Attachment A

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 1st, 2026	Hybrid Virtual/In-Person Meeting	Prepared by: K. Howell Reviewed by: T. Baney

COIC Board Committee Members: Councilor Cheryl Pellerin, City of Sisters; Councilor Christy Abbe, City of Metolius; Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen, City of Redmond; Commissioner Tony DeBone, Deschutes County; Councilor Marv Sumner, City of Prineville; Councilor Grant Walter, City of Culver; Kristine McConnell, Deschutes County; Commissioner Susan Hermreck, Crook County; Councilor Gabriel Soliz, City of Madras; Councilor Janis Curtis, City of La Pine; Matt Ertle, Deschutes County

COIC Staff: Tammy Baney, Executive Director; Kimberly Howell, Executive Coordinator; Michelle Williams, Deputy Director/ Fiscal Manager; Sean Keithly, Community & Economic Development Director; Patrick Germick, Loan Officer

Guests: N/A

Agenda	Discussion	Action Item
Call to Order	Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.	
Service Story	There was no service story presented. In place of the service story, there was a discussion around the structure of the meeting and moving the placement of the round table on the agenda. They would like to see more information shared from the appointed members and issues that Board members are experiencing in their communities. No decisions were made.	
Public Comment	N/A	

Consent Agenda	The minutes from the September 3rd, 2026, Board of Directors meeting and the department reports were presented for approval. Commissioner Tony DeBone shared a special thank you for Shelby Knight, who was a previous employee who transitioned away from COIC recently. Councilor Grant Walter moved to approve the minutes from September 3rd, 2026, and the department reports. Councilor Marv Sumner seconded, Commissioner Susan Hermreck abstained, and it was approved unanimously. The motion passed unanimously with approval from the following members: • Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen, City of Redmond; • Commissioner Tony DeBone, Deschutes County; • Commissioner Susan Hermreck, Crook County; • Councilor Janis Curtis, City of La Pine; • Kristine McConnell, Deschutes County; • Councilor Christy Abbe, City of Metolius; • Councilor Cheryl Pellerin, City of Sisters; • Councilor Gabriel Soliz, City of Madras; • Matt Ertle, Deschutes County;	**Motion**: Councilor Grant Walter moved to approve the minutes from September 3rd, 2026, and the department reports. Councilor Marv Sumner seconded, Commissioner Susan Hermreck abstained, and it was approved unanimously.
Program Updates	**Leadership Updates** Chair Mike Riley asked the Board to consider changing the Board leadership due to not being able to attend the next several meetings. This was sent to the Board in an email to notify the Board that there would be a discussion happening at the meeting. A discussion was held by the Board, and an election was held. A motion was made for Councilor John Nielsen to be the Board Chair by Commissioner Susan Hermreck, and Councilor Christy Abbe seconded. Councilor John Nielsen abstained. The motion passed unanimously by the Board. The motion passed unanimously with approval from the following members: • Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen, City of Redmond; • Commissioner Tony DeBone, Deschutes County; • Councilor Janis Curtis, City of La Pine; • Councilor Grant Walter, City of Culver; • Kristine McConnell, Deschutes County; • Councilor Cheryl Pellerin, City of Sisters; • Councilor Marv Sumner, City of Prineville; • Councilor Gabriel Soliz, City of Madras;	**Motion**: A motion was made for Councilor John Nielsen to be the Board Chair by Commissioner Susan Hermreck, and Councilor Christy Abbe seconded. Councilor John Nielsen abstained. The motion passed unanimously by the Board.

	• Matt Ertle, Deschutes County; A motion was made for Commissioner Seth Taylor to be the Vice Chair by Commissioner Susan Hermreck, and Councilor Christy Abbe seconded. The motion passed unanimously by the Board. The motion passed unanimously with approval from the following members: • Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen, City of Redmond; • Commissioner Tony DeBone, Deschutes County; • Councilor Janis Curtis, City of La Pine; • Councilor Grant Walter, City of Culver; • Kristine McConnell, Deschutes County; • Councilor Cheryl Pellerin, City of Sisters; • Councilor Marv Sumner, City of Prineville; • Councilor Gabriel Soliz, City of Madras; • Matt Ertle, Deschutes County; The motion was made for Councilor Mike Riley to remain on the Executive Committee as one of the City representatives on the committee for the rest of the term by Commissioner Susan Hermreck, and Councilor Christy Abbe seconded. The motion passed unanimously by the Board. The motion passed unanimously with approval from the following members: • Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen, City of Redmond; • Commissioner Tony DeBone, Deschutes County; • Councilor Janis Curtis, City of La Pine; • Councilor Grant Walter, City of Culver; • Kristine McConnell, Deschutes County; • Councilor Cheryl Pellerin, City of Sisters; • Councilor Marv Sumner, City of Prineville; • Councilor Gabriel Soliz, City of Madras; • Matt Ertle, Deschutes County;	**Motion**: A motion was made for Commissioner Seth Taylor to be the Vice Chair by Commissioner Susan Hermreck, and Councilor Christy Abbe seconded. The motion passed unanimously by the Board. **Motion**: The motion was made for Councilor Mike Riley to remain on the Executive Committee as one of the City representatives on the committee for the rest of the term by Commissioner Susan Hermreck, and Councilor Christy Abbe seconded. The motion passed unanimously by the Board.

	EDA Loan Request Patrick Germick, Loan Officer, presented a loan for consideration for E-Towing and Recovery LLC. There was discussion around topics that included collateral, bank financing options, working capital, and how new the business is. Commissioner Tony DeBone moved to approve the COIC loan to E-Towing and Recovery LLC in the amount of $75,000 from the EDA revolving loan funds administered by COIC. Commissioner Susan Hermreck seconded. Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen and Councilor Gabriel Soliz were opposed. The motion passed with approval from the following members: • Councilor Janis Curtis, City of La Pine; • Councilor Grant Walter, City of Culver; • Kristine McConnell, Deschutes County; • Councilor Christy Abbe, City of Metolius; • Councilor Cheryl Pellerin, City of Sisters; • Councilor Marv Sumner, City of Prineville; • Matt Ertle, Deschutes County; **Grant Cost Allocation Policy** Michelle Williams, Deputy Director/ Fiscal Manager, presented a grant cost allocation policy for review. This is formalizing the current process being used. The USDA RBDG grant opportunity requires COIC to have a Board-approved policy. Councilor Cheryl Pellerin moved to approve the Grant Cost Allocation Policy with the addition that if a conflict arises, 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance) takes precedence, with the USDA's minor changes if requested. Councilor Grant Walter seconded. The motion passed with approval from the following members: • Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen, City of Redmond; • Commissioner Tony DeBone, Deschutes County; • Commissioner Susan Hermreck, Crook County;	**Motion**: Commissioner Tony DeBone moved to approve the COIC loan to E-Towing and Recovery LLC in the amount of $75,000 from the EDA revolving loan funds administered by COIC. Commissioner Susan Hermreck seconded. Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen and Councilor Gabriel Soliz were opposed. The motion passed by the Board. **Motion**: Councilor Cheryl Pellerin moved to approve the Grant Cost Allocation Policy with the addition that if a conflict arises, 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance) takes

	• Councilor Janis Curtis, City of La Pine; • Kristine McConnell, Deschutes County; • Councilor Christy Abbe, City of Metolius; • Councilor Marv Sumner, City of Prineville; • Councilor Gabriel Soliz, City of Madras; • Matt Ertle, Deschutes County; **CET Ridership Data** Michelle Williams, Deputy Director/ Fiscal Manager, presented ridership data from 2024 through 2026, comparing year by year the changes we have seen in ridership. There has been a decrease in ridership since fares started being charged again. There was conversation about ridership prior to COVID-19 because our ridership would be different due to people taking more trips because it was a free service. There was conversation about what the future needs of transportation will look like for our area, and what measurements should look like. The Board has requested that staff return with another presentation to cover pre-COVID-19 vs. the current numbers as well as the number of people using discounted fares. **ODOT Innovative Mobility Program Grant** Michelle Williams, Deputy Director/ Fiscal Manager, presented a consideration for COIC to submit pre-applications for a study that combines the following assessments: a transit equity needs assessment study, a route optimization and planning study, and a capital and facilities planning study. Commissioner Susan Hermreck moved to approve the submission of pre-applications for a transit equity needs assessment, route optimization study, and capital and facilities planning study to ODOT for the innovative mobility grant program. Councilor Marv Sumner seconded. Matt Ertle and Councilor Cheryl Pellerin were opposed. The motion passed with approval from the following members: • Vice Chair Councilor John Nielsen, City of Redmond; • Commissioner Tony DeBone, Deschutes County; • Councilor Janis Curtis, City of La Pine; • Councilor Grant Walter, City of Culver; • Kristine McConnell, Deschutes County; • Councilor Christy Abbe, City of Metolius; • Councilor Gabriel Soliz, City of Madras;	precedence, with the USDA's minor changes if requested. Councilor Grant Walter seconded. **Motion**: Commissioner Susan Hermreck moved to approve the submission of pre-applications for a transit equity needs assessment, route optimization study, and capital and facilities planning study to ODOT for the innovative mobility grant program. Councilor Marv Sumner seconded. Matt Ertle and Councilor

	Audit RFP Update Michelle Williams, Deputy Director/ Fiscal Manager, shared that the 6/30/25 audit has been approved and submitted. We chose to do a 2-year procurement, and then we will do a full RFP before the 2 years are up. After getting the quotes in the procurement process, we are happy to share that we will be working with Raymond Lang with Molatore & Co Certified Public Accountants again for the next two years.	Cheryl Pellerin were opposed. The motion passed by the Board.
Roundtable	Kristine McConnel talked about the Tribal Learning Series that happened in Warm Springs and shared the praise that was provided about Josh Lagalo and the work he had done. Matt Ertle shared some workforce updates and the impacts we should see in the next 90 days, which included an increase in unemployment. They have held job fairs with Dana Dunlap from our COIC team. Matt believes that 15-18,000 people will be reentering the workforce in the next 90 days. Councilor Grant Walter shared that the City of Culver is working on a facelift of the buildings to build character. It is working to get a grocery store, is developing a strategic plan, and is looking to buy land that allows them to move the city buildings to the east side of town for a multi-use property. Councilor Cheryl Pellerin talked about the urban growth boundaries that they are trying to get changed. October is when the UGB amendment will be brought before the City Councilors and County Commissioners. Commissioner Tony Debone discussed clearing public land in Redmond. The CORE3 phase one is happening now. The airport project in Redmond is also underway. Commissioner Susan Hermreck shared a story about a house that had been foreclosed, and the steps that were taken to help the gentleman to get back on his feet. He was able to get an ID card, got medical insurance, got an interview, got a job, and is working on housing. Councilor Marv Sumner provided an update on the Aquafor project.	

	Councilor Christy Abbe talked about going to attend the League of Oregon Cities meeting soon and discussing data centers and emergency preparedness. Chair Councilor John Nielsen talked about the managed camp cleanup. The airport is going to be an impressive site and is moving forward quickly. Water has been a hot topic and getting access to more water. Lobbying was done for COIC and to advocate for governmental councils to get unrestricted funding.	
Adjourn	Chair Councilor John Nielsen adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.	

COIC

Board Report

To:	COIC Board of Directors
From:	Sean Keithly, CED Director
Date:	November 2026
Department:	Community & Economic Development, Housing, and Loans

CED Administration
Community Development Programs
Housing and Homeless Programs
Economic Development Programs
Natural Resource and Resilience Programs
COIC Loan Program
Project and Program Development Activities

CED Administration

CED staff have continued to support a robust slate of programs in partnership with our communities entering the fall season in Central Oregon. Significant progress has been made on the part of our housing team, managing several existing complex programs and launching a new one – a Moderate Income Revolving Loan (MIRL) program in partnership with the City of Sisters. Our community resilience and infrastructure work saw a major milestone achieved with the CORE3 project breaking ground in October. Work on the project's first phase will continue through spring of next year. Other significant project work in the resilience / natural hazards space has included support for Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), natural hazard mitigation plans (NHMP), and community wildfire protection plans (CWPP). Our community and economic development work has included a number of new and existing projects that continue to make positive impacts in our region in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders. Kudos to the entire CED team for all of the hard work and meaningful outcomes in service to our Central Oregon community!

Community Development Programs

Community Resource Development (CRD) Program

Staff continues to work with local jurisdictions and other partners to scope/develop projects, research grant opportunities, and assist with grant applications. The goal of this program is to support local Housing and Community Development projects in close coordination with cities, counties, and community partners.

COIC staff continues to meet with communities, follow up on conversations about priority projects, and conduct research on potential funding opportunities. Our focus over the next 6-8 months will be supporting jurisdictions with pre-development and shaping up projects so they are "funding ready."

Rural Community Building Program

Newberry Regional Partnership (NRP)

COIC provides ongoing technical assistance, grant writing, and organizational development support to NRP as they grow and take on new opportunities to serve the Newberry Country community. COIC supports this project and works alongside NRP to address organizational development priorities and build long-term capacity.

Central Oregon Civic Action Project (COCAP)

COIC continues to support COCAP by providing organizational “incubation” support and fiscal sponsorship. They are currently planning the upcoming Civic Assembly taking place December 5th-6th. Delegates will be tasked with finding a solution to this question: How should Central Oregonians be involved in local & state decisions related to AI technology & infrastructure?

Weaver Awards

The Weaver Awards offer $2,500–$5,000 microgrants for individuals, groups, and small nonprofits in Central Oregon who are building relationships, strengthening belonging, and weaving trust into the fabric of our communities.

The Local Advisory Group has completed its application review and has narrowed down the list of finalists. COIC is working with St. Charles to secure additional funding as the number of finalists exceeded available grant funds. Awardees will be notified of the status of their application this month.

Central Oregon Safe Travel (COST) Committee

COIC extended the project timeline as ODOT was able to award a grant extension. This will allow us to promote a new Distracted Driving course that focuses on utilizing employers as messengers for safe driving behavior.

This month we also conducted a Youth Logo/Mascot design workshop in partnership with the Open Arts Center. Students received stipends for their work developing a traffic safety mascot/logo that will be used for regional safety messaging (and may be seen on a future CET bus!)

Central Oregon Septic Assistance Program (COSAP)

Staff continues to grant out limited remaining funds to homeowners on our waitlist and coordinate with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs on several septic replacement projects.

Housing and Homeless Programs

Homeless Leadership Coalition (HLC)

Central Oregon Regional Strategic Plan for Housing and Homelessness Update

Central Oregon Regional Strategic Plan for Housing and Homelessness
The HLC has finalized the **Central Oregon Regional Strategic Plan for Housing and Homelessness**, establishing shared regional priorities around governance, system infrastructure, housing and services, and improved coordination across Central Oregon.

The plan can be found on the HLC's website here: https://cohomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/Final-2026-HLC-Strategic-Plan.pdf

Implementation work is now beginning. The HLC is moving forward with development of a **Governance Task Force** and **Data Task Force** to address priority recommendations identified through the strategic planning process. The Governance Task Force will focus on strengthening the regional structure for homelessness planning and decision-making, while the Data Task Force will focus on improving how regional data is used to understand system performance, identify gaps, and inform funding and policy decisions.

Continuum of Care (CoC)
COIC, as Collaborative Applicant for the OR-503 Central Oregon Continuum of Care, completed the region's **FY2026 CoC Competition and Consolidated Application**. This year's application included extensive regional coordination, review of CoC governance and system performance, and completion of the local project review, scoring, and ranking process.

The application also included planning for the region's **HMIS and Coordinated Entry infrastructure**, including preparations for a future transition of HMIS Lead responsibilities and continued technical assistance to strengthen the region's homeless response system.

2027 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Planning
Regional planning has begun for the **2027 Point-in-Time Count**, scheduled for January. COIC and the HLC are coordinating with partners throughout Central Oregon to identify community leads, count locations, outreach strategies, volunteer needs, training, and resource events.

Planning includes Bend, Redmond, Prineville, Madras, La Pine, Sisters, and Warm Springs, with an emphasis on improving regional participation and ensuring rural and Tribal communities are represented in the count.

Regional Housing Council (RHC)

The Regional Housing Council met on Monday, October 26th, 2026. More about the RHC can be found here: https://www.coic.org/housing/rhc/

Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO)

CHRO will meet again in November.

Statewide Shelter Program – Phase 2 (HB 3644)

Effective: July 2026-June 2027

CED Housing program staff continues to support COIC's role as Regional Coordinator for the Statewide Shelter Program, overseeing regional implementation, compliance, performance, and fiscal management of shelter funding throughout Central Oregon.

In October, COIC implemented new subrecipient agreements and regional expectations related to low-barrier shelter operations, HMIS data quality, Coordinated Entry engagement, shelter exits, grant compliance, and fiscal spend-down. COIC is also establishing regular regional SSP provider meetings to improve communication and provide consistent technical assistance across shelter providers.

The program continues to stabilize more than 400 shelter beds across Central Oregon, including shelter capacity in Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties and Warm Springs. The prior report describes this transition as moving the region from the emergency-response framework toward a sustainable regional shelter system.

COIC is also working with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to complete implementation of the Tribe's first SSP agreement administered through COIC, supporting 20 shelter beds in Warm Springs.

Oregon Rehousing Initiative (ORI) July 1st, 2025-June 30th, 2026

CED Housing staff continues implementation of the current Oregon Rehousing Initiative funding cycle, with regional subrecipients actively enrolling and housing households experiencing homelessness.

Since July 1st, 22 households representing 35 individuals have moved from homelessness into housing through ORI. This brings the total to 118 households supported through ORI. COIC continues to monitor enrollment, housing placements, expenditures, and projected program performance through June 2027, with an emphasis on ensuring funding reaches households throughout the region, including rural communities.

Long-Term Rental Assistance (LTRA)

CED Housing staff continues to support regional coordination of the Long-Term Rental Assistance program in partnership with NeighborImpact and regional outreach providers. As of September 2026, 189 households were enrolled in LTRA, with an additional 6 households actively engaged in housing navigation.

Current work is focused on strengthening the connection between outreach, Coordinated Entry, housing navigation, and LTRA enrollment. COIC is also reviewing outreach provider performance and geographic reach to ensure resources are

effectively reaching households throughout Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties, with particular attention to rural communities and populations experiencing barriers to accessing the homeless services system.

Other Updates

The CED Housing Team is working with the City of Sisters to lead the development of their local Moderate-Income Revolving Loan Fund (MIRL). The MIRL program, established through Senate Bill 1537 (2024), provides no-interest loans to local jurisdictions, enabling cities such as Sisters to fund critical workforce housing developments through a locally administered grant program. These funds can be used to support infrastructure, predevelopment, construction, and land cost reductions, helping make otherwise infeasible housing projects viable. Staff presented it to Sisters city council on Wednesday, August 12th and is excited to be moving forward with supporting the city in standing up this new program.

Economic Development Programs

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The most recent CEDS steering committee meeting was held on November 4; strong partner engagement and participation continues to support regional priorities focused on workforce needs, business supports, and community infrastructure & natural environment.

Small Business Support

The COIC Loan Program continues to support small business development with a renewed focus on micro-loans and collaborative work with partner organizations (e.g. the Central Oregon Small Business Development Center). Additional information is included in the COIC Loan Program section below.

Staff also worked closely with EDCO to select a consultant for the Crook and Jefferson Innovate rural entrepreneur support program, which will be kicking off later this year.

Oregon Economic Development Districts (OEDD)

CED staff will continue to work closely with OEDD in the coming months to advance our shared priorities, including investments in infrastructure, support for business expansion and retention, and small business and entrepreneurship development. Housing capacity continues to be a shared priority as well.

Newberry Country Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Assessment

No new updates this period.

Natural Resource and Resilience Programs

Central Oregon Community Organizations Active in Disaster

After the COAD pilot this summer, staff is working to convene partners in November for

an After-Action meeting to assess and provide feedback on coordination among COAD partners. This After-Action meeting will support the development of a regional Gap Analysis that will help inform strategies for further development of the COAD.

Central Oregon Ready, Responsive, Resilient Center (CORE3)

CORE3 officially broke ground in October, with work being done on Phase 1A. Currently, work is focused on excavating and preparing the skills pad, emergency operator vehicle course (EVOC), and roads leading to those sites. Temporary and permanent fencing is going up, and utility and prep work for the left turn lane is also taking place. The photos below show the progress on site on the skills pad and the internal road system. The site map is also included to provide context and locations.

The site plan shows the skills pad and EVOC to the southeast of the property. This phase of construction is scheduled to wrap up in spring of 2027.

Deschutes County Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

No new updates this period.

Western Juniper Monitoring Project

COIC is overseeing a scope of work to support juniper monitoring efforts for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts that received funding for this purpose. The project is in its early stages and will include public outreach, communication, and administration of funding related to juniper monitoring. This past month, the project kicked off a messaging and outreach project in partnership with soil and water conservation districts, landowners, and technical experts. The outcomes of this work will inform how we communicate the impacts of juniper and juniper monitoring/removal work that has been taking place in our region and help support future efforts to garner project resources.

Deschutes County Community Wildfire Protection Plan

COIC and Deschutes County are continuing work on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan update, which will consolidate seven existing CWPPs into a single countywide plan. Current work is focused on preparing for the kick-off scheduled for November 16.

Regional Energy Resilience Plan

The Central Oregon Energy Resilience Plan is complete. Staff is now working with Energy Trust of Oregon, Emergency Management, and community partners to advance priority pre-feasibility assessments for potential community resilience hub sites.

Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative (DBWC)

No new updates this period.

COIC Loan Program

COIC continues to receive direct and referral inquiries from our loan partners. Our focus in October is our first newsletter publication positioned to our referral sources, highlighting our successes to our business community and identifying our unique position in economic development lending. This work follows a community loan stakeholder workshop facilitated by COIC in September that engaged a broad cross-section of our business loan program partners, and will be informed in part by input received during that event.

Project and Program Development Activities

Staff is working with regional partners to scope an update to the Central Oregon Stormwater Manual, with a focus on identifying priority elements for revision and confirming partner participation. This effort will inform a coordinated approach to modernizing the manual to reflect current standards and regional needs.

Jefferson County approved funding to support COIC and local fire partners in updating the County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) beginning in early 2027. Staff

will coordinate the update with the County and fire partners to identify current wildfire risks, priorities, and mitigation projects.

Cascades East Transit
Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
334 NE Hawthorne Ave, Bend, OR 97701
cascadeseasttransit.com

CET Staff Report to the COIC Board

October 21st, 2026

Month in Review

In support of our community following the tragedy at Silver Rail Elementary School, CET operated all Bend Fixed Route, Bend-based Community Connector, and Bend Dial-a-Ride services fare-free for ten days to ensure that community members could remain connected to the people and places that matter most and to the services and resources most needed in this difficult time. As our community begins to move forward, CET remains committed to bringing people together through reliable transportation that connects our neighbors with the places, opportunities, and experiences that make our region special. We are pleased to welcome our new director in November as we carry this work forward and look ahead with a continued commitment to serving our Central Oregon community.

Route & Service Updates

As the weather turns cold, planning is underway for the 2026–2027 Mt. Bachelor winter service. Last season, the service provided more than 34,000 trips between Bend and the mountain, providing residents and visitors an accessible way to enjoy winter recreation in Central Oregon's natural beauty. In Bend, Routes 2 and 11 are scheduled to resume regular service from November 21st, 2026, through January 3rd, 2027, while work on the Franklin Undercrossing Project temporarily pauses for the holiday season. Both routes will then return to their detours until construction is complete, currently anticipated in May 2027.

Outreach & Engagement Update

STIF 2027–2029 Formula Funding

The 2027–2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Formula Fund application review process has concluded. STIF Advisory Committees representing Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, and Warm Springs have reviewed project proposals submitted by Cascades East Transit (CET), Opportunity Foundation, and Central Oregon Breeze and provided funding recommendations.

The next phase involves COIC preparing the regional STIF Plans and presenting them to the respective County Commissioners and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Tribal Council for approval. Final plans are due to ODOT by January 14th, 2027, ahead of the new funding cycle beginning in July 2027.

Rural Dial-A-Ride (DAR) Ridership Strategy

CET is taking a data-driven approach to strengthening rural Dial-A-Ride ridership in La Pine, Prineville, Madras, and Redmond. Current efforts focus on analyzing ridership trends before and after fare reintroduction to identify

changes in rider behavior and opportunities to reconnect with former customers.

The first phase of implementation will launch targeted rider surveys to identify barriers to using DAR, including affordability, awareness, scheduling, and accessibility. Findings will shape tailored outreach strategies for each community, supported by partnerships with healthcare providers, senior centers, and social service organizations. Additional initiatives under consideration include expanded travel training, rider re-engagement campaigns, and introductory fare incentives. Success will be evaluated through new and returning riders, trip frequency, and long-term rider retention.

Expanding Access to Reduced Fares

To make reduced-fare enrollment more convenient and accessible, CET is developing a secure online application portal that will allow riders to submit qualifying documentation electronically, eliminating the need to travel to Hawthorne Station in Bend. A mail-in option is also being explored. This initiative is particularly important for residents of rural communities who face transportation or distance-related barriers to completing the current in-person verification process. Timing will be determined following legal review.

Additional Initiatives Underway

CET continues to advance several projects focused on improving the customer experience, strengthening community partnerships, and expanding awareness of transit services:

- **City of Bend Microtransit Pilot:** Coordinating planning and outreach efforts in preparation for an anticipated January launch.
- **CET Website Redesign:** Planning a comprehensive website update to improve navigation, accessibility, and access to rider information.
- **Community & Tourism Partnerships:** Developing cross-promotional opportunities with Mt. Bachelor, parks and recreation departments, visitor centers, chambers of commerce, and educational institutions from K–12 through higher education.
- **Hawthorne Station Improvements:** Advancing customer-facing enhancements to improve the rider experience.
- **Advertising Program Expansion:** Exploring bus shelter advertising opportunities to expand CET's existing advertising program and generate additional revenue.
- **CET Service & Rider Guide:** Developing a comprehensive service brochure and simplified "How to Ride" guide to make transit information easier to understand and access.

Board Report

To: COIC Board of Directors

From: Matt Mahoney and Laurie Harrer – YCP Program Coordinators

Date: October 2026

Department: Youth Employment and Training

Program Overview

COIC's Youth Compass Program (YCP) continues to provide education, employment, training, and career exploration opportunities for young adults throughout Central Oregon and Klamath County. The program remains fully engaged in serving youth and supporting their educational attainment, workforce readiness, and long-term career success.

Central Programming (Deschutes, Jefferson & Crook Counties)

Service Updates

Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant, we currently have 118 youth enrolled, with 12 new enrollments since mid-September. Most participants are current students at COIC Education Program sites in Bend, La Pine, and Redmond. Additionally, many participants attend Pioneer High School in Prineville, where two of our Youth Employment Counselors are based.

Due to staffing reductions in Redmond and Jefferson County, we have adjusted staff responsibilities to maintain coverage in these areas. COIC's lead teacher in Redmond is now enrolling WIOA youth and managing a caseload. In Jefferson County, one of our Prineville Youth Employment Counselors will enroll youth through referrals and oversee the county's caseload.

Many of our grant funding sources emphasize the importance of reengaging youth who have disengaged from secondary education. In response, our team has made a more concerted effort to connect with other youth-serving providers throughout Central Oregon, including Grandma's House, Cascade Youth and Family, and Deschutes County's The Drop. These partnerships help strengthen our ability to connect youth with education and employment services.

Work Education Programs

Our Work Education crews have been operating at full capacity since the start of the school year. The majority of field crew projects have been conducted in partnership with the Forest Service and include historical orchard restoration, rangeland fence improvement and construction, trail improvement and construction, fire-fuels mitigation, and hazard tree removal from campgrounds.

Additionally, our grant with the National Forest Foundation has concluded. The grant funded the conversion of traditional barbed-wire fencing to wildlife-friendly fencing around Rimrock and Mud Springs on the Crooked River National Grassland. In total, crews converted four miles of fencing to wildlife-friendly designs.

Our Crook County School District maintenance crew has primarily been focused on installing a new irrigation system at Steen Pillar Elementary.

Youth Internships & Training

Youth staff continues to work with youth in Deschutes, Jefferson, and Crook Counties to help connect eligible youth to internship & training opportunities that are developed by COIC Youth Compass. We have the funding to support 15 youth internships across the Central region for the remainder of this program year.

There are currently 4 youth in active internships in Bend and Prineville, with an additional pending internship based in La Pine.

Passport Program

Our budget allows for 20 youth participants in the Passport Program in our Central region. Youth employment counselors will be expected to run Passport Program cohorts during the winter season when they are not running work crews. 4 cohorts of 5 youth are expected to run this winter in La Pine, Bend, Prineville, and Madras.

South Programming (Klamath County)

We are in the selection process to hire the Youth/Adult Program Coordinator in Klamath Falls. This position is 0.5FTE for our youth program and 0.5FE for WorkSource. The duties for the youth-serving half of this role will include coordinating partnerships with local businesses, creating pipelines for youth internship and job opportunities, assisting with grant writing and program development, and providing services to a caseload of youth. The hiring committee for this youth position includes Youth Program Coordinator Laurie Harrer, WorkSource Program Manager Dana Dunlap, a representative from COIC HR, and a representative from EC Works. Interviews for this position will be conducted during the week of October 26th.

Our employment counselor in Klamath has been busy meeting with partner organizations, meeting youth in alternative ed and partner programs, and onboarding new youth into our programming. He has one youth in an active internship and another internship that will start the week of October 26th.

This employment counselor has already begun two Passport Program cohorts based out of the two alternative high schools in Klamath Falls: Klamath Learning Center and Falcon Heights.

Board Report

To: COIC Board of Directors

From: Kris Schofield, Youth Education Manager

Date: November 2026

Department: Youth Education

School Year So Far:

Our Bend and La Pine programs were placed on "secure status" on October 15th in response to the incident at Silver Rail Elementary School; exterior doors locked, blinds down, students inside, class in session. Once we were notified that the threat had passed, students were allowed to resume normal arrivals and departures. COIC programs in Bend and La Pine have been closed to students for three additional days, October 16th, 19th, and 20th, following school district protocol. The JDEP, Redmond, and OYCP locations have continued student services as usual.

Current Enrollments:

	Bend	La Pine	Redmond	Total B/L/R	JDEP	OYCP
Nov. 2026	49	30	17	96	4	152
Nov. 2025	-	-	-	98	-	-

2026-2027 School Year	GED Subject Area Tests Taken	GEDs Earned This Year
Bend/La Pine/Redmond	25	4

Youth Challenge:

152 cadets of the original 180 who began Class # 72 in July are still enrolled. The group just completed week #15 of 22. Recent campus events have included the Career Fair, Family Visitation, Academic Conferences, and the Red Cross Blood Drive.

JDEP Skills Lab at Deschutes County Juvenile Community Justice: Students in Juvenile Detention have recently completed the fall harvest of produce from the Peace Garden. Pre ACT (American College Test) testing was completed with 10th graders at the site during the state testing window. Students continue to work toward Oregon food handlers certification, Oregon drivers permit testing, and resume building, in addition to credit recovery.

Board Report

To:	COIC Board of Directors
From:	Dana Dunlap, Education & Training Manager
Date:	November 2026
Department:	Adult Programs

Roundhouse Foundation Grant Award

Our department, in partnership with our Youth Programs team, was recently awarded a $25,000 grant from the Roundhouse Foundation to support GED testing and pre-vocational education and training opportunities for youth and adults in rural and frontier communities throughout Central Oregon.

Unlike our traditional WIOA funding, this grant provides greater flexibility to support educational and training opportunities that may not otherwise qualify for funding through our existing programs. It also allows us to serve individuals who may not meet WIOA eligibility requirements.

Central Oregon Program Update

Our Central Oregon team continues to support job seekers and local employers throughout Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties. We have recently approved several training scholarships and successfully established an On-the-Job Training (OJT) placement with a local manufacturing company in Bend.

Our team recently attended the grand opening of CVI in Prineville as part of our ongoing efforts to build relationships with local businesses and strengthen workforce partnerships. Our employment counselors continue to meet with employers throughout the tri-county region to better understand their workforce needs, share available WorkSource resources, and promote our OJT program.

WORKing Together 2026 Conference

Ryan Valdesuso, our Redmond Employment Counselor, attended the WORKing Together 2026 Conference in Salem on October 20th, representing COIC. Hosted by the Oregon Workforce Partnership, the conference brought together workforce professionals, employers, educators, and community partners from across Oregon to discuss workforce challenges, emerging trends, and opportunities for collaboration. Topics included artificial intelligence, apprenticeships, reentry, and workforce development strategies.

Upcoming Event – Step Into Reentry Simulation

Changing Patterns, a community partner we work closely with through our Reentry Program, will co-host Step Into Reentry with East Cascades Works on November 5th. This interactive, hands-on simulation is designed to help participants better understand the challenges individuals face when returning to their communities after incarceration.

During the simulation, attendees take on the role of someone recently released from incarceration and navigate real-life challenges such as finding employment and housing, securing transportation, accessing healthcare, and meeting supervision requirements, all while managing limited time and resources. The experience is designed to build awareness and empathy while encouraging greater collaboration among community partners.

The event will take place from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Wille Hall, Central Oregon Community College (COCC) in Bend. Doors open at 8:30 a.m., and a continental breakfast will be provided.

Board members are encouraged to attend this opportunity to gain a firsthand understanding of the barriers individuals face during reentry and the importance of community support in helping them succeed.

Klamath County Program Update

We are excited to share that our Klamath County Adult Program is seeing some early successes. We have awarded two training scholarships to WorkSource customers and successfully established an OJT placement with a local accounting firm. These are encouraging milestones as we continue expanding employment and training opportunities in the Klamath Basin.

We are also recruiting a Youth/Adult Program Coordinator to support both our Adult and Youth Programs in Klamath County. This position will help strengthen coordination between the two programs, support community and employer partnerships, and expand employment and training opportunities for participants throughout the region. We hope to have the new coordinator join our team by December.

Jeff Hanson, our Klamath County Employment Counselor, is planning to tour the Sky Lakes career and technical education (CTE) program and campus at the end of October. This will provide an opportunity to learn more about local CTE programs, explore potential training pathways for our participants, and continue building relationships within the Klamath community.

Workshops

Matthew Romero provided an AI workshop for the COCC manufacturing cohort.

Our next public AI workshop will be held on November 13th at 2:00 p.m. at the Bend WorkSource office. These hands-on workshops introduce participants to practical ways to use artificial intelligence to develop resumes and cover letters, prepare for job interviews, and strengthen their job search efforts.

Mobile Employment Resource Van (MERV) & Community Outreach

Matt Olsen continues to bring MERV into communities throughout Deschutes, Crook, and Jefferson counties, connecting residents with employment and training resources. Recent outreach included Bethlehem Inn's Bend and Redmond locations, Three Rivers School near Sunriver and Spring River, and Grandma's House in Bend. Redmond's Bethlehem Inn has also been added to MERV's regular outreach schedule.

A new partnership with Neighbor Impact’s Food Van will allow Matt to provide job search assistance alongside food distribution services in La Pine, Prineville, Redmond, Sunriver, and

Madras. Matt is also partnering with our Youth Programs team to reach young people at locations such as Canal Commons in Redmond, Grandma's House, and The Drop in Bend.

Additional outreach includes connecting with residents at Wickiup Station Apartments in La Pine and exploring opportunities to provide employment services at Redemption House's men's and women's shelters in Prineville.

On November 10th, MERV will participate in a WorkSource event hosted by Vocational Rehabilitation at the Bend WorkSource office. Approximately 25 high school students will attend to learn about employment and training resources as they prepare to transition into employment or post-secondary education. Our Youth Compass program will also participate, sharing information about work experience opportunities for youth.

Oregon Employment Update

The following unemployment rates and job listings provide a snapshot of current labor market conditions as of October 21st, 2026, across the four counties we serve.

County	Unemployment Rate	Job Listings
Crook	**5.8%**	**75**
Jefferson	**5.4%**	**37**
Deschutes	**4.8%**	**791**
Klamath	**7.0%**	**224**

Job listings are available through WorkSource Oregon:
https://www.worksourceoregon.org/jobsearch

County unemployment information is available through QualityInfo:
https://www.qualityinfo.org/east-cascades

Step Into Reentry
Experience the Challenges, Shape the Solutions
Thursday, November 5, 2026
OREGON
CORRECTIONS
ENTERPRISES
Changing Lives

Join us for a Reentry Simulation

Walk in the shoes of someone returning to life after incarceration - can you overcome the barriers?

Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026

Time: 9 am – 12pm

Breakfast will be provided!

Location: Willie Hall

Central Oregon Community College,
2600 NW College Way, Bend 97703

Participants must navigate real-world barriers such as

- Obtaining identification
- Accessing medications and healthcare
- Meeting parole conditions
- Finding employment
- Securing transportation
- Managing limited time, money, and options

Why It Matters

Reentry success doesn't depend on one system; it depends on all of them working together. This simulation builds understanding and practical insight that can directly inform policy, programs, and employer practices.

SCAN TO REGISTER

HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/260853389691170

Sponsored by

Changing Patterns
Steps to Freedom

OREGON CORRECTIONS ENTERPRISES

East Cascades WORKS

Venue generously sponsored by

worksource | OREGON

COIC Mobile Employment Resource Van

Bend

Bethlehem Inn; 20363 Mervin Samples Rd

- Nov 3, Nov 17; 9am-12pm
- Dec 1, Dec 15; 9am-12pm

Cascade Landing Apts.; 60847 Atwood Dr.

- Nov 19; 2pm-4pm

Latino Community Assoc.; 2680 NE Twin Knolls Dr

- Nov 23; 12pm-3pm

La Pine

Wickiup Station; 52695 Drafter Rd

- TBD

Madras

Jefferson Co. Library; 241 SE 7th St.

- Nov 2, Nov 16; 11am-2pm
- Dec 7, Dec 21; 11am-2pm

Prineville

Mosaic Medical; 375 NW Beaver St

- Nov 12; 12pm-3pm
- Dec 10; 12pm-3pm

Redmond

Bethlehem Inn

- Nov 3, Nov 17; 1pm-4pm
- Dec 1, Dec 15; 1pm-4pm

Neighbor Impact; 2303 S 1st St

- Nov 6, Nov 20; 2pm-4pm

Sisters

CORE Community Kitchen; 222 Trinity Way

- Nov 9, Nov 23; 12pm-3pm

Sunriver

3 Rivers School; 56900 Enterprise Dr.

- Nov 24; 2pm-4pm
- Dec 22; 2pm-4pm

Available Services:

- ***Job Search Assistance***
- ***Interview Preparation***
- ***Resume Development***
- ***Career Guidance***
- ***Training Assistance***
- ***Program Referrals***

SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Nov 20: Skilled Trades Fair—Deschutes County Fairgrounds**

Contact
Matt Olsen at 541-280-8419
molsen@coic.org with any questions

WorkSource Oregon is an equal opportunity employer, primarily financed with funds provided through East Cascades Works, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and from the U.S. Department of Labor. Auxiliary aids and services and alternate formats are available to individuals with disabilities, TTY/TDD – dial 711 toll-free. Language services are available at no cost to individuals with limited English proficiency upon request.

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
1250 NE Bear Creek Rd
Bend, OR 97701

COIC

Memorandum

To: *COIC Board of Directors*
From: *Michelle Williams, Deputy Director*
Date: *October 26, 2026*
RE: ***CET Ridership Update***

Overview:

In response to the Board's request for comprehensive baseline data, this memorandum and attached slides provides a comparative analysis of Cascade East Transit (CET) ridership from January through August for the calendar years of 2019 through 2026. Following the reimplementation of fares in February 2026, CET has experienced a significant decline in system-wide ridership. Staff will continue to monitor transit data trends closely and will present a comprehensive evaluation with actionable recommendations at the 12-month post-implementation mark, March 2027.

Multi-Year Ridership Overview (2019–2026)

To evaluate current trends, ridership data is divided into three distinct operational eras:

- ***Pre-Pandemic Baseline (2019):*** *Peak historical ridership across all fixed routes and demand-response systems, serving as the benchmark for normal regional transit demand.*
- ***Fare-Free & Recovery Era (2020–2025):*** *Marked by initial pandemic drops, followed by a strong ridership rebound fueled by zero-fare policies designed to assist community mobility.*
- ***Fare Reimplementation Era (Feb 2026–Present):*** *A period of notable ridership contraction following the reintroduction of the passenger fare structure.*

Role of COIC:

To inform the board of ridership data and trends.

Staff Recommendation:

Transit ridership patterns typically require several months to stabilize after a major policy change. Short-term volatility is expected as community members adjust their travel behaviors.
Staff recommends the following course of action:

- ***Continuous Monitoring:*** *Staff will maintain rigorous monthly tracking of ridership, pass sales, and route performance.*
- ***12-Month Comprehensive Review:*** *A formal report will be brought back to the Board in* ***March 2027*** *(the 12-month mark). This report will include a complete annualized data set, cost-benefit analysis of fare collection versus ridership loss, and potential policy adjustments for Board consideration.*

Action Item(s):

No action needed.

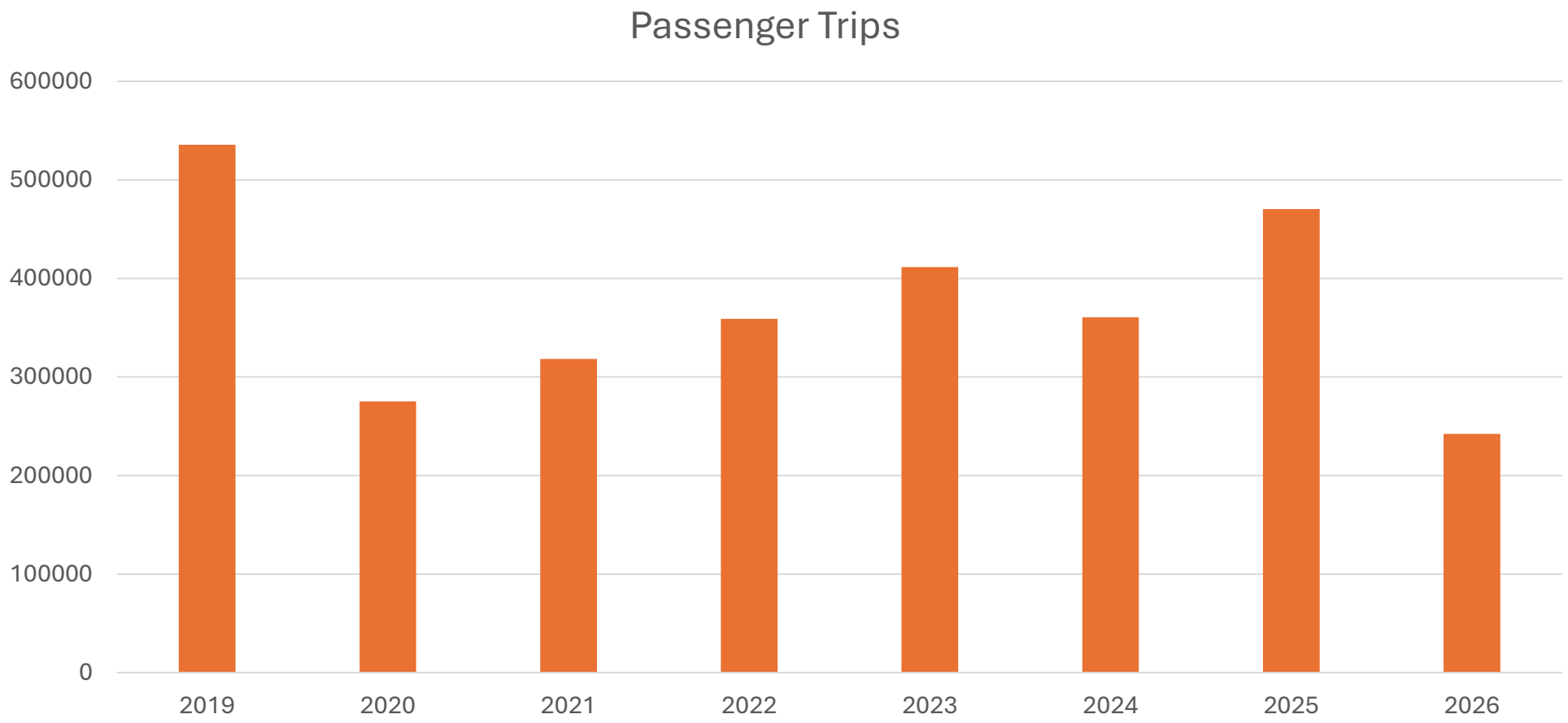
Ridership Update

COIC Board Meeting

November 2026

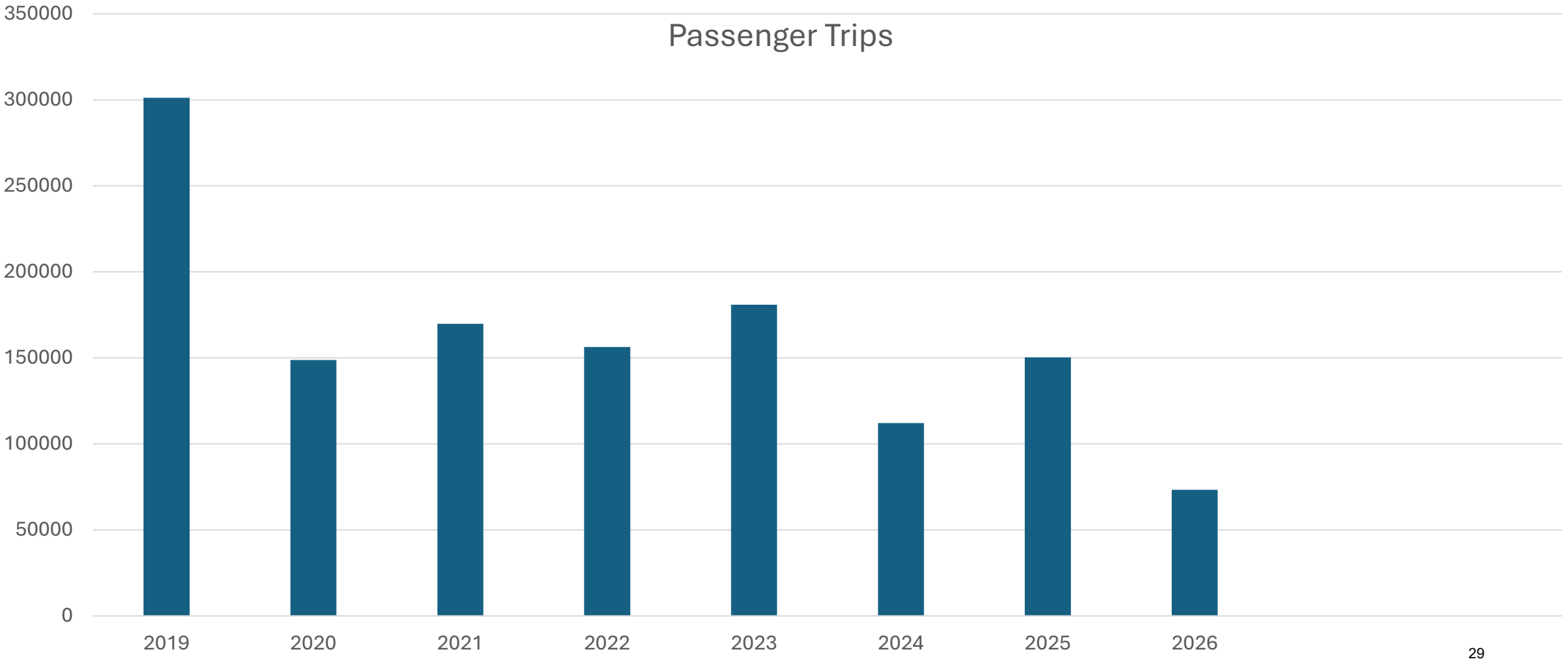
Total System Ridership

January – August 2019-2026



Bend Fixed Route Ridership

January – August 2019-2026



Community Connector Ridership

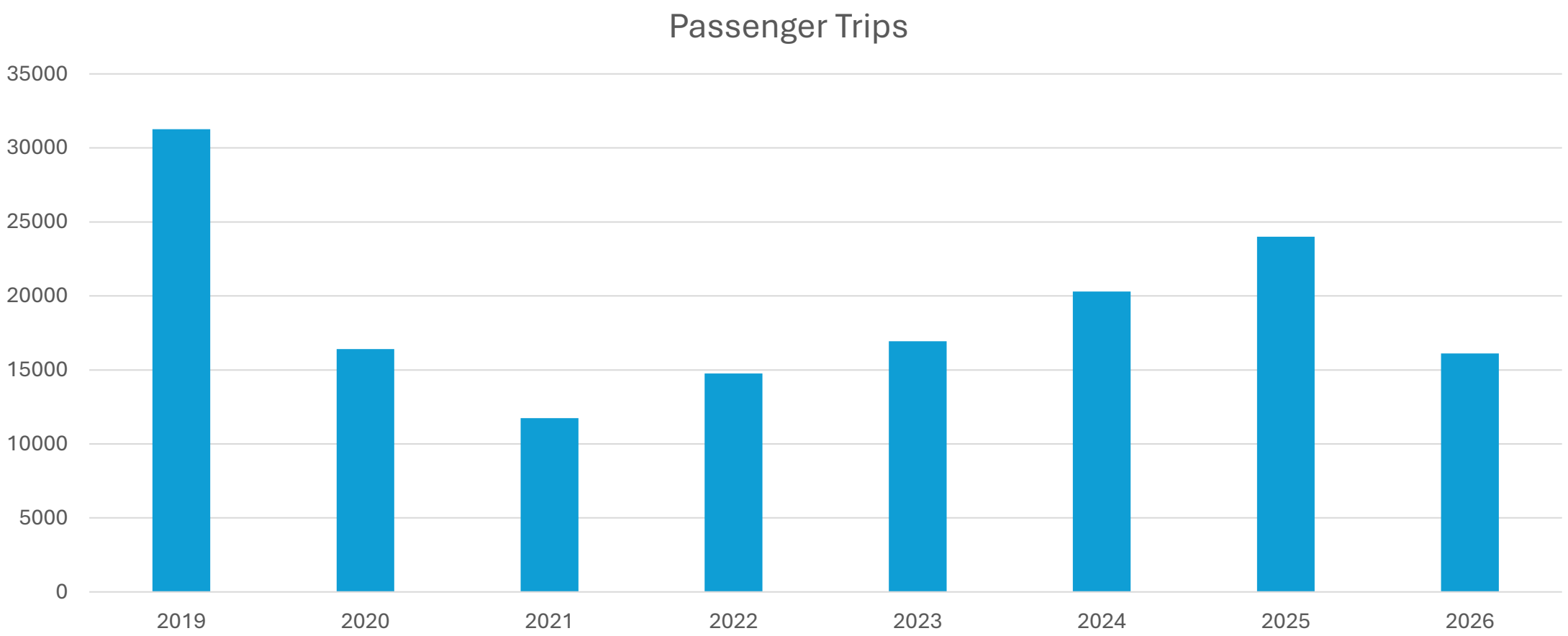
January – August 2019-2026

Bend Dial-a-Ride Ridership

January – August 2019-2026

Rural Dial–a–Ride Ridership

January – August 2019-2026



Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
1250 NE Bear Creek Rd
Bend, OR 97701

COIC

Memorandum

TO: COIC Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director, Tammy Baney

DATE: November 2026

RE: Jurisdictional Membership Dues and Regional Service Capacity

Purpose

The following memo is to prep the Board for taking action in December. This is to provide context regarding the role of jurisdictional membership dues in supporting COIC's regional responsibilities, particularly the increasing requests for assistance that do not have a dedicated funding source. This memo is intended to inform board direction, not request approval of a specific dues schedule at this meeting.

Current Position

COIC receives approximately $70,000 annually in jurisdictional membership dues, about $0.27 per resident using a working regional population of 260,000. This is less than one-tenth of one percent of our approximately $78 million organizational budget. While COIC manages significant grants and contracts, most of those funds are restricted to specific programs, deliverables, and allowable costs. The size of our overall budget therefore does not reflect the resources available to respond to unfunded regional requests.

At an approximate fully loaded personnel cost of $125,000 per FTE, $70,000 is equivalent to approximately 0.56 FTE, before any expenses for board support, grant match, facilitation, or project development.

Oregon Peer Context

The following figures offer a general sense of how peer COGs fund regional capacity. They are not fully comparable: reporting years differ, and some totals include program-specific assessments.

Organization	Population (approx.)	Reported annual dues	Important distinction
COIC	260,000	$70,000	Current working baseline
Lane COG	382,000	$240,000 (est.)	FY 2025–26 projection; FY 2026 base rates proposed unchanged; tiered dues

Mid-Willamette Valley COG	539,000	$306,167	FY 2025–26 membership; separate $75,000 EDD assessment
Cascades West COG	283,000	$391,816	FY 2025–26; includes program-area dues; not all comparable

Lane and Mid-Willamette provide the clearest general-membership benchmarks: roughly $0.63 and $0.57 per resident, respectively, based on these estimates. Applying approximately $0.60 per resident to COIC yields about $156,000 annually.

Where Limited Flexible Funding Constrains COIC

Increasingly, our member jurisdictions and regional partners ask COIC to help develop projects, convene difficult multi-jurisdictional conversations, and find solutions before a grant or contract exists. Recent examples include coordinating homelessness and encampment responses, facilitating sensitive regional discussions, exploring septic-system funding solutions, and initial project scoping. These activities can be essential to moving a regional priority forward, but they are not always billable.

- Early development: fewer resources for initial scoping, feasibility, partner alignment, and funding applications.
- Regional problem-solving: staff time for complex conversations competes with existing program and management responsibilities.
- Opportunity readiness: limited ability to provide eligible matching funds or act quickly when a grant opportunity emerges.
- Responsiveness: The growing number of requests has resulted in delays in providing support. Because much of this work is not eligible to be billed to existing grants or projects, it often falls to the Executive Director or other staff who are already operating at or beyond capacity.

Potential Direction

As we consider how to right-size COIC's membership dues structure over time, the comparison with other Oregon COGs provides helpful context. While a longer-term dues target of $200,000–$250,000 may be worth considering, we recognize the importance of a thoughtful, phased approach that balances the growing requests for regional support with the financial realities of our member jurisdictions.

For now, staff recommends a 15% increase in membership dues beginning in FY 2027–28, along with an annual inflationary adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), capped at 3%. This would provide a modest, predictable approach to strengthening COIC's capacity while allowing for continued discussion about the appropriate level of jurisdictional support going forward.

This additional investment would be directed toward early project development, regional facilitation, grant readiness and eligible match, and emerging priorities. A phased adjustment and predictable annual

escalation factor could provide jurisdictions with greater budget certainty. We should also consider whether economic development district responsibilities warrant a separately identified contribution; Mid-Willamette budgets an additional $75,000 for EDD assessments.

Board Discussion / Requested Direction in December

- Does the board agree that membership dues should help sustain COIC's core regional leadership and pre-project development capacity?
- Would members support a phased approach, beginning with recommending a 15% increase for FY 2027–28?
- Should staff evaluate the jurisdictional allocation methodology and an annual CPI-based adjustment capped at 3%?
- Staff would return to the Budget Committee with jurisdiction-level scenarios and an implementation schedule for consideration through the FY 2027–28 budget process.

Staff Recommendation

Review, talk with your respective Boards, come prepared to take action in December.

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
1250 NE Bear Creek Rd
Bend, OR 97701

COIC

Memorandum

TO: COIC Board of Directors

FROM: Executive Director, Tammy Baney; CED Director, Sean Keithly

DATE: November 2026

RE: CORE3 Project Development Update

Background

The Central Oregon Ready, Responsive, Resilient (CORE3) project continues to advance toward development of a regional emergency preparedness, response, and training campus on approximately 300 acres near the Redmond Airport. This multi-jurisdictional initiative will provide critical training infrastructure for public safety agencies while strengthening Central Oregon's ability to support statewide disaster response and recovery, particularly following a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake.

Project Status

CORE3 has transitioned from planning and design toward implementation of Phase 1A, representing a significant milestone following several years of regional coordination and funding efforts.

Key developments include:

- Phase 1A Construction: Initial development is moving forward, including a three-quarter-mile emergency vehicle training course, a large concrete driving skills pad, site access improvements, fencing, and associated infrastructure. These improvements will establish the foundation for future campus development.
- Site Preparation: Work continues on site preparation, environmental remediation, and coordination with Deschutes County and the City of Redmond to support construction.
- Funding: Approximately $22 million in public funding has been secured for project development, in addition to the significant land contribution from Deschutes County. Additional state and federal investments will be necessary to complete subsequent phases, including the proposed Emergency Coordination Center.
- Governance: Project partners are developing a new ORS 190 intergovernmental governance structure, anticipated to be established by the end of 2026. This transition will provide a dedicated framework for long-term project ownership, development, and operations.
- Future Development: Planning continues for the Emergency Coordination Center and additional public safety training facilities. Project partners are preparing funding priorities for consideration during the 2027 Oregon Legislative Session.

Next Steps

Over the coming months, efforts will focus on advancing Phase 1A construction, finalizing the new governance structure, and coordinating with regional and state partners to secure funding for future phases.

COIC will continue its leadership and coordination role during this transition, helping ensure that CORE3 develops as a sustainable regional asset supporting emergency preparedness, public safety training, and statewide disaster resilience.

Board Action: No action requested. This item is provided as an informational update.

Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council
1250 NE Bear Creek Rd
Bend, OR 97701

COIC

Memorandum

Date: November 2026
To: COIC Board of Directors
From: Executive Director
Subject: Redmond Flex Route – Proposed Service Discontinuation and Public Comment Period

Purpose

To inform the Board of the proposed discontinuation of the Redmond Flex Route and outline the public comment process that will be undertaken prior to a final determination.

Background

At the request of the City of Redmond, Cascades East Transit (CET) implemented the Redmond Flex Route to expand local transportation options for residents. Despite additional outreach and community engagement efforts, ridership has remained significantly below expectations.

Following discussions with City leadership and a review of service utilization, the City supports the discontinuation of the Flex Route service in order to refocus efforts on transportation services that may better meet community needs.

Potential priorities include:

- Increasing the frequency of service between Redmond and Bend.
- Continue exploring and then implement the planned Redmond Airport shuttle.
- Continuing to support local transportation needs through Dial-a-Ride services and evaluating future service opportunities, including lessons learned from the upcoming Bend microtransit pilot.

The intent is to better align transit resources with demonstrated demand while continuing to strengthen transportation access for the Redmond community.

Proposed Public Comment Process

Consistent with CET's adopted Title VI Public Participation Plan, staff propose the following process before making a final determination:

1. **Board Presentation:** Present the proposed service discontinuation at the November Board meeting, service utilization, and potential alternative transportation investments.
2. **Public Notice and Comment:** Open a 14-day public comment period following the Board meeting. CET will publish notice of the proposed change through its website, social

media, onboard notices, and other appropriate communication channels. Notices will be provided in English and Spanish, and community members will have opportunities to submit comments regarding potential impacts on their transportation needs.

3. **Review of Public Input:** Following the comment period, CET staff will review and summarize public feedback, evaluate identified service impacts, and consider available transportation alternatives.

4. **Final Determination:** The Executive Director will make the final determination regarding discontinuation of the Flex Route after consideration of public input. The City of Redmond, COIC Board, and community will be notified of the decision and implementation timeline.

Title VI Considerations

CET's Title VI Public Participation Plan emphasizes transparency, meaningful public engagement, and consideration of how proposed service changes affect the communities served.

The proposed process is intended to provide the public an opportunity to comment before a final decision is made.

Requested Board Action

No formal Board action is requested.

The Board is asked to receive the proposed service change, provide any feedback, and acknowledge the initiation of a 14-day public comment period prior to a final administrative determination by the Executive Director.