



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, August 21, 2023

Regional Solutions News

Regional Solutions at Oregon Mayors Association Conference:

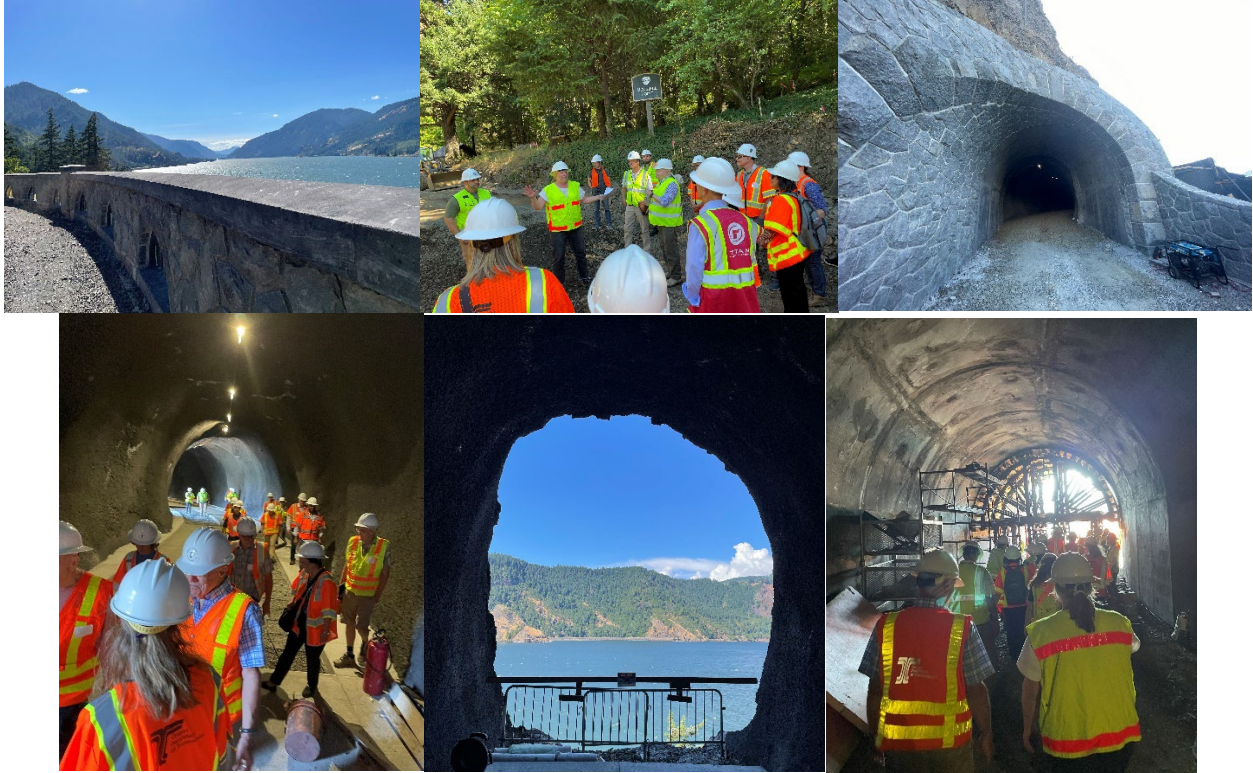
Several members of the Regional Solutions Team had the opportunity to join mayors from across the state last weekend at the Oregon Mayors Association conference in beautiful Hood River. Regional Solutions Director Amelia Porterfield, and Coordinators Beth Wytoski (Mid-Valley) and Zavier Borja (Central & South Central) engaged with mayors from cities of all sizes, from every corner of Oregon. The conference was full of thoughtful conversations on and off the stage about houselessness and how it impacts every jurisdiction though it manifests differently in different areas, challenges with city revenues that pay for services, and recently decided court cases that impact city operations. And it was a great opportunity to get to know new and continuing mayors and expand the partnership in governance between the state and local jurisdictions. Thank you to Oregon's mayors for the rich dialogue and for making us feel welcome!

Regional Updates

Metro & North Central Regions – Amelia Porterfield

- **Mitchell Point Tunnel:** In early August, a group of local officials from Hood River and Multnomah counties joined ODOT staff and other project partners to tour the Mitchell Point Tunnel on the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail. The new 570' tunnel is under construction west of Hood River and is expected to open to the public in the spring 2024, providing an important connection for the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail. Kristen Stallman, ODOT staff for the Metro Regional Solutions Team, has been working closely with the project and shared her knowledge of the background and history of the highway and the trail with attendees. The original Mitchell Point Tunnel was a trip highlight on the original Columbia River Highway but was destroyed with the construction of I-84 in the early 1960s. The design of the new tunnel draws inspiration from the original tunnel and the attention to detail and craftsmanship is reminiscent of the early construction techniques. Once open, the tunnel and expanded trail will be a

wonderful asset for Gorge residents and visitors alike. With the completion of the Mitchell Point Tunnel, only 1.5 miles of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail remains to be reconnected. Once the Historic Highway State Trail is complete, cyclists and pedestrians will no longer be forced to ride or walk along the shoulder of I-84 through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.



Mid Valley Region – Beth Wytoski

I joined the North Santiam Sewer Authority on a tour of wastewater systems in Coburg and Stayton. This was very valuable for discussing the technical design components and communication strategies as well as understanding the construction and maintenance costs to accurately estimate what residents may be charged for service rates.



I have had the opportunity to meet with several local officials to learn about community priorities, projects and barriers. I am happy to come to you! If you would like to chat about your city, county, business, or group please reach out at Beth.wytoski@oregon.gov so we can schedule a visit.

North Coast Region – Courtney Flathers

- Last week, I was thrilled to represent Regional Solutions on the Clatsop Working Watersheds Cooperative’s Farm, Fish, and Forestry Tour. The tour included stops at the Pacific Pastures Dairy in Astoria, the Pacific Seafoods Warrenton Plant, Warrenton Fiber-Nygaard Logging, and Nuveen Natural Capital forestlands near Seaside. It was a fantastic day of networking and learning about the region’s role in producing sustainable, locally grown and harvested products. In addition to being experts in their fields, industry partners are leaning into creative solutions to help solve complex challenges related to housing and workforce needs in their communities.



South Central Region – Courtney Crowell & Zavier Borja

- **Klamath Basin Tour:** Regional Solutions and the Governor’s Natural Resource team traveled to the Klamath Basin this week to hold a series of meetings related to water related challenges in the basin. It was a great opportunity to be on the ground and learn about the work that is happening both within the Project and in the Upper Basin. We met with two county commissioners, the South Suburban Sanitary District, the Klamath Water Users Association, the Klamath Drainage District, and a took a tour of a large-scale restoration project proposal in the Upper Klamath Basin. While there are continual challenges within the Klamath Basin entities are optimistic about the potential federal funding opportunities and are looking for ways to collaborate to access those funds to drive progress in the basin.

Southern and South Coast Regions – Jessica LaBerge

- **Governor Kotek Visits Josephine, Curry, Coos Counties on One Oregon Tour**

Last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Governor Tina Kotek and First Lady Aimee Kotek Wilson visited communities in Josephine, Curry and Coos Counties on stops 21, 22, 23 of the One Oregon Listening Tour.

Starting in Josephine County on Wednesday, the First Couple had breakfast with local leaders in Grants Pass at the Powderhorn Cafe, followed by a tour of Options for Southern Oregon’s crisis resolution center and a listening session on the community’s efforts to address behavioral health needs. The behavioral health discussion included representatives from Options, the Grants Pass School District, AllCare Health, Josephine County Public Health, and the Grants Pass Police Department.

They then visited Wildlife Images Rehabilitation and Education Center, getting a chance to observe their summer camp for children (Camp EEK!) and meet some of the resident animals. The visit to Josephine County concluded with a visit to Redwood Terrace Assisted Living Community and a discussion with local leaders who serve older Oregonians. The conversation focused on aging in place, behavioral health and senior isolation, services for veterans, and HUD-subsidized housing for older adults.



They started bright and early on Thursday with a wildfire discussion with U.S. Forest Service and Coos Forest Protective Association representatives and State Representative Court Boice at Indian Creek Cafe. Topics included the current response to the Flat Fire, the environmental and financial harm that wildfires cause, and workforce challenges.

A trip to Gold Beach is not complete without a visit to Gold Beach Book and Art Gallery, the Oregon Coast’s largest bookstore and home of the largest bronze sculptures in the state.

After grabbing some new used books, the Governor and the First Lady headed to Port Orford. Their first stop was Port Orford Sustainable Seafood, an innovative effort in collaboration with Oregon State University to support local fishers and promote wild, line-caught seafood to restaurants and homes in Western Oregon. Next stop was the Port of Port Orford to check out their two large yellow cranes, known locally as “The Hook” (which lift every boat in and out of the water) and get a briefing about the Port’s redevelopment plans and vision to strengthen the Port as an economic engine in the region.

Heading north into Coos County, the Governor and First Lady then had a lunch meeting with the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance and their partners at the Bandon Dunes Golf Resort to discuss workforce housing, conservation efforts, and other initiatives on the South Coast. This was followed by an

early education roundtable in Coos Bay with regional providers that, among other things, zeroed in on how the Governor's early literacy initiative passed during the legislative session will be implemented and the challenges faced by preschool providers in rural communities. Thursday concluded with a dinner with education leaders at Wildflour and attending the student-performed Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr. by the Little Theatre on the Bay at the Liberty Theatre in North Bend.

On Friday, a working breakfast with local leaders at the Pancake Mill Restaurant started off the day. That was followed by a briefing at the Port of Coos Bay about their container terminal project. The Governor and First Lady then joined a homelessness resources roundtable at The Devereux Center to hear about the community's efforts to serve their unhoused neighbors.

They ended their visit to Coos County at the Mill Casino Plank House Restaurant for a working lunch with leaders of the Coquille Indian Tribe.

Resources and Opportunities

Governor Kotek Calls on Oregonians to Serve on New Boards and Commissions

Interested Oregonians can apply for over 130 open positions on 12 new boards and commissions that were created in the 2023 legislative session. The people who serve on our state's boards and commissions develop policies that guide a broad range of issues that impact Oregonians' lives every day.

New boards and commissions seeking appointments include:

- Joint Task Force on Hospital Discharge Challenges
- Jurisdictional Transfer Advisory Committee
- Juvenile Justice Policy Commission
- LGBTQIA2S+ Subcommittee of the Governor's Commission on Senior Services
- Oregon Cybersecurity Advisory Council
- Oregon Youth Works Advisory Board
- State Board of Sign Language Interpreters
- Task Force on Alcohol Pricing and Addiction Services
- Task Force on Modernizing Grant Funding and Contracting
- Task Force on Tribal Consultation
- Universal Health Plan Governance Board

Interested candidates can find the position postings [here](#). More information on Oregon's board and commissions and resources for interested applicants can be found [here](#). Application deadlines vary by board or commission.

The Governor is committed to ensuring that all Boards and Commissions represent the growing age, racial, gender and geographic diversity of the state. This is an amazing opportunity to pool our collective viewpoints, visions, and hopes for Oregon — and all residents are welcome and encouraged to serve.

Note: You must be an Oregon resident and taxpayer to participate unless otherwise noted.