

COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

NEWS RELEASE

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CITYLINK RECEIVES IN \$1.7 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDS

PLUMMER – Citylink received \$1.7 million in federal funding this week to enhance the free public transportation system.

The Tribe received \$1.5 million to build a new transit center and buy four buses. The transit center will be constructed near the casino, but an exact location hasn't been determined yet. Construction of the transit center is expected to begin in summer of 2010.

“Citylink continues to grow every month and is extremely popular,” said Coeur d’Alene Tribe Spokesman Marc Stewart. “These much needed funds will go to good use in providing an excellent service for the people of North Idaho.”

Citylink averages roughly 40,000 riders a month. The free service provides transportation for residents in Coeur d’Alene, Post Falls, Hayden, Plummer, Worley and DeSmet.

“During these dark economic times, it’s impossible to calculate the economic impact Citylink has on the regional economy,” Stewart said. “We know that each rider means one less car on the roads, saving taxpayers money on road repairs. It also means Citylink riders are able to save money on gas and car maintenance.”

The Tribe also will receive \$225,000 to help Citylink cover operating expenses for transit services in the region.

The most recent grants were awarded by the Federal Transportation Administration, including \$1.5 million from President Obama’s stimulus package.

Citylink is primarily funded by the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, state of Idaho and the U.S. Government. Kootenai County administers the program. The Tribe funds nearly \$2 million annually and the U.S. government \$2 million to operate Citylink.

“There aren’t too many partnerships like this in the country,” Stewart said. “It’s truly unique and should be a public transportation model for other communities.”