

BASIN TRANSIT SERVICE TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

Thursday, October 30, 2025

4:15 PM

Conference Call No. 1-(669)900-6833 ID: 822 4623 5235 Passcode: 572919

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88461780859?pwd=YxrEhgpBDM59FzhLOHWJOMLEKRmesl.1>

ORDER	AGENDA	TYPE
A.	CALL TO ORDER - Chairperson Oath of Office for Elected Board Members Roll Call/Announcement of Quorum	Action
B.	PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	
C.	INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	
D.	PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the Public are invited to address the Board on items not listed on the agenda that are within the scope and jurisdiction of the District. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.	
F.	OLD BUSINESS None	
G.	ACTION ITEMS	
(1.)	Board of Directors decision making to temporarily suspend public transit fares during federal government shutdown	Action
I.	NEW BUSINESS - Discussion Only Items	
J.	ADJOURNMENT	

This meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting by calling Basin Transit Service at 541-883-2877.



***BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SPECIAL SESSION
30 OCT 2025***



INFORMATION

Public Comment



ACTION

***Board of Directors decision making to temporarily
suspend public transit fares during federal government
shutdown***

Basin Transit Service (BTS) Executive Decision Memorandum



Temporary Removal of Public Transit Fares
During Federal Government Shutdown

October 27, 2025

Purpose

Seek approval to temporarily suspend public transit fares during the federal shutdown to:

- Ensure continued mobility and equitable access for vulnerable residents.
- Support community resilience during uncertainty.





Background

Context:


- Shutdowns interrupt SNAP and essential programs.
- 23% of Klamath Falls residents live below poverty line.
- Many seniors, veterans, general population depend on SNAP and transit.

BTS Proposed Response:


- Temporary fare suspension: BTS & Senior Center
- New bus stop at Foodbank accessible via Altamont Station feeder route (~8 minutes).

Implementation Plan

Board approval of Conditional Activation:



- Effective Nov 3 – 28, 2025 (only if shutdown remains active).



- Ends at the end of the month when shutdown ends.

Community Coordination

Partnerships

- Local Food Bank (direct stop access).
- DHS Self-Sufficiency Management (support and outreach).

Equity Focus

- Serves low-income, seniors, and veterans.
- Maintains access to food, healthcare, and services.
- Assists in maintaining local social stability

Fiscal Considerations



FORECASTED REVENUE LOSS:
~\$7,500 (MONTHLY - BTS) ~\$700
(MONTHLY SENIOR CENTER)



ACTIVATION CRITERIA:
SHUTDOWN ACTIVE NOV 3, 6:00
A.M.



PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:
ANNOUNCED ONLY IF PLAN
ACTIVATES.

Anticipated Community Impact

- Improved access to food for low-income residents, seniors, and veterans.

- Reduced financial strain for SNAP recipients.

- Strengthened coordination with social services agencies and food bank.

- Enhanced public trust and support towards BTS.

Recommendation

Proposal

- Approve temporary suspension of public transit fare conditional on federal shutdown continuation.

Key Benefits

- Significant community and social benefits.
- Reinforces BTS's equitable and compassionate mission.
- Reinforces BTS & Senior Center value to the community and the Board's autonomy to make decisions that positively influence the community.



ACTION

***Board of Directors decision making to temporarily
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NEW BUSINESS



***BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SPECIAL SESSION
30 OCT 2025***



BASIN TRANSIT SERVICE
KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

27 OCT 2025

BASIN TRANSIT SERVICE

Executive Decision Memorandum

To: Basin Transit Service Board of Directors

From: Adrian Mateos Chavarria, General Manager

Date: 27 OCT 2025

Subject: Approval to Temporarily Remove Public Transit Fares During Federal Government Shutdown

I. Purpose

This memorandum **formally seeks approval from the Basin Transit Service (BTS) Board of Directors to temporarily suspend public transit fares** during the current federal government shutdown that may disrupt **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** benefits.

The purpose of this proposal is to ensure continued mobility for vulnerable residents, maintain equitable access to essential community services, and uphold BTS's commitment to serving the public during times of economic uncertainty.

II. Background

Federal government shutdowns can result in interruptions to SNAP and other essential federal programs, leaving many residents unable to afford basic needs. In **Klamath Falls**, an estimated **23% of residents live at or below the federal poverty level**, including a significant number of **seniors and U.S. veterans living on fixed incomes**. Many of these individuals rely heavily on SNAP benefits and public transit for daily sustenance, healthcare, and community access.

Recognizing these challenges, **Basin Transit Service has partnered with the local food bank** to directly enhance access to food assistance during any shutdown period:

- A **new bus stop** will be established **directly at the food bank**.
- Riders can access this stop from **Altamont Station** using the **feeder route**, arriving at the food bank in approximately **8 minutes**.
- The feeder route will operate **hourly**, providing consistent, predictable transportation for residents seeking food resources.

Furthermore, **the local Department of Human Services (DHS) Self-Sufficiency Management** has expressed **support for this initiative**, recognizing that fare-free service during a government shutdown would significantly benefit SNAP recipients, seniors, and veterans dependent on fixed incomes.

This policy demonstrates BTS's leadership in community coordination and its dedication to supporting vulnerable residents through targeted, temporary measures.

III. Discussion

A. Conditional Implementation and Timeline

The **temporary fare suspension** will only be enacted **if the federal government shutdown remains active as of November 3, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.**

- The suspension will **begin November 3, 2025**, and continue through **November 28, 2025**, unless the government reopens earlier.
- If the shutdown **ends before November 28**, the fare suspension will **terminate 24 hours after the official end** of the shutdown.
- The fare-free period will **not be advertised or implemented prior to November 3**, ensuring activation occurs solely under qualifying conditions.

This ensures the measure is both **fiscally responsible** and **responsive to community needs**.

B. Equity and Access

The proposed fare suspension directly supports **residents living below the poverty line, seniors, and veterans on fixed incomes**—groups that are most affected by SNAP disruptions. Providing fare-free access ensures these riders can continue to reach food banks, healthcare facilities, and essential services without additional financial strain.

C. Community Stability and Coordination

The initiative strengthens community resilience by maintaining access to food and healthcare during federal funding interruptions. Coordination with the **local food bank** and **DHS Self-Sufficiency Management** ensures effective outreach and maximizes social benefit.

IV. Fiscal and Operational Considerations

Category	Consideration
Forecasted Revenue Loss	The total estimated fare revenue loss for the suspension period (November 3–28, 2025) is approximately \$7,500 monthly .
Activation Criteria	The policy will activate only if the federal shutdown remains in effect on November 3, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.
Duration	Suspension remains active through November 28, 2025 , or until 24 hours after the shutdown ends , whichever occurs first.
Funding Alternatives	The revenue loss may be mitigated through contingency reserves, community partnerships, or operational cost savings.
Public Communication	BTS will begin public notification on November 3, 2025 , only if the policy is activated, ensuring clear and timely information for riders.

V. Anticipated Community Impact

- **Improved access to food assistance** for low-income residents, seniors, and veterans.
 - **Reduced transportation costs** for vulnerable populations affected by SNAP disruptions.
 - **Enhanced collaboration** among BTS, DHS, and the local food bank.
 - **Strengthened public trust and goodwill** toward BTS as a compassionate and community-responsive agency.
-

VI. Recommendation

It is **recommended that the Basin Transit Service Board of Directors approve the temporary suspension of public transit fares**, to be **conditionally enacted between November 3 and November 28, 2025, only if the federal government shutdown remains active as of November 3, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.**

If the shutdown ends during this period, fare collection will resume **24 hours after the official conclusion** of the federal shutdown.

The projected **revenue impact of \$7,500 monthly** represents a minimal short-term fiscal cost compared to the significant social and community benefits achieved through sustained mobility, food access, and interagency collaboration.

This measure—supported by the **Department of Human Services Self-Sufficiency Management** and the **local food bank partnership**—advances BTS’s mission of equitable, reliable, and community-focused service.



ADRIAN MATEOS | GENERAL MANAGER

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BASIN TRANSIT SERVICE
KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

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BTS RIDES ARE FREE DURING THE FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

Because Community Comes First

In challenging times, our community stands stronger together.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Basin Transit Service (BTS) is suspending all transit fares – including:

- BTS fixed routes
- Basin Lift
- Klamath Basin Senior Center's demand-response services

This ensures that seniors can reach healthcare, families access groceries, and workers get to their jobs.

Until the
shutdown ends,
riding BTS
is completely
FREE.

OUR PLAN TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY:

- ✓ New BTS Stop — Right near the Local Food Bank, just minutes from Altamont Station
- ✓ Partnerships — Working with the Local Food Bank & DHS Self-Sufficiency Management

"Public transit isn't just about getting from place to place — it's about keeping our community moving forward, together."

 **RIDE FREE. STAY CONNECTED.**
STAY STRONG.