

- ❖ It is reasonable to expect enhanced transportation services serving Ontario, Payette, and Fruitland in 2008, and serving the more rural portions of the two-county region by 2009.

Recommendations

A series of eight recommendations are presented in Section 11.1. These recommendations have been vetted with existing transportation and human service providers, and early work is underway toward their implementation.

A broader summary of the recommendations include:

- ❖ Existing demand-response transit service should be maintained and augmented.
- ❖ Routed service, initially focused upon Ontario/Payette/Fruitland sub-region should be established in early 2008, and then expanded throughout the region by 2009.
- ❖ Treasure Valley Transit should offer the routed service while MCOA should continue to offer expanded demand-response service.
- ❖ An umbrella organizational structure should be developed that coordinates the combined service delivery of MCOA and TVT. The delivery of service should appear seamless and unified by the general public.

Next Steps

The City of Ontario has received a grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation Public Transit Division to complete a *Transit Service Plan* for Malheur and Payette Counties. This next planning process should flow seamlessly from this effort, and be informed by the conclusions and recommendations of this plan.

Advancement of the Transit Service Plan should run concurrently with the implementation of the early stages of the new routed service. The Transit Service Plan, therefore, can help to shape the continued transit service design improvements "discovered" as routed service begins in the region.