

# 2024 Transportation Growth Management Grant Application

## Instructions

Be sure to download and review the [2024 Application Packet](#) before filling out this grant application.

You can save your progress and revisit this form at any time by clicking the "Save" button at the bottom of the page.

***Applications must be received by July 31, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. (PDT)***

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## Applicant information

**Instructions:** Complete this information for the applicant. Provide both a designated contact and an authorized representative (if different than the designated contact) for your entity.

Response instructions are on page 9 of the 2024 Application Packet.

### Primary applicant jurisdiction

Benton County

### Mailing address

4500 SW Research Way

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Corvallis

City

Oregon

State

97333

Zip Code

### Website

<https://cd.bentoncountyor.gov/>

### Contact person name

Inga

First

Williams

Last

### Contact person title

Associate Planner

**Contact phone**

(541) 766-6027

**Contact email**

inga.williams@bentoncountyor.gov

**Name of person empowered to sign the agreement with ODOT, if different from the applicant contact**

Petra

First

Schuetz

Last

**Title of above named person**

Interim Community Development Director

**Phone**

(541) 766-3556

**Email**

petra.schuetz@bentoncountyor.gov

**List co-applicants (if a joint project)**

**List co-applicants (if a joint project)**

**Providing match?**

Michael Howard, University of Oregon, Assistant Program Director  
Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience

No

**Upload your resolution or authorized letter with associated meeting minutes from the governing body of applying jurisdiction(s) here:**

R2024-021 Evacuation Route Assessment - COMMDEV - 240702 - SIGNED.pdf

*PDFs only. Max 2mb per file.*

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**Project information**

Response instructions are on page 10 of the 2024 Application Packet.

**Project title**

Wildfire Evacuation Facilities Improvement Plan

**Project area:** Using either of the two fields below, attach a map of the project area or describe the area your project is located in.

**Option 1: Project area map**

*PDFs only, 1 file maximum, 2mb file size limit.*

**Option 2: Project area description**

County-wide, including incorporated cities. Focus will be on those communities that have constrained ingress and egress.

ODOT region (1-5)

[ODOT Region Map](#)

Region 2

Refer to the region map if you are unsure of your region.

**Type of grant**

Category 1: Transportation System Planning

**Summary description of project**

Wildfire-evacuation research is in its infancy amidst a surge in extreme wildfire and timely need for comprehensive planning to protect our community. Wildfire evacuation facility planning is an essential resilience effort for life safety. This project will use cutting-edge modeling for the Wildfire Evacuation Assessment to identify infrastructure evacuation improvements in Benton County. It also seeks to prioritize routes that can leverage recreational & Transportation Options (TO) opportunities as well as connect to Lincoln, Linn, and Lane evacuation systems, thereby completing the regional system. The assessment will; 1) Assess risk/vulnerability of the County's transportation infrastructure; 2) Analyze existing evacuation facilities & improvement needs; 3) identify/evaluate/prioritize needed facility improvements including right-of-way dedication; 4) Prioritize options that leverage said uses; and 5) Identify financing options to implement in existing CIP & NHMP.

*Describe the purpose of your project and how the expected outcomes will address a transportation problem, need, opportunity, or issue. (Maximum characters: 750)*

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## Project cost table

Response instructions are on page 11 of the 2024 Application Packet.

<b>TGM funds requested for the work identified in Criterion 3</b>	<b>Consultant</b> \$160,000.00	<b>Local reimbursement</b> 	<b>Total TGM funds requested</b> \$160,000.00
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<b>Local match</b>	<b>Minimum Match (Calculated)</b> \$18,312.72 <i>Approximately 11.5% of requested funds</i>
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<b>Match to be provided</b>	<b>Labor, supplies and services during project</b> \$18,312.72	<b>Payment when Intergovernmental Agreement is signed</b> 
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**Total Match to be Provided**  
\$18,312.72

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# Award criteria

## **Criterion 1: Proposed project addresses a need and supports TGM objectives (up to 40 points)**

The application demonstrates the proposed project clearly and effectively addresses a local or regional transportation or transportation-related land use issue, problem, need, or opportunity and will achieve one or more of the TGM Objectives.

**Response instructions are on page 13 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

**What is the transportation or transportation-related land use issue, problem, need, or opportunity the proposed project will address?**

The Benton County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP, 2009, 2016). lacks an essential land use resilience assessment as road improvement projects have not been analyzed for potential life safety impact/emergency response to natural disasters. CWPP 2023 removed roadway improvement projects with the intent of conducting a comprehensive assessment of roadway, ROW, and trail interconnectivity with a quantitative lens on evacuation routes using cutting edge transportation modeling.

Strategy 1.2.1a. Complete a county-wide evacuation assessment to identify existing and needed critical transportation routes (needed to allow emergency access to all locations within the county and allow evacuation of residents).

Strategy 1.2.1b. Evaluate the critical transportation routes identified through 1.2.1a for inadequacies (e.g., connectivity/alternative routes, road width, turnouts, turnarounds); prioritize infrastructure improvements and develop funding-ready project descriptions for high priority projects; seek funding.

This assessment will identify needed roadway interconnections within the county and between adjacent counties and prioritize the projects. Benton County contains constrained communities, defined by the county as a grouping of more than 20 parcels/lots with only one connection to the county roadway network. These communities were created prior to the adoption of Benton County development code road design standards that now require subdivisions that contain more than 20 residential parcels/lots to create multiple points of access or cul-de-sacs that serve more than 20 residential lots/parcels to provide a secondary means of access for emergency use. The limitation of only one connection to the roadway network is an impediment to rapid evacuation and emergency response and engenders unsafe, life-threatening situations.

Not only are interconnections needed but other critical evacuation routes need to be identified and a set of strategies and treatments identified for improving the capacity and resilience of the county's roadway network to support potential evacuation events. This evaluation for wildfire emergency evacuation needs will also suffice to increase evacuation options and emergency access for other hazards such as flooding, landslides, and earthquakes. As an additional benefit, evacuation facility improvements will integrate into the recreation network. Facilities that will provide safe evacuation routes will also provide year-round opportunities for walking, biking, and hiking. Integrating recreation opportunities into the evacuation network increases community familiarity with evacuation routes.

This project supports all of the TGM Objectives: 1) Provided transportation choices; 2) Create communities; 3) Supporting economic vitality growth; 4) Save public and private cost; 5) Promote environmental steward

*Maximum characters: 3,000 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

**What are the proposed Project Objectives? How will the Project Objectives achieve one or more of the TGM Objectives?**

The project objectives capture the intent of the project and reflect the critical role of evacuation facilities as part of the transportation system most immediately able to assist residents at risk in the event of a wildfire. The following are project goals:

**SAFETY** - Reduce risk to the community from a wildfire event by increasing convenient and accessible evacuation routes that connect at-risk communities to safe areas. At-risk communities are those communities identified as constrained.

**CONNECTIONS** - Expand the connected network of hardened evacuation facilities that can also provide year-round recreation benefits.

**EQUITY** - Reduce transportation-related disparities and barriers for communities at risk.

**COLLABORATION** - Continue cooperation and collaboration among adjacent counties and cities to implement and maintain a coordinated evacuation route network.

Project objectives will serve to achieve all of the TGM objectives.

1) Provide transportation choices. This evacuation assessment will identify and prioritize needed facilities and improvements to the transportation system for safe and integrated evacuation of community members during a wildfire event. Lifeline routes and alternative routes will also be identified, which will provide access to and from the area for the transport of goods and services post-event. Prior to the event, the community can use the evacuation facilities as bike and pedestrian routes.

2) Create communities. This project will create more livable communities by planning for and prioritizing an evacuation facility system that enables community members to better escape wildfires, and other natural disasters, in a timely manner. These routes can also connect with identified evacuation routes in adjacent counties.

3) Support economic vitality. A well-planned evacuation system should remain functional after a wildfire. This bolsters the transport of goods and services after the event and enables faster recovery of the economy. Use of the additional evacuation systems outside of wildfire evacuation needs will also enhance the desirability of those neighborhoods for residential development and redevelopment.

4) Save public and private costs. Development can continue to occur consistent with the current zoning as long as safe evacuation routes are planned and developed. The need for an integrated wildfire evacuation facilities system is immediate since we do not know when an out-of-control wildfire will occur, but the odds increase each year. The facilities planned for wildfire evacuation will fulfill multiple objectives and serve multiple transportation modes.

5) Promote environmental stewardship. Given that the majority of the facilities will be used as bike and pedestrian routes, the plan will promote energy efficiency and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gasses.

*Maximum characters: 3,000 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box*

to manually expand it.)

## **Criterion 2: Proposed project is timely and urgent (up to 25 points)**

The application demonstrates timeliness and urgency. The project is needed now to:

- address pressing local transportation and land use issues
- make amendments to local plans or regulations necessitated by changes in local conditions or in federal regulations, state requirements, or regional plans
- build on, complement or take a necessary step toward completing or implementing other high priority community initiatives, including Governor's Regional Solutions Team priority
- resolve transportation or land use-related issues affecting the project readiness of local, regional or state transportation projects for which funding is expected to be obligated within the near future

**Response instructions are on page 15 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

### **Why is it important to do the proposed project in this grant cycle?**

This 2024 fire season shows why it is so important to do the proposed project in this grant cycle. Lightning strikes are occurring in Benton County as they are across the state. With the increase in summer temperatures and winds creating almost constant red flag conditions, Benton County has been trending toward vulnerability to several areas of current high risk. The community members want this assessment done now so that the county can incorporate evacuation facility improvements into the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and begin to schedule funding. Moreover, adjacent counties have completed or are near completion in their respective efforts. Without connectivity to the region, Benton County is a choke point for regional evacuation needs.

The County adopted a new Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and updated the Natural Hazards and Mitigation Plan (NHMP) in 2023. Within the CWPP, the county committed to become a Fire Adapted Community, as shown in the approved vision, "For the County's populace to be wildfire aware and prepared for fire emergencies and for all properties to be adapted to local wildfire risk." The county also prioritized this assessment by identifying the following strategies under this policy, "Improve evacuation and emergency access routes," as two of the top five projects to get immediately implemented. These were also incorporated as policies in the updated NHMP.

1.2.1a Complete a county-wide evacuation assessment to identify existing and needed critical transportation routes (needed to allow emergency access to all locations within the county and allow evacuation of residents)

1.2.1b Evaluate the critical transportation routes identified through 1.2.1a for inadequacies (e.g., connectivity/alternative routes, road width, turnouts, turnarounds); prioritize infrastructure improvements and develop funding-ready project descriptions for high priority projects; seek funding

In addition, this assessment project will achieve recommendation #2 within the 2022 DLCDC Wildfire Adapted Communities Recommendations Report that states, "Cities and counties assess and improve transportation networks for safe evacuation and firefighting response."

Maximum characters: 2,500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)

**What local actions are needed to move the proposed project forward? Have these actions been taken and if so, when? If those efforts are underway, when will they be completed?**

The local actions needed to move this project forward have already been accomplished. The project has been identified as a priority in the CWPP and the NHMP. The Benton County Board of County Commissioners has encouraged pursuit of this grant. A public sector consultant who is well experienced in creating natural hazard plans and who has developed specialized technology is available partner on this project. Experienced internal project manager has been identified. Support staff has been identified. Michael Howard with the University of Oregon (UoO) is a co-applicant and will be the consultant on the project.

Maximum characters: 1000 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)

**How does the proposed project relate to other planning efforts, developments, or initiatives? Which of those are completed, underway, or waiting on the completion of this project?**

This project ties into several ongoing initiatives and projects. The CWPP revision and the NHMP update were previously mentioned. Benton County has also embarked on Voluntary Periodic Review. Currently, the Development Code is undergoing a comprehensive audit as a precursor to a complete retool when policy decisions derived from the current Comprehensive Plan update begin to take shape. A reoccurring top-tier priority for the community in our preliminary public outreach to the rural community has been public safety, emergency response and access concerns. The County is also pursuing options to update the county-wide Trails and Multimodal Transportation System Plan of which evacuation planning elements will have a critical role in prioritizing, funding, and implementing multi-purpose infrastructure. There are adjacent county projects such as the 'Hwy 99 Spine' Multimodal project lead by Lane County & ODOT; a top regional TO priority to connect to Benton County.

Maximum characters: 1000 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)

**Criterion 3: Proposed project approach supports policy decision (up to 20 points)**

The application demonstrates a clear approach to achieving the expected outcome and includes consideration for adoption. Where substantial coordination with other local, regional, and state planning efforts will need to occur, the mechanisms and responsibilities for the coordination are clear.

**Response instructions are on page 16 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

## **Tasks and deliverables table**

**What are your proposed tasks and deliverables**

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1. County forms Project Management Team to advise the key staff and UofO co-applicant/consultant.
2. County shall establish a Project Advisory Committee, which will consist of a broader community with representation from each unincorporated community and each city.
3. UofO co-applicant/consultant shall prepare a Public Involvement Plan to gain input throughout the duration of this project at key milestones.

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

4. County shall provide a inventory of key planned and existing (i.e., non-speculative) evacuation route and trail network. UofO co-applicant/consultant shall augment this inventory as necessary to include all known existing evacuation routes and trails. UofO co-applicant/consultant shall identify gaps in the network and land use features within the project area. Inventory must include an assessment of potential opportunities and potential constraints for evacuation route connection siting and development. UofO co-applicant/consultant shall inventory, as needed, road characteristics at all proposed locations and treatments of evacuation route crossings and shared evacuation route/roadway facilities in the county.

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

5. UofO co-applicant/consultant shall develop evaluation and prioritization criteria. The Evaluation Criteria must be used to develop and screen evacuation route and trail improvements. Criteria must include potential constraints related to funding and land ownership. Prioritization Criteria shall include, but not be limited to timeframe for implementation, feasibility, cost, relative need, and relative benefit to communities.

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

6. UofO co-applicant/consultant will develop an adoption-ready Wildfire Evacuation Facilities Improvement Plan, which the county will adopt into the Comprehensive Plan as part of the voluntary periodic review. The county will incorporate top priority projects into the county's TSP and update the CWPP and NHMP project lists.

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

**How will the project approach support investment decisions for Safe Systems, Climate Action, and Equitable Outcomes?**

This project supports the following policies of the Oregon Transportation Plan:

Policy EC.3.1 Provide a transportation system that expands connectivity, flexibility, and resiliency while allowing all segments of the economy (industries, communities, and individuals) to thrive.

Policy EC.3.3 Emphasize public health outcomes and maintain and restore community cohesion through system design and investments.

Policy SP.6.2 Identify modal and multimodal lifeline routes to facilitate evacuation and recovery during and after a disaster, as well as to proactively prepare routes as best as possible to reduce possible hazards from an event before it occurs.

Policy SP.6.3 Incorporate pre-disaster mitigation to improve the resilience of Oregon's transportation system, prepare for long-term recovery and reconstruction efforts, mitigate future hazards, and adapt to changing climate conditions.

*Maximum characters: 1000 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

**If adoption hearings will be held as part of a larger project, when will that be and as part of what project? (optional)**

Portions of the Plan will be adopted as a refinement to the Transportation System Plan (TSP), Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), and Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP). The entirety of the plan will be adopted as an appendix to the county's comprehensive plan. These tasks will be accomplished at the end of the project by County staff.

*Maximum characters: 500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

#### **Criterion 4: Proposed project has community support (up to 5 points)**

The application demonstrates that there is local support for project objectives, a commitment to participate, and a desire to implement the expected outcome.

**Response instructions are on page 17 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

#### **Upload letters of support here**

EconDevOffice.pdf

Planning Commission.pdf

Chinook Road District.pdf

Corvallis Fire.pdf

Benton SWCD.pdf

Gloria Wong.pdf

CAMPO.pdf

AlseaCommunityActionCollaborative.pdf

BCSO.pdf

*PDFs only. Max 2 mb per file.*

## Criterion 5: Proposed project sponsor is ready and capable (up to 10 points)

The application demonstrates that the local government is ready and able to begin the project within the TGM timetable and that there is local commitment and capability to manage and complete the project. The application demonstrates, if applicable, successful performance on previous TGM projects.

**Response instructions are on page 18 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

### Describe the experience and availability of key staff

Inga Williams is an Associate Planner with Benton County. She has 25 years of county planning experience. She has overseen multiple large-scale projects while employed in Florida. Inga is also the author of the 2023-2028 CWPP. Inga is the CWPP coordinator for the county.

Hannah Shafer is the Hazard Mitigation & Recovery Coordinator with the Benton County Emergency Management Office. Hannah was the project manager for Lane County's 2023 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update and coordinator for the first Oregon Summit on Wildfire Recovery before joining Benton County. All of Hannah's time is spent on implementing the CWPP and NHMP projects and plans.

*Maximum characters: 1500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

### Explain how the applicant has the capacity to scope the proposed project during the next 15 months and manage it to completion within 3 years

Inga Williams and Hannah Shafer will oversee the project and provide data to Michael Howard. Michael Howard will be the main project coordinator and will bring the project to completion within 3 years. Michael Howard has agreed to partner with the county on this project and has committed to the project.

*Maximum characters: 1500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

### If applicable, list applicant's TGM projects within last 10 years and their status

### If applicable, list local jurisdiction's TGM projects within last 10 years and their status

TGM File Code	Project Title	Status
2J-07	Coburg Multimodal Loop Implementation Strategy	complete 300 character limit.
2T-95	Coburg Transportation System Plan and Revisions to Zoning Ordinances	complete 300 character limit.
combo	Coburg Periodic Review	complete 300 character limit.

# Bonus points: Housing (up to 10 points)

Response instructions are on page 19 of the 2024 Application Packet.

**How will the adoption of the final document(s) address barriers to a broad range of housing types and affordability or work to link the location of future workforce housing to walkable/bikeable areas with good transit?**

This project will create a list of transportation facility enhancements that can be incorporated into the county's Transportation System Plan. When these enhancement projects are completed, the communities that benefit from these improvements will flourish because the safety of those residents will be improved by better evacuation and emergency access. These areas can then potentially increase density and, by doing so, provide a greater range of housing types. The increase in connectivity in the transportation network will also provide greater walkable/bikeable options for those residents.

*Maximum characters: 500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

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## Required forms

**Title VI: Racial & Ethnic Impact Statement form**  
Racial-Ethnic-Impact-Statement.pdf

[Download the Racial & Ethnic Impact Statement form here](#)

*PDFs only. Max 2 mb per file.*

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## Certifications

Response instructions are on page 20 of the 2024 Application Packet.

### Eligibility criteria

- This application demonstrates a clear transportation relationship
- This application demonstrates adoption of products to meet project objectives
- This application demonstrates the support of local officials

### Preparation of application

- This application was prepared by staff of the primary applicant or staff of one of the involved jurisdictions
  - This application was prepared by the following COMPENSATED consultant (indicate below)
  - This application was prepared by the following UNCOMPENSATED consultant (indicate below)
-

**Would you like to receive TGM news and updates?**

Yes  No  I am already subscribed

*Clicking "Yes" authorizes us to add your email to our e-newsletter mailing list. You can unsubscribe at any time.*

**Today's date**

7/31/2024

**If you encounter any issues with the submittal process, please contact:**

Rachael Levasseur

Planning Section Web Coordinator

[Rachael.LEVASSEUR@odot.oregon.gov](mailto:Rachael.LEVASSEUR@odot.oregon.gov)

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON

**In the Matter of Authorizing the Benton )  
County Community Development )  
Department to apply to the Oregon ) RESOLUTION #R2024-021  
Transportation and Growth Management )  
Program for Evacuation Route Assessment funding )**

WHEREAS, the Evacuation Route Assessment project is one of five top priority strategies listed in the 2023-2028 Community Wildfire Protection Plan and is consistent with the goals of the TGM program and a priority; and

Benton County can locally match the funding to fulfill its 11.5% share of obligation related to this grant application, which includes in-kind-eligible match, should the grant funds be awarded; and

Benton County will adopt the Evacuation Route Assessment as an appendix to the Comprehensive Plan, and the Emergency Operations Center will utilize the Assessment to plan ways to support evacuation events, and the Public Works Department will utilize the Assessment to schedule improvements to the road network to support better evacuation strategies.

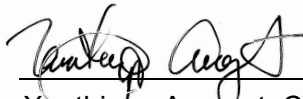
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

- 1) The Benton County Board of Commissioners does hereby demonstrate its support for the submittal of a grant application to the Transportation Management Program, managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Department of Land Conservation, for development of an Evacuation Route Assessment; and
- 2) does hereby authorize the Community Development Department to apply for approximately \$200,000 for planning assistance.

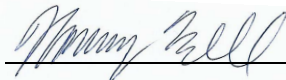
Adopted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2024.

Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2024.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Xanthippe Augerot, Chair



Nancy Wyse, Vice Chair



Pat Malone, Commissioner

David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager/ TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street, Springfield, OR 97477



Dear Mr. Helton,

I am writing letter in support of the Evacuation Assessment Report that Benton County is submitting for grant funding through the Transportation Growth Management Program. The County is submitting for an Integrated Land Use and Transportation Planning grant to support an evaluation of roadway capacity constraints on county communities that are vulnerable to wildfires and identification of future improvement possibilities. When completed, the Evacuation Assessment Report will satisfy two top priority strategies identified in the 2023-2028 Community Wildfire Protection Plan to support safety within Benton County.

We believe that this grant proposal addresses a pressing local transportation and land use issue – how to provide safe evacuation in the event a wildfire threatens Benton County communities. It is acknowledged that wildfire threats are increasing and that the threat is advancing into areas normally deemed of low to medium wildfire hazard. For example, Benton County had a very unusual lightning strike in Kings Valley in August 2023, an area of low hazard, that started a fire. Another fire, of unknown origin, was started in Soap Creek Valley, also an area of low hazard. Luckily both fires were found quickly and suppressed by the local Fire Districts.

By completing this assessment, the county will be able to incorporate transportation projects into the Transportation Systems Plan confident that the investment will provide interconnectivity for safer, more accessible, and more vibrant communities.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Jacobs", written in a cursive style.

Christopher Jacobs

Economic Development Manager

Nicholas Fowler  
Chair, Benton County Planning Commission  
4077 SW Research Way  
Corvallis, OR 97333

July 19, 2024

David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager/ TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street  
Springfield, OR 97477

Dear Mr. Helton,

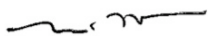
I am writing this letter in support of the Evacuation Assessment Report that Benton County is submitting for grant funding through the Transportation Growth Management Program. The County is submitting for an Integrated Land Use and Transportation Planning grant to support an evaluation of roadway capacity constraints on county communities that are vulnerable to wildfires and identification of future improvement possibilities. When completed, the Evacuation Assessment Report will satisfy two top priority strategies identified in the 2023-2028 Community Wildfire Protection Plan to support safety within Benton County.

The Benton County Planning Commission has identified wildfire prevention and readiness as one of our top ten goals. The Planning Commission recognized that the combination of growing population, climate change, and increased utilization of the County's recreational areas heightens not only the risk of wildfire but exposes a need to analyze evacuation transportation corridors. I believe that this grant proposal addresses a pressing local transportation and land use issue – how to provide safe evacuation in the event a wildfire threatens Benton County communities. I whole heartedly support the County's proposal for the Evacuation Assessment Report.

Communities and neighborhoods within the County are eager participants and support our priority. As an example, in May 2023, one neighborhood collaborated with Oregon State University to apply to the Planning Commission for a conditional use permit for an emergency evacuation route through the OSU research sheep farm. We welcomed the active participation of Oregon State and approved the application.

By completing the proposed Evacuation Assessment Report, the County will be able to incorporate transportation projects into the Transportation Systems Plan confident that the investment will provide interconnectivity for safer, more accessible, and more vibrant communities.

Respectfully,



Nicholas Fowler  
Chair, Benton County Planning Commission



David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager/ TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street, Springfield, OR 97477

July 7, 2024

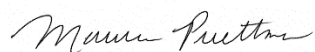
Dear Mr. Helton,

I am writing this letter in support of the Evacuation Assessment Report that Benton County is submitting for grant funding through the Transportation Growth Management Program. The County is submitting for an Integrated Land Use and Transportation Planning grant to support an evaluation of roadway capacity constraints on county communities that are vulnerable to wildfires and identification of future improvement possibilities. When completed, the Evacuation Assessment Report will satisfy two top priority strategies identified in the 2023-2028 Community Wildfire Protection Plan to support safety within Benton County.

The Chinook Road District (CRD) comprises approximately five miles of road and includes about 500 acres with approximately 75 residential structures. The CRD has only one road entry and exit (via Oak Creek). In addition, the CRD provides the main access entry to the Fitton Green County Natural Area, the Crestmont Farm trails, and an access point to Bald Hill Park. Usage of these areas has increased tremendously over the last few years resulting in unsafe conditions, especially during fire season. To gain access to these parks and access points, vehicles must travel the CRD roadways, often resulting in hundreds of cars/day. The use is particularly high during the summer months. We believe that this grant proposal addresses a pressing local transportation and land use issue – how to provide safe evacuation in the event a wildfire threatens Benton County communities. It is acknowledged that wildfire threats are increasing and that the threat is advancing into areas normally deemed of low to medium wildfire hazard. For example, Benton County had a very unusual lightning strike in Kings Valley in August 2023, an area of low hazard, that started a fire. Another fire, of unknown origin, was started in Soap Creek Valley, also an area of low hazard. Luckily both fires were found quickly and suppressed by the local Fire Districts.

By completing this assessment, the county will be able to incorporate transportation projects into the Transportation Systems Plan confident that the investment will provide interconnectivity for safer, more accessible, and more vibrant communities.

Regards,



Maureen Puettmann, Firewise Coordinator

Chinook Road District

[crdfirewise@gmail.com](mailto:crdfirewise@gmail.com)

[www.chinookrd.org](http://www.chinookrd.org)



**Fire Department**

400 NW Harrison Blvd

Corvallis, OR 97330

(541) 766-6961

Fax (541) 766-6938

Email: [fire@corvallisoregon.gov](mailto:fire@corvallisoregon.gov)

ATTN:

David Helton

Lead Grant Manager/ TGM Regional Lead

Oregon Department of Transportation

2080 Laura Street, Springfield, OR 97477

Subject: Benton County Transportation and Growth Management Project

This letter serves as the City of Corvallis Fire Department's support for Evacuation Assessment Report that Benton County is submitting for grant funding through the Transportation Growth Management Program. This project is being prepared by the Benton County Community Development Department and is requesting funding to effectively facilitate the whole community planning process and successfully complete two action items from the Benton County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The approval of this project is an opportunity to identify and to improve the community's land use and local transportation issues around emergency evacuation. The evacuation assessment process will identify and prioritize mitigation strategies and risk reduction measures for public agencies, residents, and businesses to implement. This project will enhance our community's resilience by providing critical information to effectively develop emergency evacuation plans which will ultimately allow our response agencies to better respond to and recover from a catastrophic emergency in communities around Benton County.

The City of Corvallis Fire Department is committed to mitigating the causes and effects of wildfire and our agency is in full support of this endeavor. We agree to participate in the assessment process, plan development, and implementation. Collaboration and planning are key elements to providing necessary information and reducing risk to people and property.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

*Ben Janes*

Fire Chief

Corvallis Fire Department & Benton County Fire Defense Board

400 NW Harrison BLVD

Corvallis, OR 97330

(541)766-6931

**Courage, Honor, Commitment and Teamwork**



Benton Soil and Water  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

136 SW Washington Ave., Suite 201  
Corvallis, Oregon 97333  
541.753.7208  
bentonswcd.org

June 24, 2024

David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager/ TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street, Springfield, OR 97477

Dear David Helton,

The Benton Soil and Water Conservation District would like to voice strong support for the Benton County application to the Transportation and Growth Management Program. The focus of the proposal is to assess evacuation routes in Benton County during emergency events.

Benton County has shown great leadership in emergency management over the years, including some very recent actions. On May 18 of this year, the county held an emergency drill where residents practiced evacuating their properties and met at specified locations. We have also appreciated, and advocated for, the work that the county has done with Oregon Department of Forestry and others in the Oak Creek Watershed to determine additional evacuation routes for members of Firewise Communities located in that area.

At Benton SWCD, we talk to farmers, woodland owners, and other residents about fire safety and actions they can take to reduce fuels around their homes. These actions include removing vegetation within 30 feet of the home, clearing gutters of organic debris, choosing fire safe building products, and many other concepts. Committing to these actions is very important to lower risk, but all residents still have potential to face wildfire in the vicinity of their homes, so evacuation plans are critical. In the last decade we have seen several fires in Western Oregon that show us that the threat in our area is very real.

While Benton County residents continue to gain more education related to wildfire safety, it's critical that the County continue to provide the infrastructure to keep people safe. Please give Benton County full consideration for their efforts to create an Evacuation Assessment Report under this grant opportunity. They have a great track record in implementing this work.

Sincerely,

**Holly Crosson** Digitally signed by Holly Crosson  
Date: 2024.06.24 12:50:22 -07'00'

Holly Crosson  
Executive Director

David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager/TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street  
Springfield, OR 97477

Dear Mr. Helton,

We are writing a letter of support for the Evacuation Assessment Report that Benton County is submitting for grant funding through the Transportation Growth Management Program. The County is submitting for an Integrated Land Use and Transportation Planning grant to support of roadway capacity constraints in county communities that are vulnerable to wildfires.

We believe this grant proposal is critical for Benton County to assess and develop safe wildfire evacuation routes for the community. We live in Benton County and have participated in two evacuation drills. Our experience from these drills showed how inadequate the capacity of a single lane road is to handle 370 homes trying to evacuate at the same time.

Our current climate has increased the risk of wildfires in rural Benton County. By completing this assessment, our county will be able to incorporate transportation projects into the Transportation Systems Plan and improve the safety of our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gloria Wong and David Heck  
7890 NW Ridgewood Drive  
Corvallis, OR 97330



## CORVALLIS AREA

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### Metropolitan Planning Organization

1121 NW 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis, Oregon 97330

Contact: Corum Ketchum, [cketchum@ocwcog.org](mailto:cketchum@ocwcog.org)

[www.CorvallisAreaMPO.org](http://www.CorvallisAreaMPO.org)

David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager/ TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street  
Springfield, OR 97477

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Mr. Helton,

On behalf of the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), I am writing to express our strong support for Benton County's application for a Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) Program grant. This grant will fund the creation of an Evacuation Assessment Report, a crucial initiative that aligns with CAMPO's regional goals and priorities.

The proposed Evacuation Assessment Report holds significant regional importance, addressing critical transportation needs that transcend local boundaries and benefit the broader community. By evaluating roadway capacity in the areas most vulnerable to wildfire and identifying future improvement possibilities, this project will ensure that our transportation infrastructure supports safe and effective emergency response and evacuation. This is especially crucial considering the increasing threat of wildfires due to climate change in all corners of the state.

This project will play a vital role in identifying the needs of critical linkages within our transportation system, particularly in the context of emergency planning. The insights gained from this assessment will be instrumental in prioritizing infrastructure improvements and developing funding-ready project descriptions for high-priority projects. This will enable us to effectively seek funding and support for regional priorities, ensuring that our transportation network is robust and capable of meeting both current and future challenges.

Benton County's 2023-2028 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) identifies the need for this assessment as a top priority under Objective 1.2: Enhance Safe and Effective Response to Wildfires. The project directly addresses two key strategies under Policy 1.2.1:

Policy 1.2.1a: Complete a county-wide evacuation assessment to identify existing and needed critical transportation routes necessary for emergency access and resident evacuation.

Policy 1.2.1b: Evaluate the critical transportation routes identified through 1.2.1a for inadequacies, prioritize infrastructure improvements, develop funding-ready project descriptions for high-priority projects, and seek funding.

These policies actions align with CAMPO's goals and objectives, which were adopted with its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP, 2022):

Goal 1 Balanced Multi-Modal System: Fund and support a balanced multi-modal regional transportation system (including transit, highway, bicycle, pedestrian, and accessible transportation) that meets existing needs and prepares for future demand.

Goal 4 Climate Adaptation: Prioritize policies, projects and actions that seek to minimize the impacts of climate change, support climate adaptation, and improve the resilience of the regional transportation system in the face of manmade and natural disasters.

CAMPO fully supports Benton County's application for the TGM Program grant and believes that the Evacuation Assessment Report will significantly enhance our region's transportation infrastructure, natural hazards resilience, and emergency preparedness. Your support for this grant application is crucial for the success of this initiative, and we greatly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Matt Lehman, Philomath City Councilor,  
Policy Board Chair, CAMPO  
[Matt.Lehman@philomathoregon.gov](mailto:Matt.Lehman@philomathoregon.gov)



## **ALSEA COMMUNITY ACTION COLLABORATIVE**

*Alsea Community Action Collaborative, Inc.'s mission is to act as a community and neighborhood development organization for building capacity for the unincorporated town of Alsea and surrounding rural areas located in Benton and Lincoln counties.*

July 14, 2024

David Helton, Lead Grant Manager/TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street, Springfield, OR 97477

RE: Benton County's grant application for the Transportation & Growth Management Program.

As the Alsea community's recognized representative non-profit community development organization, we are heavily involved in the ongoing process of assessment, evaluation, and planning for addressing the community's identified needs of the town and surrounding rural area. We are currently working in partnership with Benton County's Emergency Management to identify deficiencies in infrastructures that directly relate to managing wildfire threats. In addition, we are working alongside the Benton County Planning Commission and the Alsea Citizens Advisory Council to also identify land use issues and local transportation needs for the safety, security, and sustainability of our community.

That is why the Board of Alsea Community Action Collaborative wishes to share with ODOT and DLCD our positive support for Benton County in their application for the resources to develop a comprehensive Evacuation Assessment Report for Benton County which includes the town of Alsea and the surrounding rural areas.

By completing this assessment, Benton County will be able to incorporate valuable transportation projects into the Transportation Systems Plan, of which the Alsea Valley is an integral part.

Respectfully,

*Naomi Shadwick*

Naomi Shadwick, President ACAC

# Benton County Sheriff's Office

Jefri Van Arsdall, Sheriff



180 NW 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis, OR 97330  
541.766.6858 [www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff](http://www.co.benton.or.us/sheriff)

*State Accredited since 2009*

July 17, 2024

David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager/ TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street, Springfield, OR 97477

On behalf of the Benton County Sheriff's Office, I am pleased to express my strong support for Benton County Community Develops application for a Community Evacuation Plan project under the TGM program grant. As the County Emergency Manager, I can attest that this project is one of significant interest not only by the County organization, but also by community members and public safety partners. The County identified this as a priority need in the new, 2023-2028 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) under Objective 1.2 Enhance Safe and Effective Response to Wildfires. Two of the top five most important strategies of the new CWPP were listed under Policy 1.2.1 (Improve Evacuation and Emergency Access Routes) of Objective 1.2:

Policy 1.2.1a. Complete a county-wide evacuation assessment to identify existing and needed critical transportation routes (needed to allow emergency access to all locations within the county and allow evacuation of residents).

Policy 1.2.1b. Evaluate the critical transportation routes identified through 1.2.1a for inadequacies (e.g., connectivity/alternative routes, road width, turnouts, turnarounds); prioritize infrastructure improvements and develop funding-ready project descriptions for high priority projects; seek funding.

I strongly believe that this grant award would help Benton County Community Development to develop a comprehensive Evacuation Study/Plan to identify areas of vulnerability and ways to address those gaps.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Bryan Lee  
Emergency Manager  
(541) 231-0224  
[bryan.lee@bentoncountyor.gov](mailto:bryan.lee@bentoncountyor.gov)

**DUTY HONOR COURAGE**



## RACIAL AND ETHNIC IMPACT STATEMENT

**This form is used for informational purposes only and must be included with the grant application.**

[Chapter 600 of the 2013 Oregon Laws](#) require applicants to include with each grant application a racial and ethnic impact statement. The statement provides information as to the disproportionate or unique impact the proposed policies or programs may have on minority persons<sup>1</sup> in the State of Oregon if the grant is awarded to a corporation or other legal entity other than natural persons.

1. The proposed grant project policies or programs could have a disproportionate or unique positive impact on the following minority persons:

Indicate all that apply:

Women	Asians or Pacific Islanders
Persons with Disabilities	American Indians
African-Americans	Alaskan Natives
Hispanics	

2. The proposed grant project policies or programs could have a disproportionate or unique negative impact on the following minority persons:

Indicate all that apply:

Women	Asians or Pacific Islanders
Persons with Disabilities	American Indians
African-Americans	Alaskan Natives
Hispanics	

3. The proposed grant project policies or programs will have no disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons.

**If you checked numbers 1 or 2 above**, please provide below the rationale for the existence of policies or programs having a disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons in this state. Further provide evidence of consultation with representative(s) of the affected minority persons.

*By checking this box, I hereby certify the information contained on this form is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.*

**Dated:**

Printed Name:

Title:

Agency Name:

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<sup>1</sup> “Minority person” are defined in SB 463 (2013 Regular Session) as women, persons with disabilities (as defined in ORS 174.107), African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, or Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaskan Natives.