



101 Webinar: Veterans Highly Rural Transportation Grants

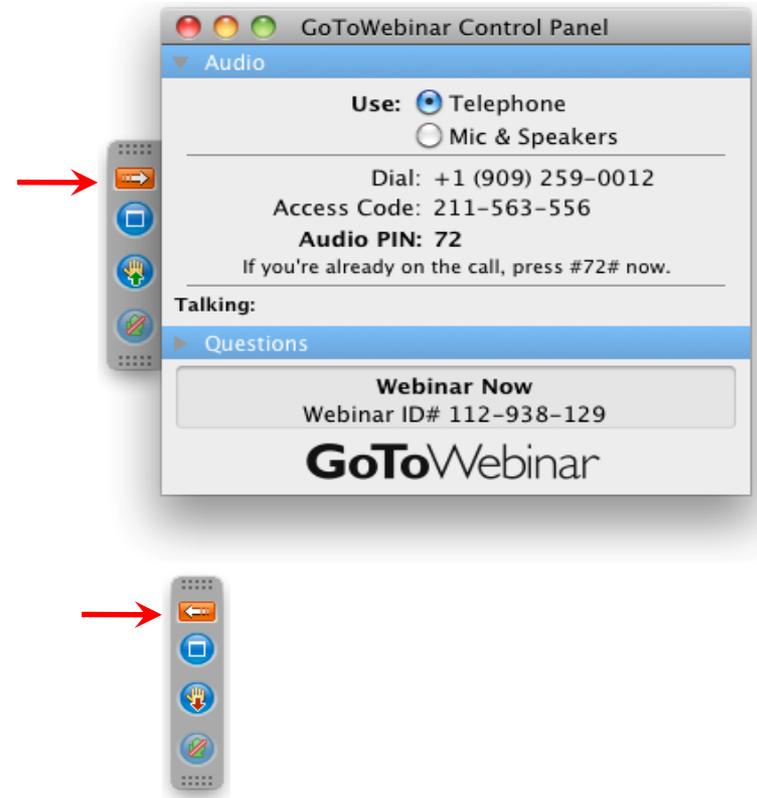
Wednesday, September 28, 2016



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

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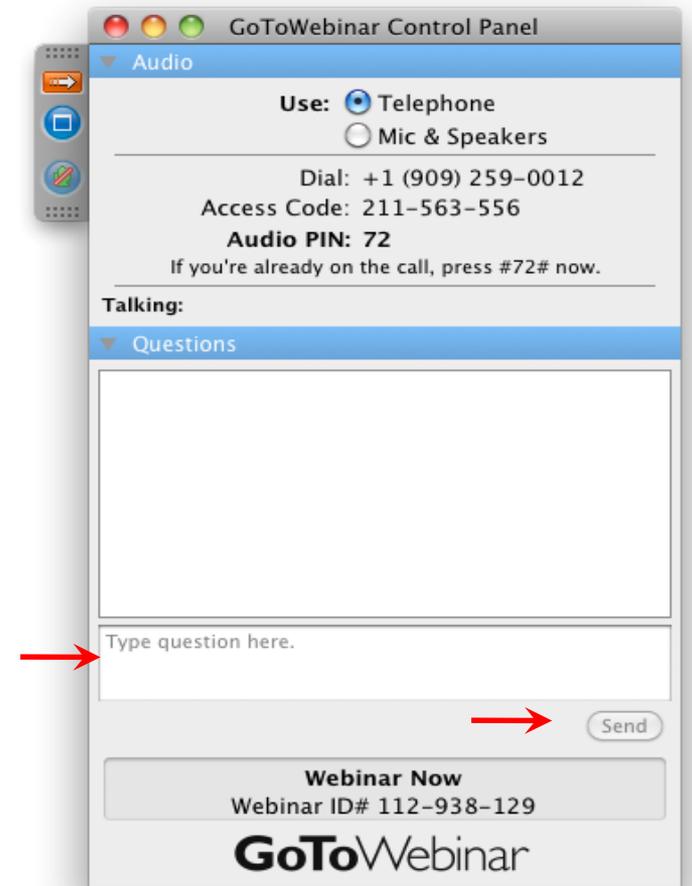
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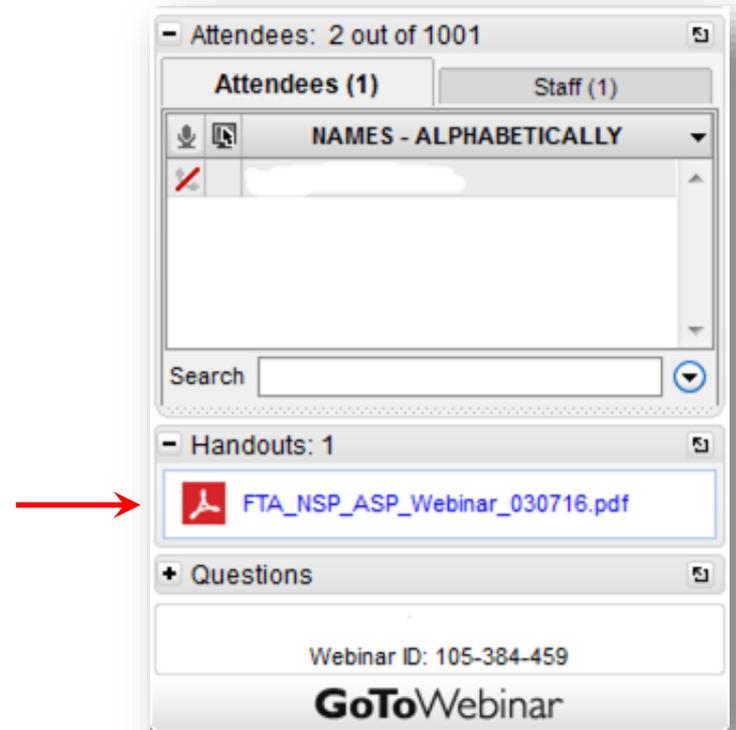
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Wednesday, September 28, 2016



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Presenters

- **Darren Wallace**, National Coordinator, Highly Rural Transportation Grants, Veterans Health Administration
- **Dave Cooley**, Program Analyst, Statewide Veteran Services, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs
- **Joni Bramlett**, Regional Transit Coordinator, Rail & Public Transit Division, Oregon Department of Transportation
- **Angie Jones**, Transit Manager, Grant County Transportation District, John Day, Oregon

Highly Rural Transportation Grants

Introduction

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established a program to provide grants to Veteran Service Organizations and State Veteran Service Agencies to assist Veterans in highly rural areas through innovative transportation services to travel to Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and VA authorized community care.

The program is authorized by section 307 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, Pub. L. 111-163.

Purpose

This program provides grants to eligible recipients to assist Veterans in highly rural areas through innovative transportation services to travel to the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to non-VA authorized care. (Authority: Pub. L. 111-163, 38 U.S.C. 501)

Program Goals

- Innovative approaches to transportation
- Focus: Highly Rural Areas
- Increase access to transportation
- Improved medical care through transportation
- Leverage other innovative transportation approaches
- Improve community transportation partnerships

Program Expectations

- Transportation innovation
- Increase access to care
- Operate in Highly Rural Areas
- Transportation options in connection with VA care
- Improve community linkages and relations
- Adhere to all federal rules, laws and Office of Management & Budget (OMB) guidance as it pertains to grants
- Enhance Veterans transportation coordination

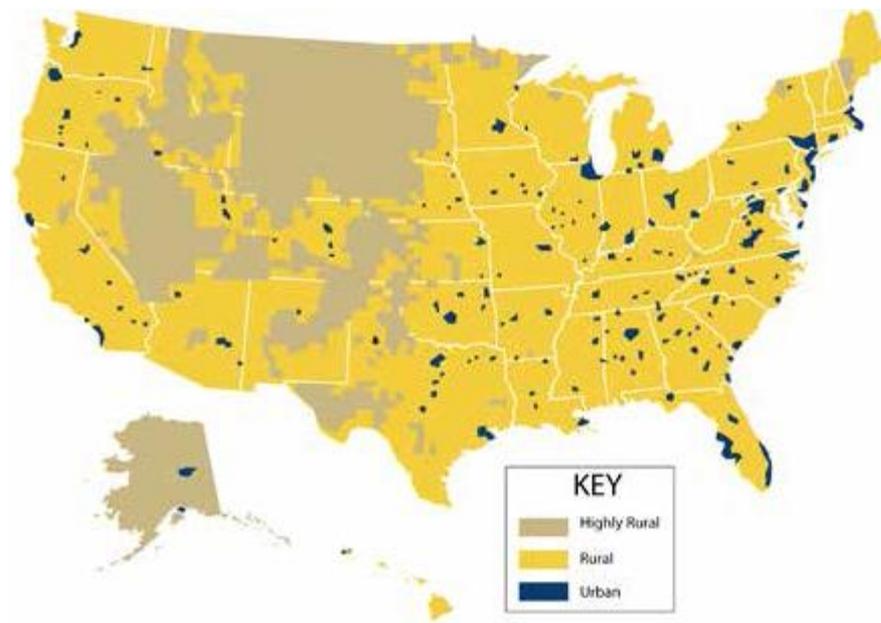
Eligible Entities

1. Veteran Service Organizations
2. State Veteran Service Agencies

Organizations recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of Veterans under section 5902 of title 38, USC.

Highly Rural Defined

- In the case of an area, highly rural means that the area consists of a county or counties having a population of less than seven person per square mile.



States with Highly Rural Counties

AK	AZ	CA	CO	ID
KS	LA	ME	MI	MN
MT	ND	NE	NM	NV
NY	OK	OR	SD	TX
UT	VA	WA	WY	

Allocation

- Approximately \$3 million is available each year under Grants for Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas. The maximum allowable grant size is \$50,000 per year per highly rural area.

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

- When funds are available for grants the NOFA will:
- Specify grant application requirements
- Will be posted on www.grants.gov
- Will be posted in the Federal Register
- Date, time and place for submitting completed grant applications

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

- List of the counties that are highly rural
- Explain the things that you need to know to apply for the grant
- Explain the scoring and selection criteria of the grant
- The length and term of the grant award

Current Program Status

- Almost 100% of the \$3 million funded for the program has been allocated to the current grantees.
- There are currently 14 grantees in the HRTG program.
- FY 15 Grantees=14
 - American Legion-4
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)-4
 - State Departments of Veterans Affairs-6
 - Alaska, California, Idaho, Maine, Montana, Oregon, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Washington State.
- FY 16 Notice of Funding Availability was posted for current grantees.
- There is a small possibility that there will be a new NOFA coming out with about \$500,000-\$800,000 in available funds.

2015 Program Accomplishments

Fiscal year 2015 was the HRTG program first full year of grant operations. The grant programs and their sub recipients realized the following performance results:

FY 15	Time it takes to pick up and drop off	# of trips completed	Total distance in miles	#of Veterans served	% of Veterans satisfied
Q1-Q4	34,851.42	25,220	755,761	8,033	96%

Contact Information

- [Darren Wallace, HRTG National Coordinator](#)
- HRTG@va.gov
- (404) 528-5380
- Link to HRTG Final Rule:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/04/02/2013-07636/grants-for-transportation-of-veterans-in-highly-rural-areas>
- Link to HRTG Website:
- http://www.va.gov/HEALTHBENEFITS/vtp/highly_rural_transportation_grants.asp



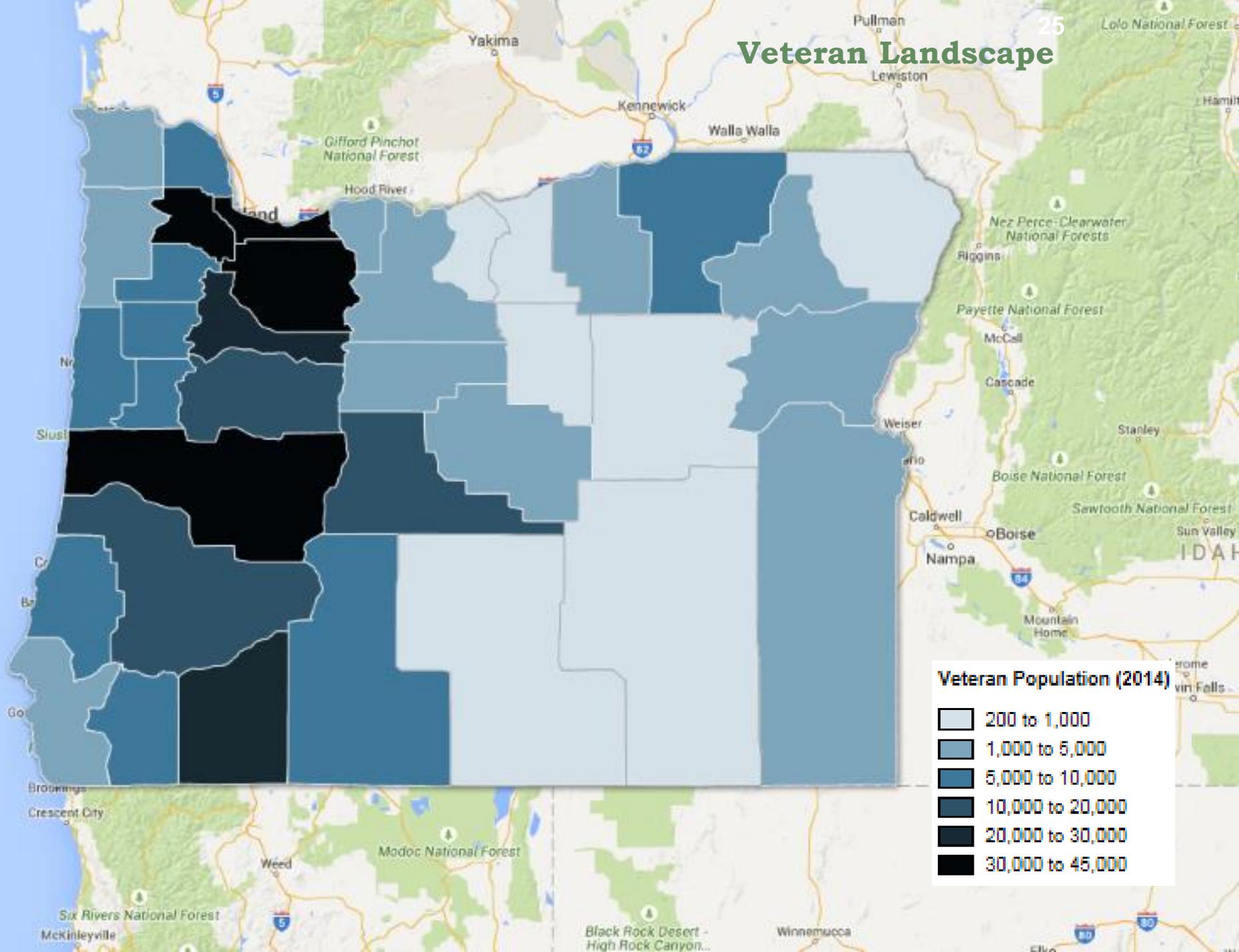
VETERANS HIGHLY RURAL TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

NATIONAL RTAP WEBINAR
SEPTEMBER 28, 2016



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

Veteran Landscape



Grant Award History

Grant Award Date	8/8/2014	9/5/2014	9/15/2015
Project Period	8/22/2014 - 8/21/2015	9/15/2014 - 9/14/2015	9/15/2015 - 9/14/2016
Grant Amount	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$500,000
County Grant Amount	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Counties	Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Morrow, Sherman, Wheeler	Malheur, Wallowa	Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney* , Lake* , Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Wallowa, Wheeler

* Harney and Lake counties approved in March 2016, but will adhere to same grant time frame. Every eligible Oregon county now participates.



Sub-Grantee Structure

- Grant, Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, and Wheeler Counties deliver transportation services through county government agencies and employees.
- Baker, Harney, Lake, Malheur, and Wallowa Counties deliver transportation services through private, not-for-profit transit districts.
- ODVA conducts on-site training and assistance visits as well as annual audit visits to each county. Additionally, ODVA hosts a one day conference annually to allow all sub-grantee counties to meet and share ideas as well as ensure everyone is clear on the guidelines.



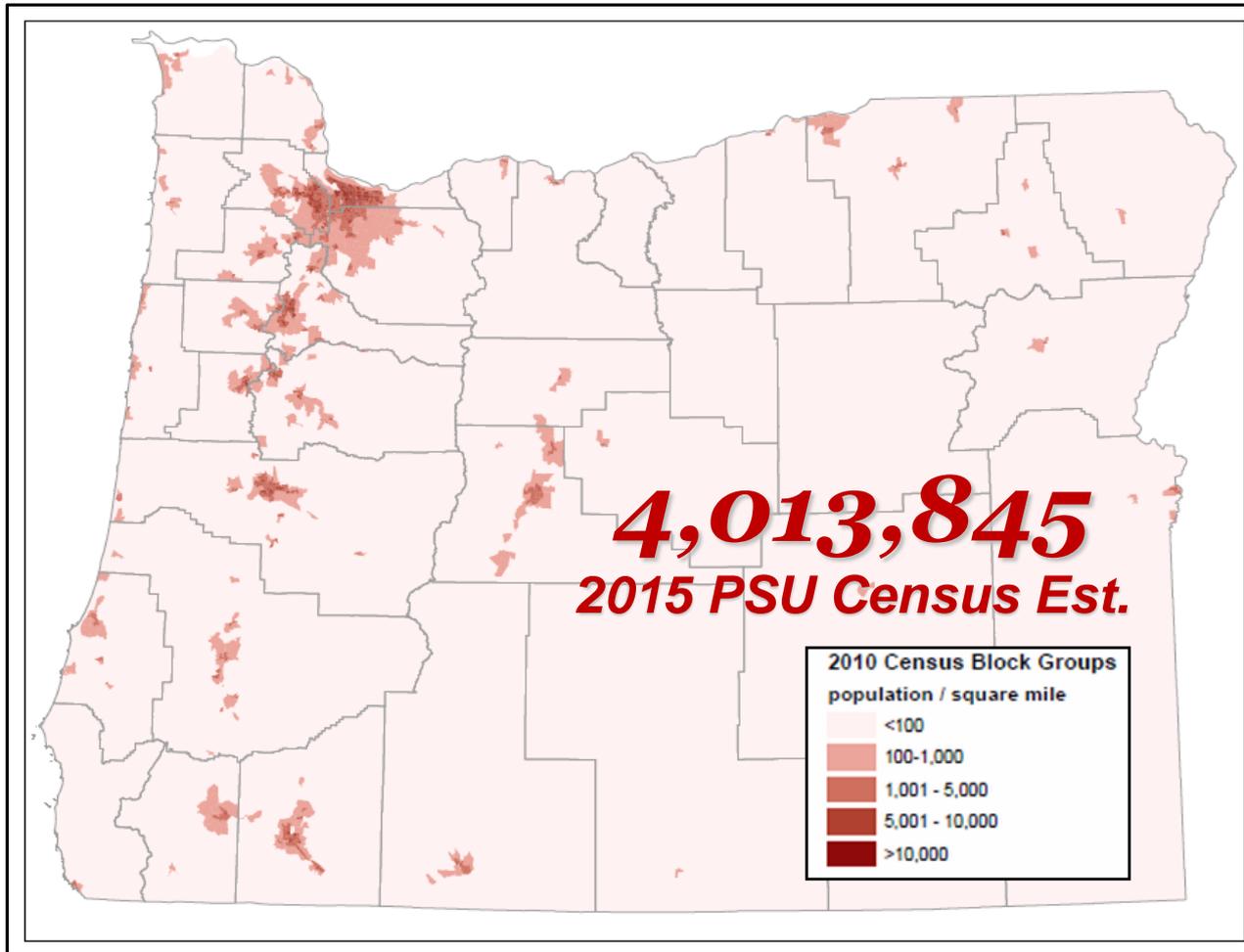
Performance Metrics

	Totals Reported October 2015 – June 2016
Total Hours Spent	7,573.65
Number of Trips	4,316
Total Distance Driven	215,081.26
Number of Veterans Served	796
Average Trip Time	1.75 hours
Average Miles per trip	50 miles
<p>Vets picked up and delivered back to their own homes. Destination Examples: Portland, Walla Walla, and Boise VA Medical Centers, various VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics, local regional medical centers, dental clinics, eye care clinics, and dialysis centers</p>	

Oregon's Pilot for Veterans Transportation



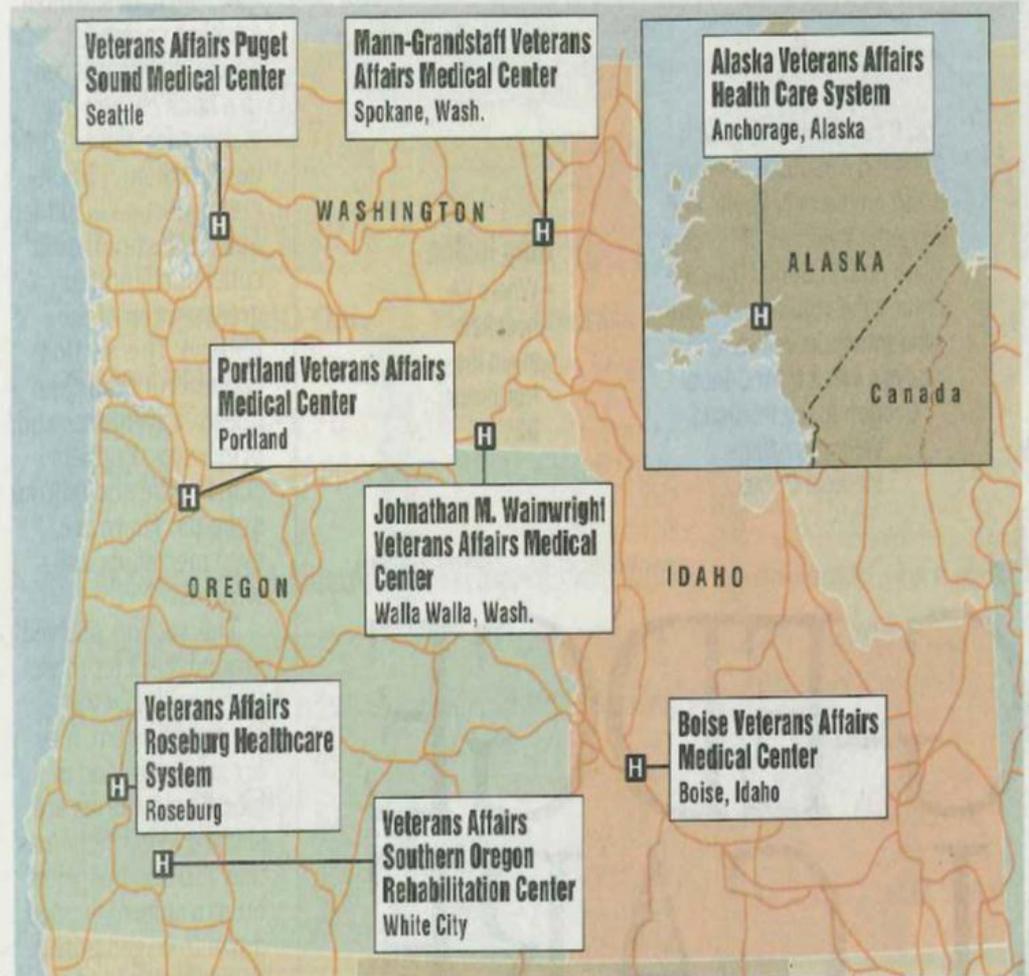
Oregon



VA Hospitals in the Northwest

Veterans Affairs hospitals and cities served

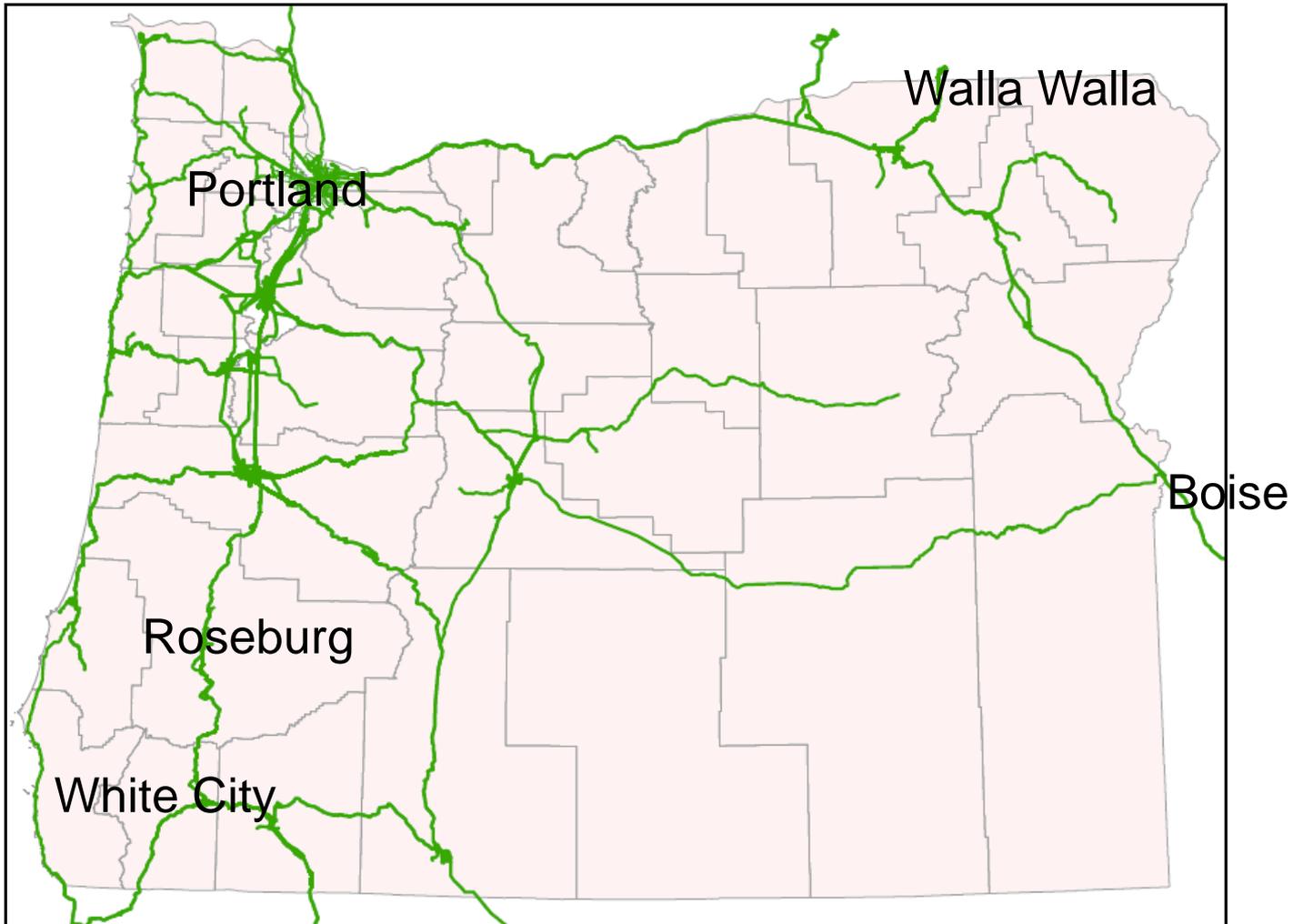
The Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center is one of eight hospitals and health care systems that the federal Veterans Health Administration runs in the Pacific Northwest. The agency operates a shuttle service that transports veterans from 10 cities, including Bend, to the hospital each day so they can get medical care.



Source: Disabled American Veterans

Greg Cross / The Bulletin

Oregon Regional Public Transportation





Legislative Task Force on Veterans Transportation (2009)

- Access the document (link on last slide)
- Report was issued October 2010
- Findings:
 - Transportation is a major barrier to veterans' reintegration
 - Recommended education / access to existing systems; local options; ride coordination



Oregon DOT Actions

- Refurbished and donated vehicles
- Driver training on ADA equipment
- Conducted three Pilot Projects
- Educated Legislators about need for additional funds

Example Vehicle





Oregon Pilot Project

Purpose was to provide medical trips to VA-sponsored services:

- when no other options or ADA-accessible vehicle required;
- any veteran with a medical card was eligible;
- coordinated trips with veterans organizations (VA and DAV);
- provided travel planning, training to veterans.



Pilot Project Performance Measures

- Number of rides, unique individuals served, and cost per ride
- Provided information to plan for future:
 - How many trips each veteran needs
 - Travel patterns (local vs. distant)
 - Cost: rural / urban
- Results: cost savings and more rides for veterans



Statistics

- By the end of the pilot (6/30/16), agencies reported the following data per quarter

Totals for the three pilot areas:

Rides	3,933
Individuals served	931
Average cost per ride	\$74
Total pilot funds spent	\$244,120



Pilot Lessons Learned

- Success achieved when local veterans service officers and VA collaborated with pilot agencies
- Pilot meant more trips when existing resources not available/appropriate
- Local VA medical service meant shorter trips, more access
- Veterans need more than medical trips for successful reintegration



Next Steps

- Continue to communicate with Oregon Legislature
- Continue to coordinate with partners
- Restart and expand program statewide if/when funding is available



Task Force Report

http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/TASKFORCE/Pages/2008-09_Governors_TF.aspx

ODOT Contact

Joni Bramlett

e-mail: joni.d.bramlett@odot.state.or.us

Phone: 541-388-6185

Attention Grant County Veterans:

Do you need transportation to your medical appointments? The People Mover has received grant funding through the Department of Veterans Affairs specific to highly rural areas to provide medical transportation for Grant County Veterans. These funds will provide transportation to medical appointments at VA facilities as well as non-VA facilities.

Call 541-575-2370 to schedule an appointment.

Grant County Transportation District

The People Mover

PO Box 126 / 229 NE Dayton St.

John Day, OR 97845

541-575-2370 – Office

541-575-2162 – Fax

844-808-8964 Toll Free

7-1-1 Oregon Relay

Email us at:

peplemover@outlook.com

Visit us on the Web:

www.grantcountypeoplemover.com

Veterans Customer Satisfaction

Survey Number:

1-855-488-8445

Grant County Veterans Service

Officer: 541-575-1631

Veterans Medical Transportation

Transporting Grant County
Veterans Is Our Honor

*Thank you for
your service!*



ODVA





Where Can You Go?

We will take you to any medical appointment or pharmacy locally.

We travel to Bend on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and can take you to any medical appointment in Bend or Redmond. Appointments should be scheduled between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

We travel to Pendleton and Walla Walla on Tuesday. Pendleton medical appointments should be scheduled after 9:45 a.m. and concluded by 4:30 p.m. We arrive at the Walla Walla VA Clinic at 10:55 a.m. and depart at 3:30 p.m.

We travel to Burns on 1st, 3rd & 5th Thursday. We arrive in Burns at the VA Clinic at 1:30 p.m. and depart at 5:05 p.m.

We travel to Baker City on the 2nd & 4th Thursday. Arriving in Baker City at 12:00 p.m. and departing at 4:20 p.m.

We can travel to Boise once a month for Veterans who are unable to utilize the DAV Van. *These rides must be scheduled a minimum of 2 weeks in advance.*

- Our vehicles are ADA compliant and equipped with a lift or ramp.
- Our drivers have been professionally trained in the securement of all mobility devices.
- Caregivers or Attendants ride for free as well.
- We operate on a first call first served basis. It's best to reserve your ride at least 24 hours in advance to ensure availability.

Eligibility

You must live in Grant County. We will need to see one of the following: your DD214 showing honorable discharge, your VA Medical Benefit Card, or your Oregon Driver's License which shows your Veteran status.

Verifying eligibility only needs to occur once.

This service is completely FREE for all eligible Grant County Veterans.

Satisfaction

In addition to letting your driver know how they did, it is extremely important that at the completion of your ride you contact the Veterans Customer Satisfaction Survey Number and let them know how we're doing so the funding for these rides can continue for all eligible Grant County Veterans.

The survey number is:
1-855-488-8445

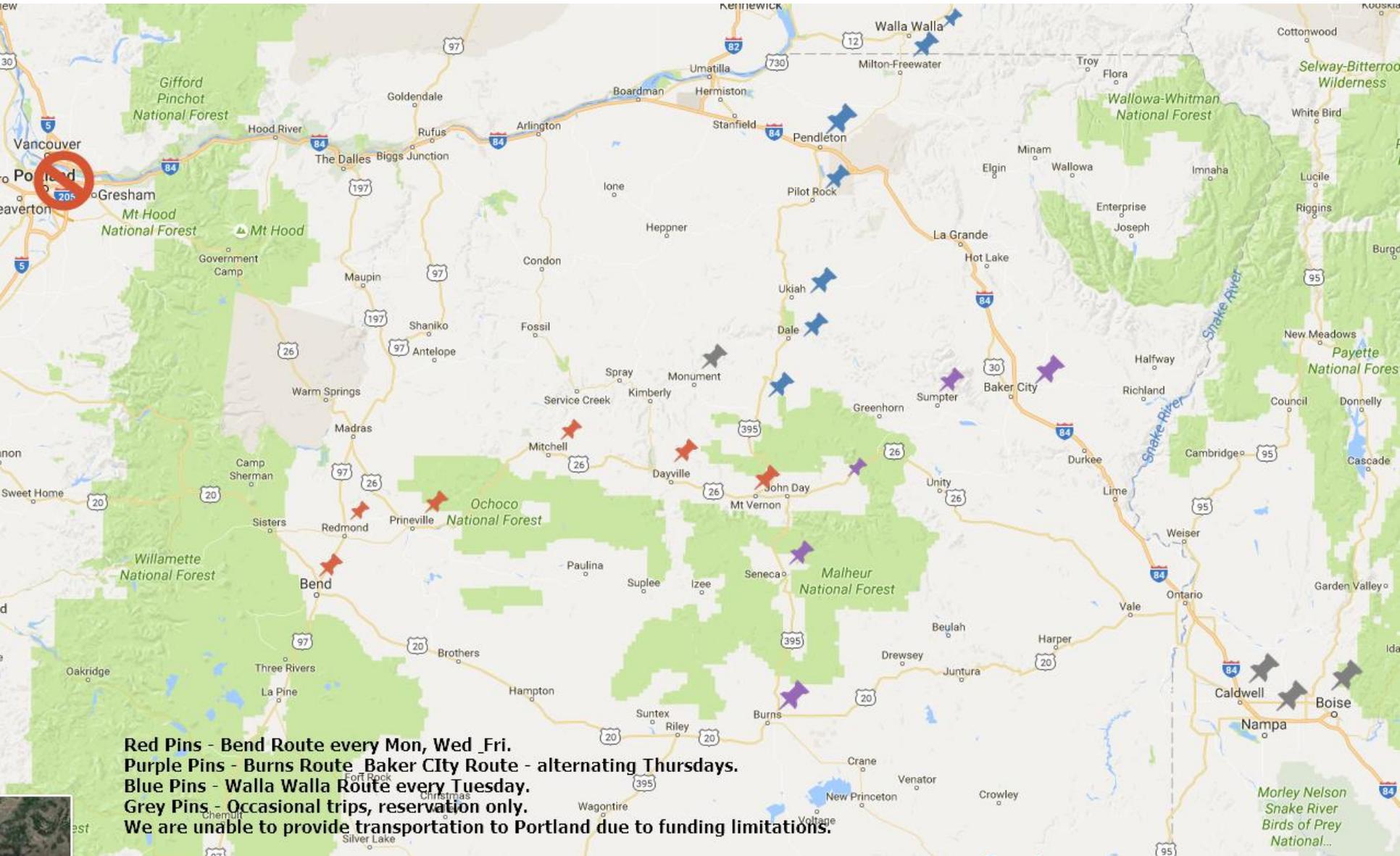
Contact Us

Grant County Transportation District
PO Box 126 / 229 NE Dayton
John Day, OR 97845

541-575-2370
peoplemover@outlook.com

Visit us on the Web:
www.grantcountypeoplemover.com

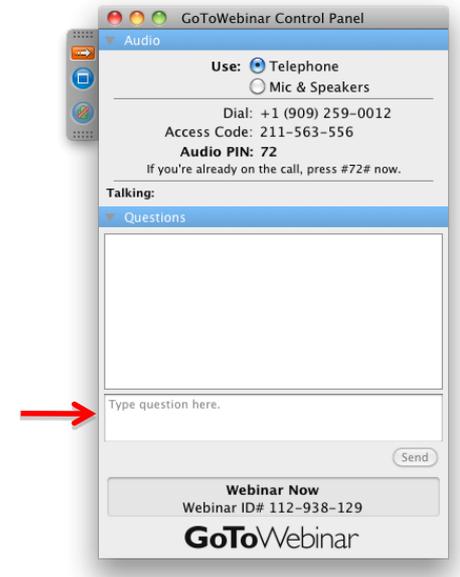
Grant County Transportation District Veterans Medical Transportation - Service Area



Red Pins - Bend Route every Mon, Wed, Fri.
Purple Pins - Burns Route, Baker City Route - alternating Thursdays.
Blue Pins - Walla Walla Route every Tuesday.
Grey Pins - Occasional trips, reservation only.
We are unable to provide transportation to Portland due to funding limitations.

Questions

Type your question in the Questions box or click the Raise Hand icon to ask a question via your phone or mic & speakers.



Thank you!

National RTAP

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Federal Transit Administration