



COMMUTE options

2017 Annual Report

www.commuteoptions.org

Actively promoting bicycling, walking, riding the bus, carpooling and teleworking to create livable communities and enhance the quality of life in central and eastern Oregon.



Transportation for Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond

Greetings,

2017 was not a year to forget! Nature took us on an exciting ride, as we plowed (literally) through “snowmageddon” in the winter and witnessed a most celestial event, the total solar eclipse, in the summer. National politics took a front seat, and Oregon passed the most significant transportation bill in the history of the state, setting the stage to expand public transportation and create safer streets. Big and small changes happened in the cities we work in – Uber and Lyft came to Bend, Cascades East Transit expanded their services, bike sharing programs grew, and rural areas expanded their Commute Options Partner programs.

Commute Options is proud to be your voice for active transportation in central and eastern Oregon and we work hard to represent all of Oregon Department of Transportation’s Regions 4 and 5 in Salem.

We educate legislators and community leaders about the value of walking, biking and riding the bus, and why it is important for our cities and rural regions to provide active transportation for all people. Building our urban and suburban environments to include safe and convenient sidewalks, multi-use paths, bike lanes, and bus facilities is as important as our communities grow and become more diverse.

I invite you to join us in creating livable communities and enhancing our quality of life through promoting active transportation. Start today by choosing to walk, ride your bike, ride the bus or carpool. The future looks bright and we look forward to a successful 2018!

–Jeff Monson, Executive Director



Oregon HB2017: Keep Oregon Moving

In July 2017, Oregon passed House Bill 2017, Keep Oregon Moving, the largest and most comprehensive transportation legislation in the history of the state. Keep Oregon Moving includes dedicated funding for maintaining roads and bridges, creating safer biking and walking infrastructure near schools, and strengthening public transportation around the state.

As the voice of central and eastern Oregon, we worked with The Street Trust’s #foreverykid program to teach citizens how to talk to legislators about safe routes to school and we helped educate our legislators about the importance of this bill. We attended events and meetings in Salem to represent central and eastern Oregon’s interests. As a result, a



**\$10 MILLION
SAFE ROUTES TO
SCHOOL PROJECTS**

newly dedicated \$115 million a year will be allocated to improving and expanding public transportation across the state, and \$10 million per year will be allocated to creating Safe Routes to School in Oregon.



We are actively working and will continue to work close with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), communities, local governments, and the State of Oregon to determine how cities and counties can receive funding. Our very own Commute

**\$115 MILLION
FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Options staff member Brian Potwin participates in the Safe Routes to School Rulemaking Advisory Committee to help the state determine methods and best practices when allocating money to making streets safer.

“This transportation package is a roadmap to Oregon’s future. For the first time, Oregon will have a dedicated source of funding to transit, which can be a vehicle out of poverty for many working families.”

–Oregon Governor Kate Brown



Equitable and Healthy Options

When we invest in a full spectrum of active transportation options, we provide more opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and economic means to access necessary services. We also must plan for our two largest populations—Millennials and Baby Boomers. Studies show that both these age groups will seek



well planned cities, public transportation and walking and biking infrastructure. Active transportation also has direct health benefits for all people.

In 2017, we educated decision makers, businesses and individuals about the importance of affordable and healthy transportation options. Commute Options supported design-

nated Blue Zone cities, Klamath Falls and The Dalles, to create healthy communities, and healthy people. We attended government and public events, such as health fairs, festivals, and other gatherings to talk to locals about active transportation. And we worked with businesses and organizations in central Oregon, from the Gorge to the California border, to increase participation in the Commute Options Partner Program and track their non-drive alone trips for rewards.

Collaborating with Cascades East Transit, we organized several educational days, such as Bend's First Friday and Transit Tuesdays, encouraging people to ride the bus in central Oregon. We also celebrated with them when they introduced new low-floor buses that provide safer and quicker access for wheelchair users. Social equity is a big part of our Safe Routes to School programs, creating healthy, active ways for all students and families to get to and from school.

Creating a Strong Economy

Investing in planning, infrastructure, policies, and programs that support active transportation help create a vibrant economy. Businesses benefit directly from greater pedestrian and cycling activity with increased retail performance, and having a strong bus system helps strengthen our workforce by providing a reliable and safe means to get to and from workplaces.

In 2017, we partnered with 66 businesses to help their employees track their trips on Drive Less Connect to receive local business rewards. We also continued to offer the Employer Group Bus Pass program in partnership with Cascades East Transit, to provide a valuable, yet inexpensive benefit to employees. Our partner in the Gorge, Mid Columbia Economic Development District has made active

transportation a priority by utilizing Drive Less Connect for employers, and by supporting walking, biking and riding the bus. And our friends at the southern border in Klamath



and Lake counties continue to grow their active transportation options.

As tourism grew in central Oregon, we supported new measures to keep people moving by promoting

the Free Summer Shuttle, new bike share stations and the rideshare function at Drive Less Connect for concerts at Les Schwab Amphitheater and beyond. Our second annual Bend Open Streets saw another wonderful day of celebrating in the streets while supporting local businesses. And the most anticipated tourism event of the year, the total solar eclipse, was not a total traffic jam. A hearty thank you to all central Oregonians for doing their part!



“Bend Open Streets was perfect to bring together community and showcase how our town can share the roadways and plan for a safer, more integrated and efficient transportation mix going forward.”

— Rob Mills



Safe Routes to School #ForEveryKid

Teaching young people about how to walk and bike safely has been a cornerstone of our organization for years, and we continue to provide schools with our Safe Routes to School programs. Engaging families in fun activities such as walking school buses and bike trains gets kids active and helps them do better in school. Kids learn



how to safely walk across crosswalks, how to bike through roundabouts, and how to have fun while getting to and from school. We also

donated helmets to kids in need, with a portion of the proceeds from the Bend Bike Swap. Kids in Klamath Falls learned how to ride the public bus, and in Bend, we partnered with Cascades East Transit to provide Transit Rider Education classes to Bend-La Pine Schools.

We created a new website for Oregon Safe Routes to school, that includes a wealth of resources and information for people to learn how to start programs in their community. We also provided training for other communities on how to jumpstart Safe Routes to School programs and create Action Plans. The monthly Oregon Safe Routes to School newsletter also shares events, news and resources for creating safer streets.


4500 STUDENTS


11 SCHOOLS


950 HELMETS DONATED

Active Transportation for All

Giving people the tools, resources—and rewards—for walking, biking, carpooling and riding the bus is how we connect with individuals and workplaces. We continued to administer the Drive Less Connect program, where people can track their trips and get rewards and we promoted the Drive Less Challenge for two weeks in October and worked with local businesses to provide local rewards.

Our OSU-Cascades Individualized Marketing program, *Drive Less Save More: OSU-Cascades*, wrapped up in April. Through this program, students, staff and faculty significantly reduced their drive alone trips by walking, biking, riding the bus and carpooling. At the end of the program, 47% of participants reported that they are driving alone less because of what they learned from the program.

We provide ongoing outreach and education through our monthly e-newsletter, monthly articles in Cascade Business News and on our Facebook page. We also participated in numerous community events such as the Earth Day Fair, the City Quest at Bend Summer Fest, the Bend Bike Swap, and other events to encourage citizens to choose active transportation.




192,233 NON-DRIVE ALONE MILES!

960,389 LBS. OF CO2 SAVED


47,504 GALLONS OF GASOLINE SAVED

\$362,837 SAVED



An Exciting Future

We look forward to continuing our work promoting active transportation east of the Cascades, from the Columbia River to the California border. Our staff and Board of Directors are the true superheroes that create and manage valuable programs such as Safe Routes to School, employer education programs, Bend Open Streets, Drive Less Connect and more. We'd like to also thank our sponsors, partners, and volunteers for helping us fulfill our mission. We were honored to be recognized as one Oregon's Top 100 Best Non-Profits from Oregon Business in 2017! Thank you to all.

2017 Board of Directors:

- Courtney Van Fossan
- Gregg Morris
- Jim Cook
- Kevin Wooster, President
- Marshall Greene
- Nancy Kraemer



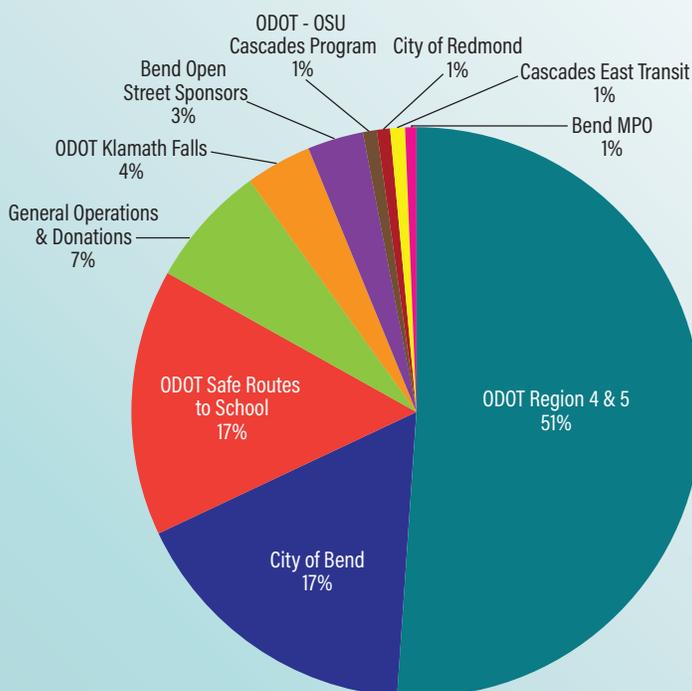
2017 Staff:

- Brian Potwin, Active Transportation Manager
- Jeff Monson, Executive Director
- Kate Armstrong, Education Coordinator
- Kathy King, Special Projects
- Kim Curley Reynolds, Community Outreach Manager
- Willow Hamilton, Education Coordinator
- Zach Starr, Safe Routes to School Instructor

“ODOT is pleased to partner with Commute Options to do this great work and provide active transportation programming throughout Eastern and Central Oregon.”

—Theresa Conley, Regional Transit Coordinator - Region 4 - Central Oregon, ODOT

Commute Options 2017 Funding Sources



Commute Options Works In The Following Regions



- Crook County
- Deschutes County
- Gilliam County
- Grant County
- Harney County
- Jefferson County
- Klamath County
- Lake County
- Malheur County
- Morrow County
- Sherman County
- Umatilla County
- Wasco County
- Wheeler County