



RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, March 23rd, 2026

Upcoming RSAC Meetings

Southern (Jackson and Josephine Counties)

Wednesday, March 25th from 12:00-2:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

South Valley/Mid-Coast (Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties)

Thursday, March 26th from 1:00-3:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

Central (Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties)

Monday, March 30th from 12:00-2:00pm

Redmond City Hall; Executive Conference Room 141

[Virtual Link](#)

North Central (Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco Counties)

Thursday, April 2nd from 1:00-3:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

North Coast (Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook Counties)

Tuesday, April 7th from 10:00am-12:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

Metro (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties)

Wednesday, April 8th from 1:00-3:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

South Coast (Coos, Curry, and Douglas Counties)

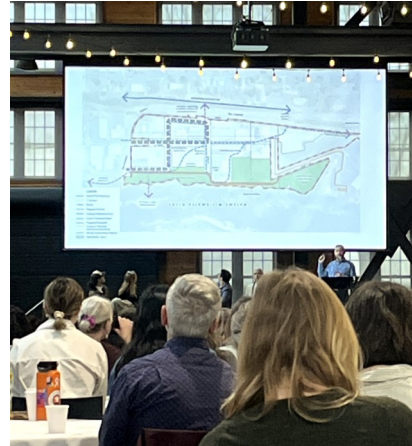
Wednesday, April 15th from 1:00-3:00pm

[Virtual Link](#)

Regional Updates

Metro – Kathy Hyzy

Reimagine The River Conference: Put on by Ecotrust, Willamette Falls Trust, and 1803 Fund, this conference brought together hundreds of Willamette River cheerleaders from around the region to celebrate the connections the river facilitates and highlight the many exciting projects under way to redevelop and restore a river that in many ways defines this place. Regional Solutions has been involved in a number of the projects featured throughout the day, including (pictured here) tumwata village, the Confederated Tribe of Grande Ronde's restoration and redevelopment of the former Blue Heron Paper Mill next to Willamette Falls in Oregon City. In addition to featured projects, sessions focused on the many personal and historical ties to the river and on opportunities for collaboration. It was wonderful to spend time with leaders from so many tribes, cities, and nonprofits to share concerns and ideas for the future of this important part of the Metro region! Learn more about the conference [here](#).



Governor Kotek Visits Estacada: Thanks to the community of Estacada for a really fun day! The governor started off at Estacada High School, celebrating the 100 percent adoption of school cell phone bans around the state and hearing feedback from students and teachers on how it's transformed their experiences in class. Feedback was largely positive, and the district is already seeing improvements in attendance and test scores. In the afternoon, Mayor Drinkwine and city staff took the governor on a tour of Estacada's industrial park. The park is home to both Estacada-grown businesses and new arrivals, all who saw real opportunity there.

Over a decade ago, Estacada's leadership decided to take some risks in order to create an industrial park with shovel-ready site. Utilizing a combination of investments from Business Oregon and city resources, the city built out streets and brought in utilities. Adding an Enterprise Zone to the campus created substantial tax breaks for businesses making major investments or creating new, family-wage jobs. Now the park is home to a thriving cluster of small commercial/industrial operators. The governor stopped by one of the most recent arrivals, Sauter Timber, to see their

state-of-the-art CNC machinery imported from Germany to perform precise, complex cuts on cross-laminated timber. Once cut, these pieces go on to projects as varied as modular housing kits or mass timber high rises. Bob Freres, president of Freres Timber in Lyons, Oregon, also stopped by to talk about the semi-sized CLT panels from Freres that Sauter was cutting during our visit. It was great to see how Oregon's wood products industry is evolving and working together!



Next the governor stopped by the Glaziers Training Center to talk with instructors and students in the program, which prepares apprentices to prepare and install glass storefronts, curtain walls (as you see on skyscrapers), and in other settings. Several fourth-year students spoke to how much

the new facility had improved their instructional experience, and the instructors enjoyed showing off the VR welding training stations. The facility and apprenticeships are all made possible by investments from Glaziers Union Local 740.

Finally, Deputy City Manager Elaina Turpin took the governor on a quick tour of Estacada's new wastewater treatment plant on the banks of the Clackamas River. This \$54 million investment was made possible in part by a combined \$7.4 million in lottery bond dollar grants signed by Governor Kotek. Hundreds of thousands of Metro-area residents rely on downstream connections to the river for their drinking water, and this new plant both gives Estacada the room in their system they need to continue growing and significantly improves water quality for the downstream wildlife and communities.



South Valley/Mid-Coast – Courtney Flathers

A Regional Success Story: Last week the Cascades West Innovation Hub and Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (RAIN) hosted an informative event focused on how the regional economic development ecosystem collaborated to support [Valliscor's](#) growth and success. Over a series of panels, speakers explored how two local innovators turned a bold research idea into a multimillion-dollar manufacturing facility. Last summer Valliscor broke ground on a new 12+ acre campus in Albany that will support production of key etchants for the semiconductor industry. State support for this project included funding from the Governor's Strategic Reserve Fund, the Oregon CHIPS Fund, and the Semiconductor Industrial Lands Loan program. Learn more about the Cascades West Innovation Hub – including future events – [here](#).

Corvallis Housing First Third Street Commons Groundbreaking: After years of work, Corvallis Housing First celebrated the groundbreaking for its Third Street Commons project on March 19th. The project includes a 47-unit Permanent Supportive Housing community that will provide safe, high-quality housing combined with supportive services for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and people with disabilities. This is the first development of this kind in Corvallis. The project is supported by an



array of funding including funds from OHCS and Business Oregon and technical support from DEQ. The property was purchased with Project Turnkey funding six years ago. Corvallis Housing First Executive Director Andrea Myhre is a member of the South Valley/Mid-Coast Regional Solutions Advisory Committee. Congratulations to the visionary leaders and dedicated community partners that brought this project to fruition!

Lincoln County Economic Summit: The Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County (EDALC) hosted the fourth annual Lincoln County Economic Summit at the Inn at Otter Crest on March 12th. I always enjoy this annual convening that brings together local, regional and state partners to share information, highlight success stories and collaborate around opportunities to grow the economy in Lincoln County. Materials from the event can be found [here](#). Many thanks to EDALC for continuing to host this valuable event – rain or shine.

2026 Legislative Investments: Several communities in the region received appropriations during the 2026 legislative session that wrapped up the first week in March. Some of the investments include \$2.65 million for wastewater infrastructure to support housing production in Philomath, \$2 million for the City of Lebanon Wastewater Treatment Plant Biosolids Project, \$5 million for Clear Lake Road Economic Development Infrastructure in Eugene, \$1 million to support a passenger boarding bridge project at the Eugene Airport, and \$2.5 million for a 47-unit affordable and workforce housing project in Depoe Bay.

Housing Infrastructure Financing Program: The legislature established the Housing Infrastructure Financing Program (HIFP) during the 2025 legislative session. Final awards and a \$10 million investment of lottery bonds were approved by the legislature during the 2026 session. Awards in this region include \$520,247 for the Colonia del Valle Affordable Housing Development in Albany and \$2 million for the Floral Hill Housing Development in Eugene.

South Central – Scott Aycock

Regular Community Visits: On March 16 and 17 I spent some time in beautiful Klamath County, including facilitating a South-Central Regional Solutions Advisory Committee meeting focused on providing input into the Prosperity Roadmap process. I also dropped by a 211 Klamath County service providers meeting, met with South Central Oregon Economic Development District (SCOEDD) staff, and visited Avengrid's Klamath Power facility. RS Coordinators get out in the communities that we serve on a regular basis, and every month I spend at least one night in Lake and Klamath counties, meeting with local leaders, businesses, and non-profits. I'm always happy to connect with anyone who wants to make a positive difference in their community!



Eastern – Courtney Crowell

Prairie Wood Products Business Visit: Regional Solutions and the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation had a chance to meet with Prairie Wood Products (PWP) in Prairie City to discuss their business plans moving forward. It was a great opportunity to talk about the potential future opportunities in Prairie City and what challenges and next steps the company has moving forward. We will continue to engage as needed.

Greater Eastern Oregon and Northeast Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting: We held meetings of the Greater Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee and the Northeast Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee. These meetings were focused on getting feedback from them on the Economic Prosperity Roadmap. Tim Knopp, the Chief Prosperity Officer, was able to join us and hear directly from the RSAC members about their thoughts around economic prosperity and what the state could be doing differently. It was a good conversation that highlighted some of the challenges that these regions have directly and identified issues that we hear across the state.

Mid-Valley – Beth Wytoski

Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments: The MWVCOG hosted its annual awards dinner to celebrate regional collaboration and outstanding governance. One hundred sixty-five regional leaders gathered to recognize individuals and partnerships that strengthened the Mid-Valley. Award recipients included:



- **Scott Derickson**, city manager of Woodburn, received the Wes Kvarsten Professional Service Award for nearly three decades of productive and collaborative leadership in local government
- **Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst**, of Polk County, received the Gwen VanDenBosch Regional Leadership Award to honor his tireless advocacy for transportation safety, youth opportunity, and cooperative problem-solving
- **Allan Pollock**, the CEO and General Manager of Cherriots, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work to maintain transit services during the Great Recession and more recent challenges posed by reconstruction projects as well as his work to pass legislation to bring investment to the Mid-Valley

- The collaborators who brought "***The Wall That Heals***," a Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica to the city of Independence in 2025 were honored for bringing 17 local governments and state agencies together for the shared mission which attracted more than 8,600 visitors during its four-day stay
- **Cec Koontz**, the Mayor of Monmouth, was surprised and thrilled to receive the Chair's Choice Award, recognizing her leadership, mentorship of new elected officials, and dedication to collaborative, effective governance

CDBG Award: The city of Monmouth was awarded \$400,000 to work with the Polk Regional Collaborative (PRC) partners to provide essential home repairs in the growing number of low to moderate income, single-family, owner-occupied homes in desperate need but without sufficient financial resources. This award is expected to provide repairs to roughly half of the 30 households on the waitlist.

Aviation Town Hall: I convened a town hall with several property owners



and business operators at the Aurora airport for a question and answer session with the Oregon Department of Aviation (ODAV) including agency director Kenji Sugahara and State Airports Manager Tony Beach. ODAV is completing a major master planning process for the Aurora airport and there have been questions about some key components including lengthening the runway, protecting economic

activity in the region, timelines, and expansion opportunities. The conversation was candid and clarified some of the details around:

- The internal circulation road - which includes limited signage changes and relocation of a gate as well as clarification about use of taxiways as roadways.
- The runway extension - which is required by the FAA for safety and aviation noise abatement, is a significant topic of conversation. This topic area is complicated by current non-standard conditions. Aviation will work with the FAA to define the path to meeting standards, including applying for variances of 'Modifications of Standards for the Runway Object Free Area.
 - Questions remain about the legal and financial liability of some potential components including the relocation of Highway 551.

- Property Acquisition, such as the Wylee/Bennet area, were discussed in terms of priority areas needed in order to address non-standard conditions and reserve areas which would be acquired from willing sellers in order to keep them in aeronautical use.

Business Visits: I have continued to visit businesses in the area, learning about the diverse economic activity of the region as well as challenges. As part of the Prosperity Roadmap, learning and considering challenges in the Oregon business environment is critical work so that as a state, we can add, reduce, or modify systems to better support and retain business as well as attract new investment. In the last two weeks, I have visited:

- **Life Flight** - which offers ground and air medical transport services, trains pilots and prepares medical professionals to respond to emergencies so that patients can get to intensive level care in less time. A communications center is headquartered in Idaho and processes more than 100,000 calls each month from EMS, hospitals, and public safety dispatchers which result in efficient emergency transports that improve patient outcomes. Because they must always be ready, space for aircraft staging as well as ambulance transfers is a necessity and may be a challenge at the Aurora site.
- **Aerometal** - takes in aging aircraft to restore and repair components to extend airworthiness. With services that range from inspections and basic repairs to complete restorations of historic planes, they have developed into a comprehensive one-stop shop for aviators. They have an airframe and structures shop; they do electrical and technical work; they are fabricators, interior craftsmen, and have a team that provides fine finishes. As a former history teacher, I was especially taken with a WWII aircraft that still bears the signatures and home towns of several soldiers who were once medically evacuated in its fuselage. I was amazed it is still safe to fly!



- **HTS (Helicopter Transport Services)** - operates one of the largest and most diverse fleets of heavy class aircraft in the country. With work in construction and heavy lift operations, petroleum transfers, utility work, forestry and wildland firefighting, disaster relief, and more, the collection of Black Hawk and Skycranes are economically critical in the region, but also impact accessibility for rural residents and safety in disasters. One of the most impressive missions is the use of the Skycranes in aerial firefighting as these heavy weight champions can lift and move greater weight than make up the helicopter. They remind me of bumble bees.
- **Shinsegae Foods** - specializes in the production and distribution of ready to eat Korean meals such as traditional soups, bulgogi, and marinated meat trays (which we were fortunate to get to taste during our visit). While part of their competitive advantage comes from Korean ingredient sourcing, they have also been highly innovative and developed their machinery to marinate, sear, fully cook, and then freeze their foods on a belt system as the products make their way to packers. You can find their products like bulgogi at Trader Joe's and Kroger stores.
- **St. Cousair** - makes, packages, and co-packages foods, both of their own making and with partners. They spoke of a clear focus on innovation and the desire to make more food products available to new markets. They offer product concept development with their team, R & D support to inform strategic developments, quality assessment, labeling compliance, and provide food production certifications so that safety and quality are both guaranteed. After starting with specialized jams, preserves, and dressings, they now own Portland Ketchup and are looking to grow their Oregon-sourced products.

Resources and Opportunities

Recruitment Open for Racial Justice Council & Committees through March 27th

The Governor's Racial Justice Council (RJC) and its five respective committees has opened recruitment in search of people interested in contributing to the work of racial justice and equity. The Governor is particularly interested in inviting people that are passionate about fairness, equity, and racial justice and represent the full geographic diversity of our state.

In addition to the Racial Justice Council, we are recruiting for each of the five committee areas including:

- Criminal Justice Reform
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Health Equity and Human Services
- Housing and Homelessness

Background: Codified into law in 2021, the RJC and its committees are composed of individuals from across the state that come from many different backgrounds and life experiences. The RJC provides communities that have been historically excluded from decision-making tables more meaningful access to and a voice in the policy making that directly impacts the lives of Oregonians of color. An individual serving on the Racial Justice Council or one of its five committees is a critical partner and advisor to the Governor, helping to align priorities and the state's policies and operations with a racial justice and equity framework.

Criteria for Consideration: Council members are appointed by Governor Tina Kotek. Applicants must:

- Demonstrate a commitment to racial equity, social and economic justice, diversity, and inclusion.
- Have a connection to, or experience working with, historically underserved communities, particularly tribal communities, immigrants, refugees, Black, Indigenous and People of Color.
- Have personal and/or professional experience and knowledge in public policy, criminal justice reform, police accountability, economic opportunity, housing, homelessness, health equity, behavioral health, or education.
- Each Council member may serve on one of the five committees.
- Be committed to serving a one or two-year term with active participation.

To apply please click [here](#) or visit the [Governor's Board and Commission Appointments web page](#). Applications will be accepted through 3/27. For any additional questions, or to request an informational meeting, please email Javier Cervantes at javier.cervantes@oregon.gov.

Opportunity Zones 2.0

Oregon's [Opportunity Zone 2.0](#) program is designed to unlock long-term investment in communities that need it most. Building on the success of the original *Opportunity Zone initiative* (Opportunity Zone 1.0 or OZ 1.0), this updated program offers enhanced incentives and transparency to ensure that private capital drives real, measurable improvements in housing, jobs, and infrastructure across the state.

Oregon partners with local governments and stakeholders to identify eligible census tracts, guide investors, and ensure projects align with statewide economic development priorities.

Oregon is committed to developing a transparent, data-driven process for selecting Opportunity Zone 2.0 tracts. As part of this effort, we anticipate inviting local jurisdictions—such as cities, counties, tribal governments, Economic Development Districts, and other eligible entities—to identify tracts within their communities for consideration. This list is not exhaustive, and additional guidance will be provided as the process is finalized.

Business Oregon is hosting several informational webinars – with the latest session on March 23rd providing an in-depth look at Oregon's local nomination process, including:

- Important deadlines and required application materials
- Best practices for preparing strong nominations
- Guidance on tract viability, aligning with local economic strategies, and building compelling community narratives
- Capacity considerations such as stakeholder roles, compliance requirements, and resource needs

Co-hosted with [Healthy Sustainable Communities](#), the webinar recording will be posted to the Business Oregon [website](#) once it concludes.

DEQ Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine Grant Program: 2026 Solicitation Period Open

The solicitation period for DEQ's 2026 Reduce, Reuse, Reimagine Grants is now open! The first step of the solicitation period is the pre-application. Following an eligibility screen and review, the most competitive projects will

be invited to submit a main application. When filling out the pre-application, we encourage you to use our applicant guidebook, [which is available on our website](#). It includes an overview of the grant cycle, pre-application instructions, and information on the grant review and award process.

To begin the pre-application, [register for a WebGrants account](#). For account registration support, review the WebGrants registration guidebook. Upon completing your registration, a notification will be sent to DEQ for approval. Please allow 1-2 business days for your account to be approved. Once your account has been approved, you may begin your pre-application. For pre-application support, [review our WebGrants application guidebook](#).

At this time, WebGrants is only available in English. Pre-application materials in Cantonese, German, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese are available on our website, under the Translated materials section. Please email DEQ at RRRGrants@deq.oregon.gov with any additional language requests by April 15, 2026.

DEQ is hosting information sessions that are open to all interested applicants. Registration for information sessions is required. [A recorded information session can be found here](#).

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. | [Register via Zoom](#)

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 – 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. | [Register via Zoom](#)

DEQ will host drop-in office hours the week prior to the pre-application due date of April 30, 2026. Registration is required, but you may enter and leave the meeting as you would like.

Monday, April 20, 2026 – 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. | [Register via Zoom](#)

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 – 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. | [Register via Zoom](#)

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 – 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. | [Register via Zoom](#)

Thursday, April 23, 2026 – 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. | [Register via Zoom](#)

Friday, April 24, 2026 – 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. | [Register via Zoom](#)

ODOT Small Cities Allotment Program open through April 30

The Small City Allotment (SCA) program is an annual allocation of state funds for local transportation projects. Incorporated cities with populations of 5,000 or less are eligible to apply. As the need for this funding source far exceeds availability, grants are awarded via a competitive process. Projects are only compared against other projects within the same region.

The program is funded at \$5 million per year, half of the funds are from an appropriation of highway funds for cities and the other half from funds

available to ODOT from the State Highway Fund. To ensure an equitable distribution of funds across ODOT's five regions we use a formula that considers:

- Percent of total eligible city population by region
- Percent of total number of eligible cities per region
- Percent of total number of applications received per region
- Each region's average of these three values is equal to their share of the available funding.

The 2026 grant cycle timeline runs from March 16 through April 30.

For more information and how to apply, visit [ODOT's SCA website](#).