

Selkirks-Pend Oreille Transit Authority

SPOT Bus - Adventures Ahead!



208-263-3774 www.spotbus.org



Considerations and options

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Sandpoint, Idaho

Selkirks - Pend Oreille Transit (SPOT)


ITD: Public Transit -
Sandpoint (SPOT) - Final on
[Vimeo](#)


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Considerations

- Leadership
 - SPOT Board members represent each partner
 - All are appointed by the agency they represent
 - Staff carries out the direction of the Board
- Ridership 163,000 rides in 2024
 - Seniors = 39,000
 - Disabilities = 4,600
 - Youth = 16,400
 - General = 103,000
 - Bonner County and Boundary County
- Fixed Routes = Paratransit Service
 - Impact from development and growth

Service Area:

Sandpoint, Dover, Kootenai, Ponderay, Bonners Ferry, Moyie Springs and Schweitzer Mountain. Visit the web for more info. 



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Bonner County Percentage of Boardings

- Fixed Route
 - Dover = .87%
 - Kootenai = 6.08%
 - Ponderay = 30.95%
 - Sandpoint = 62.09%
- Paratransit
 - Dover = 0%
 - Kootenai = 3.47%
 - Ponderay = 26.58%
 - Sandpoint = 69.94%



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Return on Investment

- Estimated \$18,000 additional funding for every \$10,000 local dollars
 - Highly competitive and well earned
 - Unused funds will go out of our service to another area and provider.
 - Greater dollars spent in our local economy
 - Every \$10,000 local match plus \$18,000 federal = \$28,000 Operating funds
- Local investment improves economy, safety and mobility
 - Local cost per fixed route ride = \$2.72
 - Local cost per Paratransit ride = \$8.93
- Riders spend money and/or make money
- Increased well-being and independence
- Fulfill Strategic and Long-range Plans
 - No parking required at their destination
 - Three downtown stops = 9,560 boardings in 2024



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Funding for SPOT



- Grant funding
 - ALWAYS COMPETITIVE
 - Federal Transit Authority (FTA), CARES, VIP
 - State of Idaho
 - Apply every two years for operating and capital grant funding
 - Occasional one-time funds
- Grants require local match
 - Current match = \$207,890.00
 - Current other match funds = \$112,500.00
 - **\$320,390.00**
- Cost to provide services \$1,096,342.00 (2023-2024 budget)
 - Operating - fuel, wages, insurance = 64%
 - Administrative - accounting, legal, admin., office = 16%
 - Maintenance - regular maintenance, cleaning and repairs = 20%



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Opportunities and Options

- Exploring all options to assist with local match
 - Advertising on buses
 - In-kind services and rides
 - Donations (tax-exempt)
- \$7,800.00/year. Local radio spots = marketing and promotion
- \$4,500.00/year. PSNI volunteers
 - Clean buses and shelters on Wednesdays for two + hours
- Low staff turnover
- Receipt of two 2017, FREE buses.
 - Refurbish grant.
- SPOT Bus awarded all required and requested grant funding
 - October 2024 - September 2026 = \$3,306,207.00
 - Local match required = 24.5% vs. 35%

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Additional Match

- Disposal of six high mileage o/s buses \$5,500 (Capital)
- Advertising on buses (estimate \$30,000 to \$108,000)
 - One Boundary County Bus
 - Four Bonner County Buses
 - Please spread the word - we currently have space available
- Bus bench and shelter donations (grant specific)
- Private donations
 - Tax free
 - Leveraged = multiplied

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Charge a Fare to ride

- Charge \$1.00 per ride = \$71,000.00
 - No match credit for the amount generated
 - Slows bus operation significantly
 - Exact change impacts passenger convenience and driver attention to amount paid
- Card systems
 - Card Vendors
 - Lost cards
 - Card swipe or verification
 - Percent goes to the vendor/broker
- No Fares
 - Speed up boarding
 - Encourage bus ridership to lighten traffic and need for parking spaces
 - Choose the bus instead of paying for parking
 - Ease burden of vehicle ownership and operation
 - Average = \$12,182 in 2023 (American Automobile Association)

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Considerations

- SPOT Bus service is established and has grant funding
- No lapse in service requires match
- Opportunity for expansion (requires match)
 - Increases Paratransit footprint
 - Pine Street
 - Woodland/Samuelson
 - Baldy Mountain Road
- Current local match
 - Cut hours of service
 - Approximately 5,000 hours
 - 1/3 of Bonner County service
 - 97 hours each week
 - Sandpoint service



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Sandpoint Participation

- Help us understand needs of the community!!
 - Growth
 - Safe, convenient, efficient routing that serves the community best
- Leverage contributions
 - Operating
 - Provides relief from building parking infrastructure/spaces
 - Ease congestion and circling
 - Provides improved access
 - Transportation solution
 - Tool for plan implementation
 - Capital - 20% match
 - Bus stops, shelters, lighting
 - Transit center
- When SPOT buses transport people the economic and health benefits far outweigh our local match contributions!

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Why Now?

- Awarded CARES in 2020
 - SPOT Bus covered operation expenses.
- Sandpoint requests
 - Spring and August 2023
 - March and August 2024
 - January 2025...
 - Direct cost in 2024 = \$146,000
- Access and opportunity
 - Enhance local economy and well being
 - Improve mobility
 - Increase safety

Local may concern!

I love the Spot Bus and the service that it provides. Without the service I would be stuck on and the service I depend on it to get my medicine + food.

I am a young mom with a child. So if I need to go to the doctor they have me + push me up.

Also, I have a standing appointment for the husband to go to the doctor. (Once a week) and get some food. (When that is my first thing).

I know find children day at night important to anyone who has it. So please help us by keeping this service available + running the Spot Bus.

*Thank you
Kaitlin + Matthew
Harris*

If it is allowing the bus to go on Friday, I will stop going!

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Bonner County Transit Service
Questions and Discussion



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