



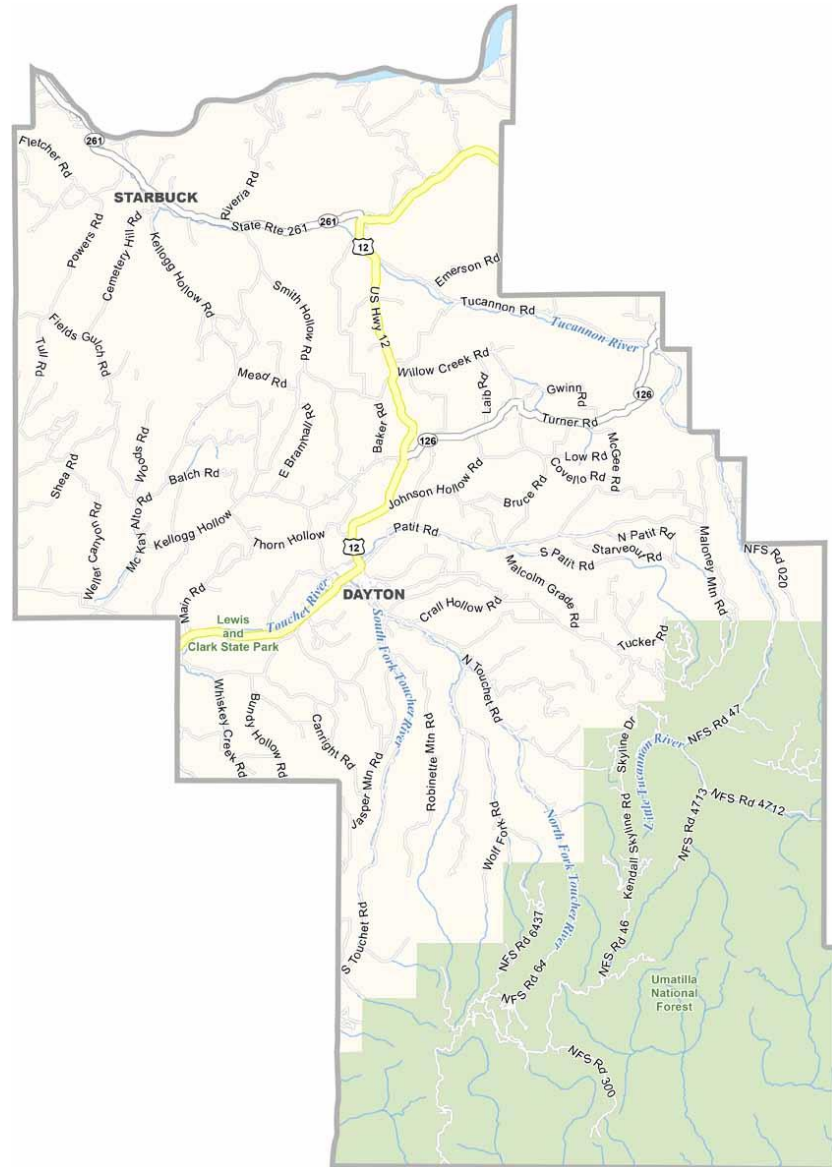
BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

Presented to the Washington House Transportation Committee

David Ocampo • Columbia County Public Transportation

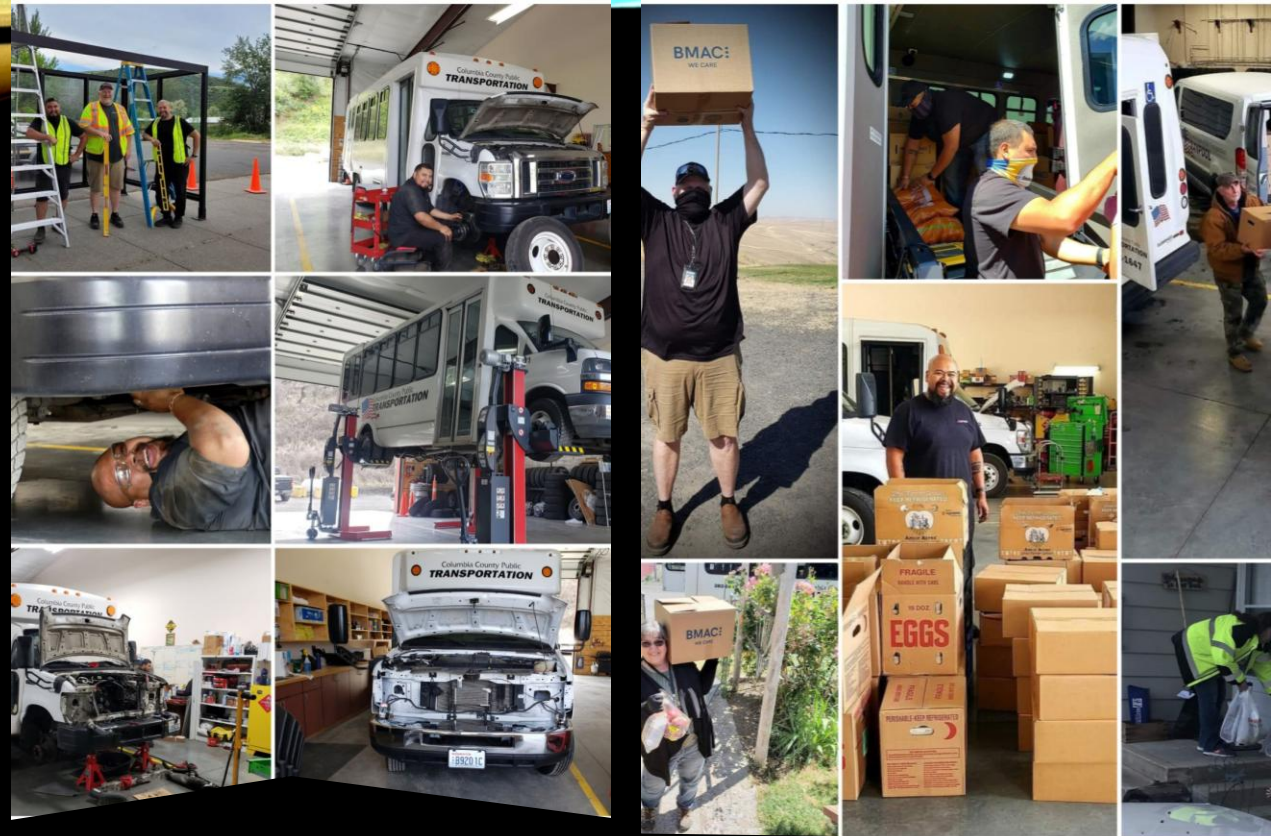
10/8/2025

- Population: ~3,954
- Area: 873 square miles
- Cities Served: Dayton, Starbuck, rural areas



CURRENT STAFF/ROLLING STOCK

- 17 employees' total
 - 4 non driving positions:
 - 1 Part Time CSR
 - 1 Admin/Lead CSR
 - Finance Manager
 - 1 Part Time IT Support
 - 13 Driving positions:
 - 1 Part Time Bus Operator
 - 4 Full Time Bus Operators
 - 1 Bus Operator/Custodian
 - 4 Bus Operators/CSR
 - 1 Operations Manager
 - 1 Maintenance Tech/Operator
 - 1 GM
 - Two Service Modes
 - Rideshare
 - 2-7 passenger hybrid SUVs
 - 2-12 passenger Transit vans
 - 1 regular use
 - 1 as a spare
 - Demand Response Fleet
 - 9 cutaway buses
 - 1 always services Dayton in town
 - 2 Transit vans for overflow support
- 1 admin support vehicle



SMALL SYSTEM, BIG IMPACT

- Supports community equity and resilience
- Improves access to healthcare, food, and services
- Reduces isolation

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES



- Demand-response service
- Medical & life-critical transport
- Regional shuttles for work, groceries, transit connections and recreational (e.g., to Walla Walla)
- Education
- In town service
- Support for seniors, veterans, low-income riders

A LIFELINE FOR RURAL RESIDENTS

- 25% of population age 65+
- Many riders live alone or can't drive
- 45,106 passenger trips in 2024





UNIQUE CHALLENGES IN RURAL TRANSIT

- Limited local tax base
- Demand-Response Model
 - Riders must call ahead to schedule trips
 - Offers flexibility but not walk-up convenience
 - Adds logistical challenges for residents and operation
- Recruiting CDL drivers is difficult
- Harsh winter road conditions



INNOVATION ON A SMALL SCALE

- Mobility management program
- Partnerships with schools, hospitals
- Simple scheduling technology

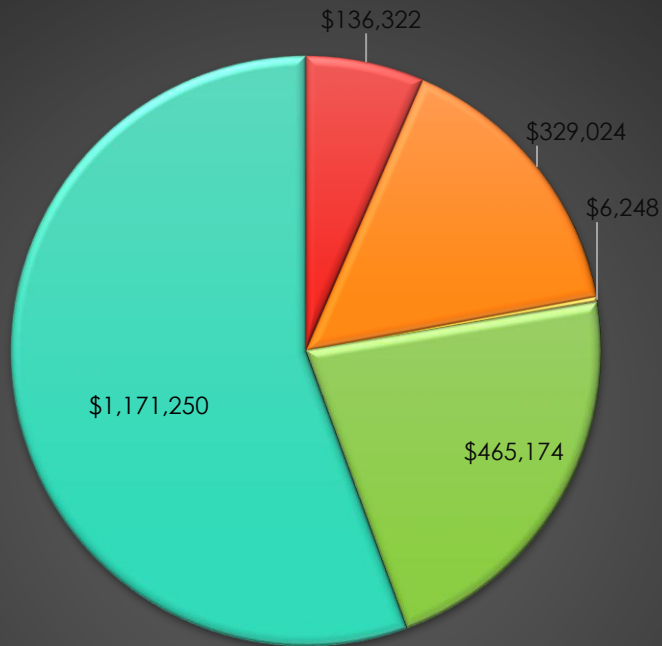


SUPPORT FOR RURAL MOBILITY

- Consistent operating funding
- Increased funding amount
- Reduced grant match demands for Capitol Grants



Funding Amount 2024



- Transit Support Grant
- Paratransit/Special Needs
- Rural Mobility (Sales Tax Equalization)
- Sales Tax Revenue
- Consolidated Grants to Sustain Service

Annual Operating Budget

State Operating Grant

:\$1,171,250

Sales Tax Revenue used for operations

:\$232,587

Total: \$1,410,083

2024

MOVE AHEAD WA

CCPT RECEIVED FUNDING FROM MOVE AHEAD WASHINGTON THROUGH SEVERAL GRANT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING:

TRANSIT SUPPORT GRANT

: \$136,322

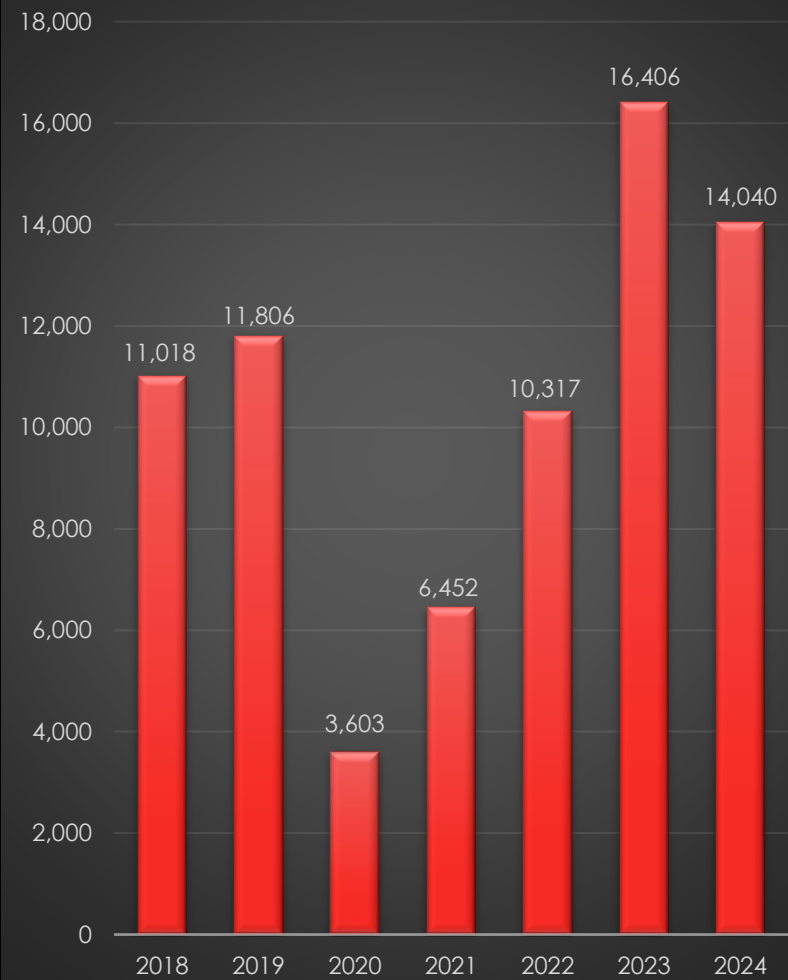
PARATRANSIT/SPECIAL NEEDS FORMULA FUNDS

: \$329,024

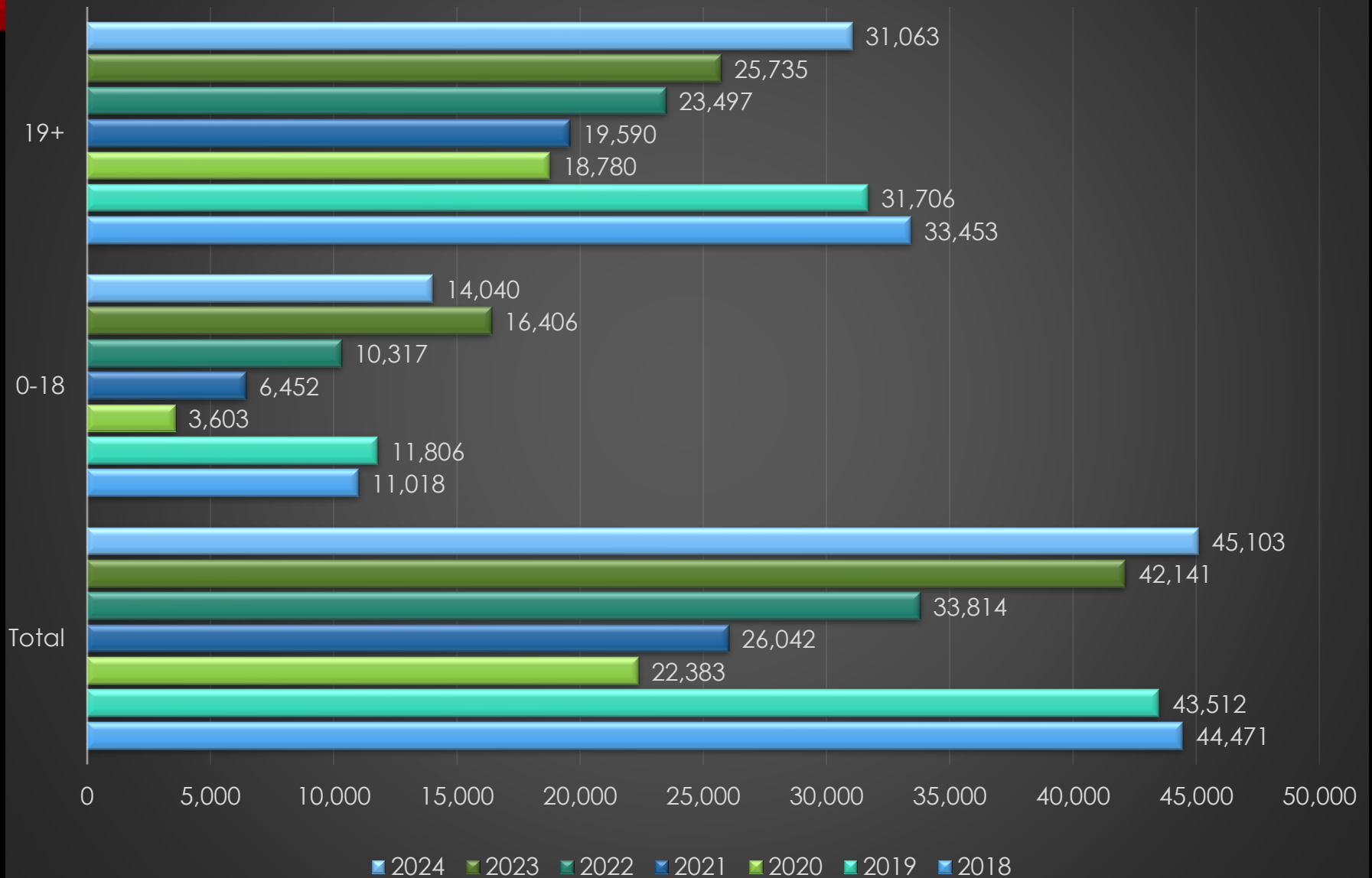
2024 Total Operating Budget

\$1,875,429

0-18 Ridership



CCPT Ridership 2018-2024





Thank you

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Please feel free to contact
me with any ideas.

"You cannot escape the responsibility of
tomorrow by evading it today."
-Abraham Lincoln