



# RS EXCHANGE

## REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

### Weekly Report

October 9, 2019

Below are some highlights from the Governor's [Regional Solutions \(RS\) Coordinators](#), on behalf of the eleven interagency teams across Oregon.

#### North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **National Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Conference:** Presented by the National Extension Network and Sea Grant programs, RS Coordinators from the North Coast and Mid-Valley regions had the opportunity to attend this year's National Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Conference in Astoria. Presentations included innovative research on the recreation economy, triple bottom line strategies for destination management, agritourism, and community and regional planning and development. RS is always seeking to elevate and strengthen partnerships and this conference highlighted several new opportunities.
- **North Coast Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) meeting:** The North Coast RSAC, convened by Senator Betsy Johnson, recently held its first meeting in over a year. Advisory committee members, RS team members from Oregon Department of Oregon Transportation (ODOT), Department of State Lands (DSL), Department of Land and Conservation Development (DLCD), Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Business Oregon, and local and regional economic development partners engaged in a robust conversation about regional community and economic development priorities in Tillamook, Clatsop, and Columbia counties. RS Team members reported on significant project successes and milestones, including completion of the Highway 101/6 project in Tillamook, regional housing initiatives, Rainier 'A' Street Rail Safety Improvement project, and Hyak Maritime's development at North Tongue Point. A special thanks to Jae Pudewell (ODOT), Lisa Phipps (DLCD), Kim Travis (OHCS), and Melanie Olson (Business Oregon) for their great work!
  - The Committee also reviewed and approved updates to the North Coast RST Work Plan. RST members recognized projects to celebrate as successes and remove from the workplan, including Tillamook Flooding – Southern Flow Corridor Project, Tillamook Downtown Revitalization, Pacific Seafood Warrenton, Seafood Processing Wastewater Permit Renewal, and Cascades Tissue. Several projects were added to the workplan, including Infrastructure Projects at Cannon Beach, NEXT Renewable Fuels, Oregon Solutions projects: Oregon Coast Trail and Clatsop Elk Collaborative, and Regional Initiatives: Childcare Supply. Special thanks to the committee and team members for their preparation and engagement in the process.

## Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **City of Falls City: Looking Ahead to a Bright Future:** Falls City (Pop. 955 (2018)) was once one of Oregon's thriving mill towns and the county seat. Today, Falls City is writing a new chapter for its self with several defining projects including opening up better recreational access to the Luckiamute Falls area. Last week, Oregon Solutions (OS) was contacted by the City to help with a three-pronged pathway project. OS then connected with Mid-Valley RS to take the lead on the project. OS will continue to be engaged, but felt this project was better suited for RS. Monday, RS met with Mayor Gordon, City Manager Mac Corthell, and William Sullivan (RARE) to discuss the project. The RS Team is reviewing the proposal and plans to meet with Falls City team within the next few weeks.
- The Falls City Pathway Project aligns with several of the Mid-Valley Regional Strategies including work to:
  - Promote efficient, effective transportation and multi-model systems
  - Engage in local government infrastructure to support development
  - Foster outdoor recreational opportunities by supporting access to lakes, rivers, parks, and natural amenities
  - Identify resources to unlock underutilized sites and land.

## South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Millersburg Transload:** RS met with representatives with the Millersburg Transload project last week to get an update on the project moving forward. The group is working on a variety of topics related to full site build-out that will require engagement with the RS Team. RS, along with Business Oregon and ODOT, will be engaging with the group on a regular basis to ensure milestones are met. RS will be convening a larger RS Team, workgroup to engage with the developers on a quarterly basis.
- **Oakridge Woodsmoke Mitigation:** Congratulations to Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) and the City of Oakridge on the recent award of \$4.9 million from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Targeted Airshed Grant program to reduce particulate pollution in Oakridge. In 2017, Governor Brown designated the Oakridge Woodsmoke Mitigation project as an Oregon Solutions project to address the air quality concerns for the Oakridge community. The RS Team has been engaged in the work from the beginning and looks forward to a continued partnership as the funding from the EPA is implemented.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) Meeting

- Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 2 PM – 4 PM; Location – TBD

## Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Gold Hill Whitewater Project:** RS and County staff presented on the status of the proposed in-stream whitewater park to Gold Hill City Council this week. The Council expressed a willingness to explore a possible partnership with the County to get the project developed.

- **Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) Workforce Housing:** OSF announced they have signed a 25-year lease that will support the development of a 34-unit multi-family housing project in downtown Ashland. The development will function as a dormitory for OSF actors.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- Southern Oregon RSAC Meeting: Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019; Location – TBD

## Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- This is my first week back from maternity leave and I want to thank Jim McKenna (Governor’s Natural Resources Policy Advisor) and the Metro RS Team for filling in for me while I was on leave and for doing an excellent job in my absence. The following are noteworthy highlights of Metro RS Team work that was not previously reported on while I was away:

- **Rockwood Rising:** Metro RS attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Rockwood Rising Project on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019. It was a fantastic community celebration with local and regional elected officials, including Multnomah County Commissioner and Metro RS Advisory Committee member, Lori Stegmann. Commissioner Stegmann was instrumental in directing the Metro RS Advisory Committee to recommend Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) funding for the Rockwood Rising Maker Space. Metro RS and the Governor’s Labor Policy Advisor, Jenn Baker, helped navigate a lease agreement between Roy Kim Development and the Oregon Employment Department (OED). The Rockwood Rising Maker Space project will help to address income disparities by providing workforce development opportunities for underrepresented populations in one of the most distressed and impoverished areas in the Portland-metro region. The project site is in the Rockwood Neighborhood, in one of the lowest income zip codes in the Portland-metro area. It has the highest concentration of immigrants than any town center in the Portland-metro area.



- **King City:** The Metro RS Team conducted an outreach visit to King City where they received a briefing and tour of targeted bike/pedestrian, road improvement and housing development sites. King City was recently approved to be brought into the Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and they face challenges associated with the need for more housing and infrastructure to keep up with projected population growth.



- King City raised concerns about the need for third party building code approvals. Metro RS followed up with the Oregon Building Codes Division (BCD) and clarified that jurisdictions may continue to hire third party inspection services but an official of a city, county or state must be used for final building approvals. King City may seek assistance from another jurisdiction to perform this work, via a contract. Some cities are contracting with BCD to perform final approvals. Roger Kainu, Metro RS team member and liaison to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) also shared information on energy efficiency programs that ODOE may be able to assist with that score homes and commercial buildings. Finally, the Team shared the Metro RS toolkit of state resources and agency contact information.
- **Timberline Lodge:** Metro RS conducted an outreach visit to Timberline Lodge in September because they would like to improve transportation safety, access and capacity at their facility. As part of this effort, RLK Corporation, Timberline Lodge’s parent company, obtained a permit from the United States Forest Service (USFS) to operate the Summit Ski Area in Government Camp. Timberline expects to operate the Summit Ski Area as a community ski hill, which is family-oriented and affordable to lower-income households. They would like to install a high speed gondola from the Summit Ski Area to Timberline Lodge. To achieve this vision, relocating the rest area currently located in the Summit Ski Area parking lot is required. The rest area is currently owned by Oregon Travel Experience, a state agency. While the gondola will be privately funded, public funds are being requested to relocate the rest area currently at Summit Ski Area and implement the transit infrastructure and needs. One potential funding source is the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant. However, a state partner and an agency lead would be required to apply for a FLAP grant. Metro RS will follow-up with Oregon Travel Experience and other state agencies to see if there is an interest in sponsoring a FLAP grant application for the project. Additional improvements to support safe access to Timberline Road include transit service improvements and additional transit hub infrastructure along with park-and-ride facilities on and west of Mt. Hood. This fits in with the timing of the ODOT led “Vision Around the Mountain Transit Study.”

## North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **Arlington Industrial Park and Airport:** The Port of Arlington is working on two related projects: the paving of the runway at their airport and the development of a flex building. Members of the RS Team met with Port Director Peter Mitchell to discuss the status of the project and potential funding sources. Business Oregon’s Scott Fairley shared funding options through Business Oregon for the flex space. We are also working to explore potential federal funding sources for both projects.
- **Attainable Housing:** Attainable housing remains the top priority for the North Central Region. The Advisory Committee used the 2013 RIF to seed an attainable housing revolving loan fund, administered by the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD). The fund provides gap financing for project serving families in the 80-120 Area Median Income Range (AMIR). Recently, through ongoing RS and MCEDD outreach to developers of all sizes, we have received a wave of new interest. This week the MCEDD received applications for project in Hood River and The Dalles. In total, the projects will create over 40 units. The project in Hood River, when completed, will be the largest “workforce”, multi-family project in over a decade. The North Central RS Subcommittee will meet in the coming weeks to review the social metrics of the applications. MCEDD’s loan board will review for other elements.

## Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Central Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee meeting:** Many thanks to Alyssa Chatterjee (Deputy Education Policy Advisor) and several regional partners for participating in a panel discussion on the issues and opportunities for increasing supply of quality early childhood education. The committee heard about the Central Oregon Childcare Accelerator position currently housed at the Bend Chamber and a pilot project under development by OSU-Cascades and Central Oregon Community College. Bend Mayor Sally Russell also joined to provide an overview of the Governor's Wildfire Council work. Some expressed concern about recommendations that will increase the cost of housing. Representatives were invited to join for additional discussion with Matt Donegan, Chair of the Council, on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, in Bend. Finally, the committee reviewed the RS management letter from the Secretary of State's office; some expressed an interest in developing project specific performance metrics for future RS projects.
- **Made in Redmond Tour:** Participated in Economic Development for Central Oregon's (EDCO) annual *Made in Redmond Tour*. Great opportunity to learn about businesses in Redmond and hear about their challenges. Overall, the lack of a skilled workforce was the challenge shared by all four companies. We toured a distillery, a weapons air craft manufacturing company, and a tractor trailer dealer/repair shop.
- **RS Team OSU Cascades site visit:** The Central Oregon RS Team, along with the statewide DEQ RS Liaisons, toured the site prep for the second phase of OSU Cascades. Contractors are working to remove material down to the bedrock below the pumice and then compacting mixed soils above that to stabilize the site for future construction. One key aspect of this work is the removal, sorting and reuse of material from the former demolition landfill. The vast majority of the site's fill needs will be met from material on site. Business Oregon and the DEQ have both been very involved with supporting the reuse project. Special shout out to Bob Schwarz, DEQ, for his outstanding work guiding this project, including evaluating and processing all the necessary permits and approvals.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- Central Oregon RSAC Meeting: Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM – Noon; Location – TBD

## South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Housing:** Brought together Randy Cox, Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA), and Mike Hollern/Kirk Schueler, Brooks Resources, to explore opportunities to increase housing development in Klamath Falls. Overall, a very helpful discussion about next steps in identifying and removing barriers. The RS Team will assist KCEDA by meeting with banks to understand their willingness to finance new construction and introduce Central Oregon builders to the opportunities in Klamath Falls.

### Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- South Central RSAC Meeting: Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM – Noon; Location – Klamath Community College, Klamath Falls, OR

## Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Hines Pellet Mill Project:** *Background* – This is an effort to create both a biomass and alfalfa pellet mill in Harney County that will employ up to 20 people. RS has been holding monthly communication calls between the company and the DEQ to work through the permitting process and see if we can get them up and running soon. The company is close to finishing the Cleaner Air Oregon process and will be one of the first (if not the first) new facilities to go through this new process, so we are eager to get them moving through the rest of the permitting process so they can hopefully be in production by next alfalfa season.
- **Euvalcree Housing Project:** RS met with Gustavo Morales with Euvalcree in Ontario this week to get an update on the workforce housing project that he is working on. Euvalcree is hoping to develop 60 houses in Malheur County using a community land trust model to help address the housing needs of underserved communities in Malheur County. Euvalcree is looking at Location Innovation and Fast Tract (LIFT) funding through OHCS as a possible funding source, but needs \$270,000 to help get the first 10 homes moving. RS is continually looking for funding for this project, but so far, we haven't found a good source.
- **John Day Innovation Gateway:** John Day received a federal grant through EPA through the new Recreation Economy for Rural Communities program. This is a grant opportunity that RS helped recommend for the City, and we are thrilled they are one of the first recipients of this funding. Great recognition from our federal partners for the work happening in John Day. The grant will be used to help make the Innovation Gateway concept a reality. The Innovation Gateway concept is a plan to diversify the City's economy by growing outdoor recreation, including by cleaning up and reusing a riverfront former industrial site and developing hotels and new outdoor recreation enterprises in town. For more information, please [click here](#).