for scheduling and dispatching software.

Seeking a grant to help cover the costs of continuing these programs helps minimize the financial impact to Skamania County low and moderate income citizenry that would otherwise bear the financial burden of these programs.

We encourage your favorable response to this urgent need for Skamania County residents.

Sincerely,

Frank Cox, Mayor