



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, October 30, 2023

Regional Updates

North Coast – Nate Stice

- **North County Outreach Meeting:** The team hosted the City of Wheeler and the North County Recreation District to discuss active project during our mid-October meeting. As possible, when a community bring in new administration or leadership, the team strives to meet with and help to familiarize them with Regional Solutions and the suite of tools that the state brings to the table for communities. Pax Broder started as the City of Wheeler’s City Manager over the summer and has hit the ground running. Pax and the team presented on a variety of utility, recreation, and housing projects the city is working on, and engaged in a conversation with the team on resource and regulatory processes. The team looks forward to working with Pax and team.

The North Coast Recreation District presented on their efforts to build a new swimming pool adjacent to their current facility. Based on construction bids the projects came in significantly over budget, and the team discussed areas to look for funding.

North Central – Nate Stice

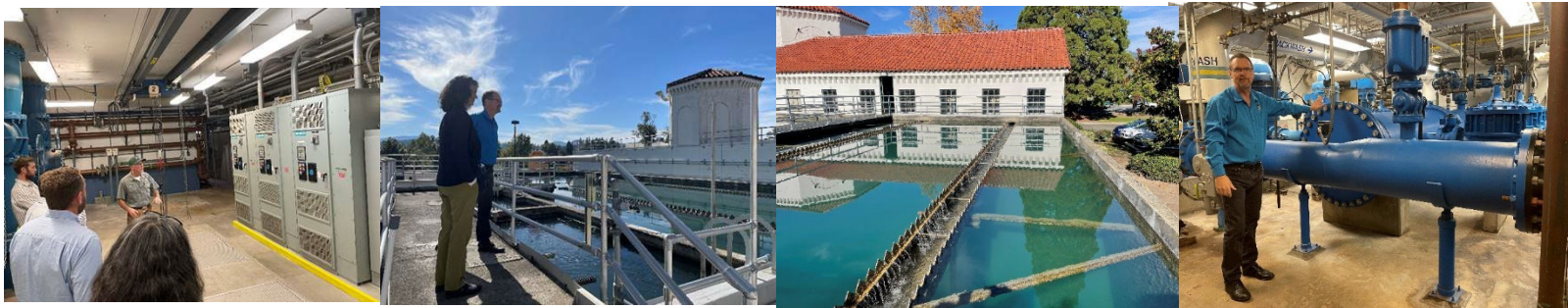
- **Cascade Locks:** The team travelled to Cascade Locks for an outreach meeting with the City and Port of Cascade Locks. The meeting focused on the city’s plans for urban infill and downtown development around Wa Na Pa St. (Highway 30), which serves as the community’s main street. The city is pursuing a DLCD technical assistance grant to help update their code with a focus on building out their commercial core. The team discussed a variety of resources, including EPA Brownfields funding coming online through the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, tools through Oregon Mainstreet, and transportation planning and improvement dollars.

Southern Region – Jessica LaBerge

- **Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference:** Regional Solutions was able to join the 2023 OCTC, gaining additional insight into the Federal & State Broadband rollout. The conference and guest speakers discussed how various partnership models

can further broadband deployment in our communities. For more information on this topic visit: [Internet for All](#)

- **Grants Pass Water Treatment Plant & Water Restoration Plant Tours:** Regional Solutions recently had the opportunity to tour the oldest, continually operating water treatment facility in Oregon, in Grants Pass. Built in 1931, the plant serves over 33,000 customers; it's also located within the 500-year floodplain and doesn't meet current codes and standards. Grants Pass was recently selected to move forward on a FEMA BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant for \$50 million which will help fund the relocation of this plant, retrofit the river intake system, add a new pumping station and additional measures to mitigate the risk of flooding and increase seismic survivability. The Public Works staff were very knowledgeable, hosted a great tour and provided a platform for our Regional Solutions team to engage on questions about process, capacity and challenges to the current systems.



Metro Region – Amelia Porterfield

Governor Kotek Visits Washington County on One Oregon Listening Tour

In October, Governor Tina Kotek visited Washington County on the 33rd stop of her One Oregon Listening Tour, making stops in Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Roy, and Beaverton.

“The day captured the innovation, diversity, and community commitment that Washington County brings to the entire state,” Governor Kotek said. “As I near the conclusion of my One Oregon Listening Tour, I continue to be amazed by the passion so many Oregonians have for building on their communities’ strengths – and pushing for more. That spirit was on full display during my time in Washington County and will inspire me going forward.”

Governor Kotek started her day at Intel for a tour inside of the semiconductor fabrication plant on their Ronler Acres campus in Hillsboro. The Governor has notified the legislature of her intent to award Intel \$115 million in funding from the Oregon CHIPS Act to advance its semiconductor research development and invest in good-paying jobs in Oregon.

Following a lunch meeting in Forest Grove with the mayors of Forest Grove, Cornelius, and North Plains, Governor Kotek toured Adelante Mujeres to learn about the nonprofit’s programs designed to empower and lift up Latinas in Washington County, from microenterprise support and early childhood education to leadership development and mental health services.



After visiting some small businesses in downtown Forest Grove, she traveled to Duyck Family Farm, a century farm in Roy, an unincorporated community southeast of Banks. The family-owned farm has operated for 116 years and stewards the land to produce 500 acres of crops, including Kotata blackberries. They discussed the challenges and opportunities facing farmers in the area and across the state.

The Governor concluded the day in Beaverton with a dinner meeting with city and county elected leaders. Topics of discussion included housing, transportation, and behavioral health.

South-Valley/Mid-Coast Region – Courtney Flathers

- **City of Junction City:** The South Valley-Mid-Coast Regional Solutions Team met with the mayor and city staff on October 24th to learn about the city’s current needs and priority projects. The team discussed state and federal resources available to help with the address its near- and medium-term water production needs, including resources to help the city with an updated water master plan and several related water infrastructure projects. We also discussed the city’s wastewater treatment plant upgrade project, plans for a new recreational trail system, and the city’s vision for a new fairgrounds/emergency operations center.

Governor Kotek Visits Linn County on One Oregon Listening Tour

On October 26th Governor Tina Kotek visited Linn County to mark the 34th stop of her One Oregon Listening Tour, traveling to meet with Oregonians in Albany, Tangent, Shedd, Sweet Home and Lebanon.

“I saw many examples during my time in Linn County of incredible community spirit,” Governor Kotek said. “When it comes to housing, economic development, support for our veterans, and other essential issues, the folks here roll up their sleeves and work together to tackle big problems. I came away really encouraged about the positive direction of local partnerships.”

After starting her day with breakfast in Albany at BakerzDozen, a local Black-owned bakery, Governor Kotek met with local leaders at City Hall to discuss the need to build more housing and the barriers preventing faster housing production. Governor Kotek has established a goal of building 36,000 new homes per year, and her top priority for the upcoming 2024 legislative session will be housing production.

After visiting the Albany Historic Carousel & Museum with Mayor Alex Johnson II, she drove to Tangent to greet city leaders at their historic City Hall. The City of Tangent is celebrating its 50th birthday, and Governor Kotek added a signed note and official Governor’s pen to the time

capsule the city created, which will be opened in 2073 when Tangent turns 100 years old.

Following a lunch meeting in Tangent, Governor Kotek traveled to Shedd to tour Pugh Seed Farm. The farm grows grass seed, white radish seed, white clover, turnip seed, wheat, meadowfoam, and hazelnuts. Linn County is known as “The Grass Seed Capital of the World.”

The Governor next visited Sweet Home to tour The Family Assistance and Resource Center, the first low-barrier shelter in East Linn County and the only low-barrier shelter operating in Linn County. This was followed by a roundtable discussion at the facility with shelter operators and local leaders, focusing on the need for increased access to shelter services for youth and families experiencing homelessness, as well as the growing community support for the shelter.

Governor Kotek then traveled to Lebanon to visit the Edward C. Allworth Veterans' Home, which opened in 2014 as the state’s second veterans’ home. The home offers space for 154 residents needing long-term care. Following a tour of the facility, she discussed ways to enhance services for veterans including behavioral health in long-term care settings. The day concluded with a dinner conversation in Lebanon with local leaders.



Resources and Opportunities

- **RCAC Releases 2023 Oregon Drinking Water & Wastewater Resources Guide**

The RCAC Oregon Water Wastewater Funding and Resource Guide has been recently updated after a multi-year hiatus. This easy-to-use document identifies water and wastewater funding programs, agencies and organizational resources. The guide provides information on primary agency funding programs that support planning, predevelopment and construction of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects. It also includes information on resources available to help communities complete drinking water and wastewater projects, address regulatory compliance, protect drinking water, improve water quality and local public health. The guide can be found here:

https://www.oregon.gov/biz/Publications/2023_Oregon_Funding-Resource_Guide.pdf

- **Apply to Serve on DLCD Child Care Work Group**

In Oregon, rules about where buildings can go, how they are constructed, and how they can be used may affect the number of places early learning and care facilities are established. These rules include local land use plans, limits on building or facility location, and the codes and permits needed to operate a child care facility.

The Oregon legislature passed [House Bill 2727](#) earlier this year, directing the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to work with the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to coordinate a work group to identify how existing permitting regulations affect child care in

Oregon and propose strategies for the legislature's consideration as Oregon strives to provide adequate early learning and child care for all Oregon families.

The work group is expected to hold four meetings between February and November, and report back to the legislature by December 31, 2024. The work group will include participation by DLCD, DELC, the Building Codes Division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, cities and counties, providers of early learning and care services, and child care advocacy and policy making organizations.

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in this important work, there are three options: (1) apply to be a work group member, (2) request to be interviewed, and (3) provide written comments.

DLCD is accepting applications from interested Oregonians to serve on the work group through November 20, 2023.

If you have questions about the work group or interested in being interviewed or providing information, contact Kelly Reid at kelly.reid@dlcd.oregon.gov. For general questions, contact Angie Brewer at angie.brewer@dlcd.oregon.gov.

[Apply to Serve on the Work Group](#)

- **Thriving Communities Program:**

The 2023 opportunity to seek funds from the [Thriving Communities Program](#) (USDOT) is now open. TCP provides technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to teams of community partners that may lack the staffing or technical expertise to scope, fund, and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. TCP provides two years of deep-dive assistance and 3 years of facilitated peer learning support to selected communities to help them plan and develop a pipeline of comprehensive transportation, housing, and community revitalization activities. View full requirements in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) or learn more by viewing a recorded [Webinar](#). **Letters of Interest are due November 15, 2023.**

- **Rural Health Network Development Planning Program:**

The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) recently announced a new funding opportunity that supports organizations in their efforts to develop integrated health networks. Through the [Rural Health Network Development Planning Program](#) (2024), FORHP will make approximately 30 awards of up to \$100,000 each. This funding will allow networks to conduct planning activities over the course of one year, with the goal of expanding access and improving quality of care in the rural communities they serve. To learn more, FORHP is hosting technical assistance webinar via [Zoom](#) for applicants on **Tuesday November 14, from 3-4 p.m. ET**. A Technical Assistance webinar for Tribes and Tribal Organizations interested in applying will also be held on **Monday November 20, from 3:00-4:00pm ET**. For more information, please see the [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) on the HRSA Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, Tribal Affairs website. **Applications are due January 26.**

- **Federal Funds Technical Assistance Guide:**

The White House has recently released an update to their Technical Assistance Guide to help provide targeted support to communities, regions, organizations, or other beneficiaries to help them access and deploy federal funding to deliver results. This guide provides comprehensive information about more than 100 federal technical assistance programs that can support efforts to win Federal funding and deploy it in communities across the nation. The guide can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/IIA-Technical-Assistance-Guide-September-2023-v091223.pdf>