



# Executive Committee Meeting Agenda Packet

**October 26, 2017, 9:00 a.m.**

Cascades West Center  
1400 Queen Avenue, SE  
2nd Floor, Large Conference Room  
Albany, OR 97322

---

*The meeting locations are wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance please contact Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments at 541-967-8720, forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.*



1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 201 • Albany, OR 97322  
(541) 967-8720 • FAX (541) 967-6123

---

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

### AGENDA

October 26, 2017

9:00 a.m.

Cascades West Center  
1400 Queen Avenue SE  
Albany, OR. 97322

***An Executive Session may be called as deemed necessary by the Chair, pursuant to ORS 192.660.***

1. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** (*Chair Sharon Konopa*)  
(9:00 – 9:05 a.m.)

Minutes of the August 24, 2017 Executive Committee meeting will be reviewed for approval (Page 3).

**ACTION: Motion to approve the August 24, 2017 Executive Committee meeting minutes.**

2. **OCWCOG Annual Dinner** (*Executive Director Fred Abousleman*)  
(9:05 – 9:15 a.m.)

Executive Director Abousleman will provide updates on *CelebrateLBL*, the OCWCOG Annual Dinner.

**ACTION: Information only, no action needed.**

3. **OCWCOG Program Updates** (*All Program Directors*)  
(9:15 – 9:25 a.m.)

Staff will be available to answer any questions from the Executive Committee on the program updates (Page 11, Page 13).

**ACTION: Information only, no action needed.**

4. **December Full Board Agenda Items** (*Chair Sharon Konopa*)  
(9:25 – 9:30 a.m.)

The Executive Committee will review and comment on proposed agenda items for the next Board of Directors Meeting. Staff will present items for the agenda known to date, including:

1. **Consent Calendar**
  - a. Approval of previous Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
  - b. Financial Update for the period of July 2017 – October 2017
2. **OCWCOG Budget Committee and process for Fiscal Year 2018**
3. **Senior and Disability Services Structure**
4. **Program Update Question and Answers**
5. **Topic of Regional Interest**
6. **Other Business**
7. **Adjournment**

5. **Other Business**  
(9:30 – 9:35 a.m.)

6. **Adjournment**  
(9:35 a.m.)

**OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
August 24, 2017**

**MEMBERS:** Mayor Sharon Konopa, Albany; Commissioner Anne Schuster, Benton County; Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis; Councilor Bob Elliott, Lebanon; and Councilor Dann Cutter, Waldport.

**STAFF:** Executive Director Fred Abousleman; Deputy Director Lydia George; Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Program Manager Randi Moore; SDS Program Manager Jennifer Moore; Community and Economic Development (CED) Program Manager Brenda Mainord; Finance Manager Janet Cline; and Executive Assistant Jennifer Kelley.

**VIDEO:** Commissioner Bill Hall, Lincoln County.

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments' (OCWCOG) Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Konopa at 9:07 am on August 24, 2017 at the Cascades West Center in Albany.

**1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Councilor Bob Elliott motioned to approve the June 22, 2017 Executive Committee meeting minutes, Councilor Dann Cutter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. OCWCOG Annual Dinner**

Executive Director Fred Abousleman stated that nominations for *CelebrateLBL*, OCWCOG's annual dinner, have been slower than hoped, and that nominations are especially needed for people and projects within Lincoln County.

Commissioner Bill Hall stated that Lincoln County would be submitting nominations.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that registration for the event is open, and asked Committee members to inform OCWCOG staff of whether they plan to attend and/or bring guests. Executive Director Abousleman stated that Board member costs will be covered.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that sponsorship asks have been distributed. Currently there is approximately \$13,000 in sponsorships collected, with Barker Uerlings being a major multi-year sponsor, having committed to \$10,000/year for three years. Executive Director Abousleman added that he and staff were in Lincoln County at the beginning of August, seeking sponsorships and also looking for a site for next year's event.

Commissioner Anne Schuster asked whether Chambers of Commerce had been approached for potential sponsorship contacts. Executive Director Abousleman stated that yes, Chambers had been approached, both for contacts, and as potential sponsors themselves.

Commissioner Schuster asked how many sponsors have committed. Executive Director Abousleman stated that there have been six or seven committed sponsors, and that there are approximately ten more expected.

Mayor Biff Traber asked how many people are expected to attend the event. Executive Director Abousleman stated that the goal is to have approximately 200 attendees, and added that once award nominations are in, registration will be pushed more heavily.

Councilor Cutter asked whether the event is open to all ages. Executive Director Abousleman stated that it is.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the *Tapas and Treasures* event hosted by Rotary of Corvallis has sold out, and that current estimates indicate that the *Meals on Wheels* program will receive approximately \$5,000 in donations from the event.

Mayor Traber asked about parking for *Tapas and Treasures*. Executive Director Abousleman stated that attendees can park in the Garland Nursery parking lot until it fills up, and once full, parking will be available at the Children's Farm Home. A shuttle will be available to bring people to Garland Nursery from the remote parking location, and return them to their cars after the event. Executive Director Abousleman stated that Lee Lazaro would be donating the use of his Dial-A-Bus shuttle for this purpose.

Commissioner Schuster stated that in the past, *Tapas and Treasures* has been a treasure hunt, where you walk around the nursery finding treasures. In addition, there are door prizes based on tickets.

### **3. Regional Broadband Summit**

Executive Director Abousleman stated that OCWCOG is hosting a *Regional Broadband Summit (Summit)* prior to the September Board of Directors Meeting, in order to continue the discussion about access to broadband.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that there is concern among urban and rural communities about access, especially last-mile concerns in south Lincoln County, Halsey, Brownsville, Harrisburg, and parts of north Linn County. Sitting on the *Summit* panel will be public safety experts, a State Information Technology (IT) person, and a Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) broadband person. Executive Director Abousleman stated that invitations would be sent to elected officials, City/County Managers/Administrators, local broadband providers, economic development experts, and other relevant industry people. He added that panelists will report to the Board after the *Summit*.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the event would likely begin around 10:00 or 11:00 am, and last until 1:00 pm, with the option to attend via video conference from Toledo.

Mayor Traber asked about the format. Executive Director Abousleman stated that there would be panelist presentations, in addition to an open conversation with attendees about the needs of their communities.

Chair Konopa stated that she had received an email regarding a study of broadband needs and capacity. The City of Albany had been reported as being well-served. Chair Konopa suggested that City of Albany Assistant City Manager Jorge Salinas would be interested in the *Summit*, and may still have the study if OCWCOG is interested in viewing it to determine its relevance.

Councilor Cutter stated that competition and affordability are key issues, and added that Waldport has a service provider that abandoned the City years ago. That service provider is not interested in re-engaging. This leaves the City with a different provider that does have build-out intentions, but due to various reasons, will not let go of certain restrictions that impact affordability. Councilor Cutter suggested that the *Summit* address small communities that may not be as lucrative for large providers.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that Comcast does not provide true gigabit service to Corvallis or Albany, and added that those lines are expensive.

Mayor Traber stated that there does not seem to be an unmet demand for gigabit Ethernet to businesses, and added that a determination should be made regarding how high of speeds homes need. Mayor Traber added that the previous conversation surrounding connectivity had been around more rural communities getting adequate service. Councilor Cutter added that most people do not need gigabit service at home.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that Lane County is providing true cost gigabit access to businesses and homes. Mayor Traber asked whether Executive Director Abousleman was referencing Eugene, or Lane County. Executive Director Abousleman stated that the City of Eugene had won a Gigabit City grant, but now service is expanding into more rural areas of Lane County using nodes.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that our Region could have a similar setup, with gigabit cities that expand out to our rural communities. He added that the system LCOG has implemented has been less costly and more efficient than other services seen, and stated that emergency response systems and government bandwidth changes should also be considered.

Councilor Cutter stated that focus should be on getting adequate broadband access to rural communities.

Mayor Traber asked who is managing and building out the network in Lane County. Executive Director Abousleman responded that LCOG has been doing this, and added that OCWCOG would not necessarily need to manage a network in our Region.

Councilor Cutter stated that the *Summit* should feature discussion on last-mile issues, as well as the differences between serving communities just outside of larger cities, versus a more remote population that doesn't have any cable or high speed network service currently. Councilor Cutter added that for somewhere like Waldport, as you move from the center of the hub, you get slow speeds that inhibit what you are able to do with your connectivity.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that OCWCOG conducted a broadband survey years ago, and received a lot of information, but nothing was done beyond that. Executive Director Abousleman suggested value in reopening that conversation, as connectivity is a driver of economic development.

Councilor Cutter added that broadband connectivity is one of the biggest drivers of economic development, and that a need is to understand what options are available within communities, so that communities have the information and can take appropriate action to improve issues, if needed.

Commissioner Schuster stated that some smaller towns in our Region have broadband. Executive Director Abousleman replied that many communities do not necessarily understand what broadband is, and stated that Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) is often marketed as broadband while not actually providing high enough speeds.

Councilor Cutter stated that there are obstacles to connectivity, and suggested thinking about how citizens can be educated to understand why broadband is so important to economic development.

Mayor Traber stated that he thinks this conversation is important, and suggested moving forward by picking topics to look at in-depth within certain jurisdictions. If some areas have

common problems, collaboration on articulating and solving those problems could be pursued.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that Cascades West Economic Development District has some great work groups, and suggested that at the end of the meeting, further discussion happen on the topic. Executive Director Abousleman noted that other States have invested heavily in broadband infrastructure, but that he is unsure about Oregon's willingness to make broadband an economic development priority.

Chair Konopa asked whether there is an unwillingness to lay fiber underground because of the potential for technology to advance beyond this type of infrastructure, such as through satellite. Councilor Cutter stated that it is a return-on-investment problem.

Chair Konopa asked why an entity would want to invest in underground infrastructure if the potential is for the future to be wireless. Councilor Cutter stated that wireless connectivity is not what most people think. He added that wireless networks can get saturated easily, and speeds are not comparable to wired access. Councilor Cutter stated that, for example, with Hatfield Marine Science Center's new building, it was cheaper to run wires throughout than to put wireless nodes in enough places to cover the entire building.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that to begin, it would be best to frame the issue collectively, rather than focusing on individual needs. Mayor Traber responded in agreement, but added that it is important to think about where within our Region has needs that are most important to address soonest.

Councilor Cutter stated that if you divorce profit centers from more rural areas, you will get stratification, and suggested that the two must be tied together when working with providers.

Mayor Traber stated that internet has become similar to a utility, and stated that other utilities are regulated. He suggested that similar to other utilities, it would be good to set a threshold for level of access, as well as affordability. He added that it may not make economic sense for some rural areas, but the cost will be made up in urban population centers.

Councilor Cutter added that as much as he would like to see companies focus on rural areas, he understands that unless those companies continue to invest in population centers, they will not have resources to invest in rural communities.

Mayor Traber suggested focusing on public safety in addition to economic development, and added that it may be prudent to bring in a panelist from that sector.

Commissioner Schuster asked whether emergency management personnel would be invited to the Broadband Summit. Executive Director Abousleman stated that he would like to invite emergency management leaders, as there will be a move to the new spectrum and old technology will not be available after a certain date.

Councilor Cutter stated that he thinks there should be care taken to not relate the two issues together, although they have broadband in common, because they are almost entirely separate discussions. Emergency management involves wireless and radio access, which is different than providing broadband internet access.

#### 4. OCWCOG Program Updates

SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that SDS hired a new SDS Supervisor, Andrea Smith. SDS Supervisor Smith was previously a trainer for the Medicaid programs. SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that as SDS rethinks structure, it has been viewed more Regionally. It was stated that there had recently been an engaging meeting among SDS Supervisors and Managers, with the goal of improving efficiencies, providing more support to programs, and having backups for each supervisor.

Commissioner Schuster asked about the status of InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization's initiative to provide in-home care via telecommunications and monitoring. SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that discussions on this are still ongoing.

Commissioner Schuster asked whether broadband may impact these services. SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that it would.

Chair Konopa asked about funding in the State budget.

SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that the budget on the State level is good this year, however OCWCOG does not have final contracts. SDS Program Manager Randi Moore expressed some previous issues from the Department of Human Services regarding transparency, but suspected that end results would be positive. SDS Program Manager Randi Moore stated that there are some Federal funding concerns, however any major changes to Medicaid would take time to implement.

There was a discussion regarding tax allocations, and the public's need for more services.

SDS Program Manager Jennifer Moore stated that the fundraising strategy for *Meals on Wheels* could be expanded to the *Retired and Senior Volunteer Program* and the *Foster Grandparent Program*, and that pieces of this plan are launching within the next few months. SDS Program Manager Jennifer Moore highlighted Giving Day donations as an example, and stated that this type of donation is a \$1,000 one-time gift with the donor acknowledged on a specific day of the year. It was stated that these types of donations have received positive feedback as a way to honor an event, or a special person.

Commissioner Schuster stated that Benton County leadership has thought about Giving Day, and suggested that other governments may want to follow suit.

SDS Program Manager Jennifer Moore stated that OCWCOG is recruiting to fill vacancies in the *Benton County Veterans Services Office*, and added that by getting veterans connected to these programs, it provides savings to Medicaid.

Mayor Traber asked for clarification on the Medicaid savings. Executive Director Aoulosman stated that the savings to Medicaid comes when a veteran is moved from Medicaid programs on to Veterans Affairs (VA) programs. In addition, some veterans have been told, in error, that they do not have access to VA programs. The more veterans go to VA facilities, the less they go to traditional hospitals and medical facilities. It was clarified that if you are far enough from a VA facility, veterans can use other facilities and have coverage by the VA.

CED Director Phil Warnock stated that the *Business Lending* program has four loans in process, after a great deal of work. He added that one loan is delinquent, with the owner trying to sell his business, and OCWCOG in second position to receive funds when it sells.

CED Director Warnock stated that *Business Lending* is working with Lincoln City on an urban renewal loan portfolio.

CED Director Warnock stated that OCWCOG recently hosted a viewing of the International Economic Development Council's webinar on affordable housing and economic development. CED Director Warnock stated that the webinar did not focus as much on smaller communities, but did cover some tools on incentivizing development of affordable workforce housing.

CED Director Warnock stated that OCWCOG is following developments surrounding House Bill (HB) 2017, which related to transportation. HB 2017 contained funding for a \$25 million intermodal transportation facility for the Willamette Valley. CED Director Warnock stated that more information will be provided as it develops.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that the Governor will be signing HB 2017 in Eugene, and our area's Regional Solutions Coordinator Jackie Mikalonis will be sending out notices for anyone interested in attending. Executive Director Abousleman added that frontrunners for location of the intermodal facility are Millersburg and Lebanon.

Mayor Traber asked about the Port of Newport expansion, and whether there had been progress. CED Director Warnock stated that he had not heard of any new developments or progress.

Councilor Cutter stated that at the Port's last election, there had been a leadership change with a new Port Director being elected. Additionally, at the last meeting, the lumber shipment deal was halted, which had been a large driver of the expansion. There is new focus on the fishing fleet. Councilor Cutter stated that there are still some legal issues to be determined, as well as other unknowns.

Commissioner Schuster asked whether Lincoln County was taking any action.

Commissioner Bill Hall stated that it is not a Lincoln County issue, but a Port Commission decision, and that the County is encouraging cooperation.

Councilor Cutter asked about the beverage cluster noted in the CED Program Update, specifically with regard to any efforts to solicit additional partners for growth. CED Director Warnock stated that Oregon Liquor Control Commission policy has some prohibition-era regulations that make development more difficult, but that there is work taking place to see how individual companies can be better supported.

Mayor Traber asked what geographic area the "cluster" was referencing. CED Director Warnock stated that there is an industry cluster within the Region, which has also been identified at a State level.

Councilor Cutter stated that Waldport has been pursuing efforts to identify where government regulations may be getting in the way of development, so that there can be efforts to reduce this effect. Mayor Traber expressed interest in discussing this topic.

Commissioner Schuster stated that as Co-Chair of the Housing Subcommittee for the Association of Oregon Counties, she would also like to be involved in discussions regarding getting "out of the way" of development.

Executive Director Abousleman suggested that a study on this topic could be a good project for the *Special Projects Fund*. Councilor Cutter agreed.

There was a discussion on mutual housing development problems. Commissioner Schuster asked how Lebanon has solved their housing development problem. Councilor Elliott stated that the City has not done anything, but the development of the College and other large facilities has driven growth.

There was a discussion on land use.

Commissioner Shuster asked how the Amtrak bus to Corvallis has been going. CED Director Warnock stated that he was unsure, but would reach out to gather information. Commissioner Shuster asked whether brochures for service were available yet. CED Director Warnock stated that CED typically has brochures for transit services, but has not received the new Amtrak brochure yet.

## **5. September Full Board Agenda Items**

Finance Director Sue Forty stated that there will likely need to be a Budget Committee meeting, as there will be a supplemental budget due to additional Veterans Services funding. Finance Director Forty stated that based on the State's budget, the meeting will likely need to happen in January.

There were no changes to the September Board of Directors meeting agenda items as presented:

### **1. Consent Calendar**

- a. Approval of previous Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC) Membership
- c. Approval of Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC) Membership
- d. Financial Update for the period of July 2016 – June 2017

### **2. Regional Broadband Summit**

### **3. Celebrate LBL Award Nominations**

### **4. Program Update Question and Answers**

### **5. Topic of Regional Interest – Eclipse Debrief**

### **6. Other Business**

### **7. Adjournment**

Commissioner Schuster suggested an additional Topic of Regional Interest could be how the government impedes housing development.

Executive Director Abousleman suggested that, due to having a full agenda for the September Board of Directors meeting, the Topic of Regional Interest be limited to only one item. There was agreement.

Councilor Cutter stated that when looking at business clusters, information could be gathered on what regulations may get in the way of development. This could be an economic development issue. Councilor Cutter stated that he did not want to dismiss housing as an important discussion, but suggested focusing on a more localized area as a sample.

Chair Konopa stated that it would be difficult to view these issues regionally, as they are very community-specific.

**6. Other Business**

Mayor Traber stated that the next Regional Economic Development meeting occurs prior to the next Board of Directors meeting. Commissioner Schuster asked whether information had been sent out yet. CED Director Warnock stated that it would be happening following today.

Executive Director Abousleman stated that it was his impression that there was already Board approval for this, but he wanted to notify the Executive Committee that OCWCOG needs a release of funds to backfill the Business Lending program.

Mayor Traber asked whether a motion was needed. Executive Director Abousleman stated that it may be prudent to make a motion, although it was his understanding that there was prior approval by the Board.

Finance Director Forty stated that OCWCOG is closing the books for the Fiscal year, and an internal transfer needs to happen as the last piece. It would only impact one program's ending fund balance. However, the audit is happening soon, so timeframes are important.

Mayor Traber motioned to approve necessary dollars be transferred to the rolling loan fund, Councilor Cutter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.

*Minutes recorded by Jennifer Kelley.*



# Senior and Disability Services

1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 206 • Albany, OR 97322  
(541) 967-8630 TTY/Voice • 1-800-638-0510 TTY/Voice

203 N Main St • Toledo, OR 97391  
(541) 336-2289 • (541) 336-8103 TTY/Voice • (800) 282-6194



Area Agency on Aging

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 26, 2017  
**TO:** OCWCOG Executive Committee  
**FROM:** Senior and Disability Services (SDS) Director Randi Moore and  
Community Services Program (CSP) Manager Jennifer Moore  
**RE:** **SDS and Community Services Program (CSP) Report**

**SDS – Medicaid**

**SDS Director Randi Moore**

### **Oregon Secretary of State Audits Consumer-Employed Provider Program**

Last week the Oregon Secretary of State issued an audit report on the Consumer-Employed Provider Program, which has been a core service in Oregon’s Long Term Services system since its inception in 1981. This program allows people to employ workers to assist them with their needs in their own home, as opposed to being required to move to a facility when they need assistance with care.

The audit found that the program can be successful, but this success is highly dependent on how capable the consumer, homemaker, and case manager are in their roles. Specific recommendations were made to address inherent program risks and improve program implementation. They include doing thorough assessments, providing better training, and completing frequent monitoring of consumer care.

Consumer choice is fundamental to Oregon’s long-term services and supports system, as one program or setting type is not inherently more risky than any other. Even people with dementia or advanced illness can, and often are, served well through Oregon’s nationally recognized in-home program. On a State and local level, we continue to focus on the safety and well-being of those we serve while respecting our core values around self-direction and consumer-driven decision making.

The full Audit can be found here: <http://sos.oregon.gov/audits/documents/2017-23.pdf>

### **Health Care Tax Repeal Headed for the Ballot**

Opponents of a new tax on health care providers submitted signatures last week to put the issue of repealing the tax on the ballot for a special election on January 23, 2018. The 1.5% tax on health plans, coordinated care organizations, and hospitals was passed by the legislature this summer, and provides \$550 million in funding to Medicaid expansion across the State. It is estimated that if the tax is defeated on the ballot in January, the State will bring in \$210 million less in the current biennium.

***Meals on Wheels (MOW)***

Final selection is underway to fill the Meal Site Manager vacancy at the Albany meal site. The site has been staffed in the interim through efforts from the relief site manager and other Meal Site Managers. This has been positive on several fronts; Meal Site Managers have had an opportunity to work with a different group of volunteers to see how sister sites are managed, and it has identified several areas where program processes can be streamlined for efficiency.

MOW participates in a three-agency food service consortium, which requires semi-annual kitchen monitoring per the consortium agreement. Site visits will be conducted at each of the three primary kitchens (Eugene, Newport, and Salem) during the month of October.

***Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)***

OCWCOG's *Senior Corps* Program Supervisor Alicia Lucke traveled to Washington, D.C. in September, initiating a new service term on the National Senior Corps Association's (NSCA) Board, where she represents the Pacific Cluster. The NSCA and its 500+ member organizations work toward the common goal of achieving adequate federal support and program flexibility for *FGP*, *RSVP*, and *Senior Companion* programs nationwide. Federal agencies and programs, including OCWCOG's *Senior Corps*, continue to operate under a Continuing Resolution at Fiscal Year 2017 levels through December 8, 2017.

Embracing the three programs within one association, NSCA is the recognized national leadership organization representing the combined interests of the *Senior Corps* programs. The NSCA works to ensure that the efforts of *Senior Corps* volunteers will continue meeting the needs and challenges of the nation's communities. Current OCWCOG *Senior Corps* grants focus on helping local seniors age in place (*RSVP*) and tutoring local youth with an emphasis on Grade 3 reading level achievements (*Foster Grandparent Program*). Future areas of National Service interest for OCWCOG *Senior Corps* volunteers include supporting opioid abuse prevention programs, job skills, and disaster preparedness.



1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 201 • Albany, OR 97322  
(541) 967-8720 • FAX (541) 967-6123

---

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** October 26, 2017  
**TO:** OCWCOG Executive Committee  
**FROM:** Phil Warnock, Community and Economic Development (CED) Director  
**RE:** **CED Program Update**

---

### ***Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO)***

AAMPO is preparing to finalize its *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)*, which outlines transportation visions and priorities for the next 20 years. The AAMPO Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Board will provide feedback this fall, and the RTP is expected to be adopted in early 2018.

### ***Safe Routes to School (SRTS)***

OCWCOG partnered with the City of Jefferson and Jefferson Elementary School to provide a Bike Rodeo event on Saturday, October 14th. The event provided bike safety lessons, free lights and helmets, and fun activities for students and community members. SRTS projects are being developed in Albany, Harrisburg, Jefferson, Lebanon, and Sweet Home. Schools that have SRTS Actions Plans in place, and have been actively engaged in activities are likely to be in a good position to apply for SRTS infrastructure projects funded through the new transportation legislation.

### **Transportation Options**

The statewide *Oregon Drive Less Challenge* was held September 16th-30th. Participants across Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties tracked 84,094 non-drive-alone miles, which resulted in a reduction of 56,777 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>, 2,834 gallons of gasoline, and a savings of \$21,870 when compared to driving alone. This year marked the 5th annual statewide event, and discussions are underway to give the event a new look and refresh the message.

### ***Cascades West Business Lending (CWBL)***

The CWBL program continues to see strong activity. As previously reported, three loans have closed and funded in the past few months, with loan amounts totaling \$754,360 on total project costs of \$1,925,900. A loan for a hotel project is anticipated to close and fund later this year, and new prospects are coming in at a steady pace.

### ***Cascades West Ride Line***

On October 5th, *Ride Line* submitted a grant proposal to the National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) for the Health Care Access Design Challenge. The focus of the proposal is to address rural coastal community dialysis access. The grant will provide up to \$30,000 for planning and technical support to seven chosen communities, to design a sustainable, customer-responsive solution for access to care. Requirements for this opportunity include developing and strengthening a broad-based coalition to better link health care and transportation access, engaging community stakeholders in design solutions, and preparing a business plan for implementation of the solution, including a recommendation for a sustainable funding model. NCMM is currently reviewing proposals, and will submit recommendations to the Federal Transit Administration on October 24th for approval.

### ***Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD)***

OCWCOG hosted a viewing of BroadbandUSA's Practical Broadband Conversations webinar, titled *Understanding the Role of Broadband in Regional Economic Development*. With access to broadband as a driver of economic development, many communities are working together in their approach to providing broadband access within their regions. This webinar discussed the importance of broadband, as well as how regions can encourage economic development, growth, and innovation through providing adequate access in communities.



Cascades West Center  
1400 Queen Avenue, SE Suite 201  
Albany, OR 97322  
541.967.8720