Our Mission

Commute Options actively promotes walking, bicycling, carpooling, teleworking, and using public transportation to create livable communities and enhance the quality of life in Central and Eastern Oregon. Through education and encouragement in 18 counties, our programs support individual wellness, a clean environment, and a strong economy.

2019 Staff

Jeff Monson, Executive Director
Kim Curley, Community Outreach
Brian Potwin, Active Transportation Manager
Kersey Marion, Walking School Bus & Volunteer Coordinator
Kate Armstrong, Education Coordinator
Kathy King, Special Projects
David Hopper, Head Walking School Bus Leader
13 Part-Time Staff

2019 Board of Directors

Gregg Morris, Board Chair
Marshall Greene, Secretary
Bill Caram, Treasurer
Janet Gregor
Emily Pelletier
James Cook

In 2019 we worked in 18 counties, including Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, and Wheeler Counties.
The new face of one of our oldest programs, Get There provides ongoing incentives for employees of our partner organizations to walk, bike, carpool, telework, and use public transportation. In June of 2019, Drive Less Connect became Get There, a new app developed by RideAmigos. Get There improves user experience and flexibility when logging trips.

**Lessons Learned**

Change is hard! In July 2019, we upgraded our technology to Get There Oregon, powered by RideAmigos. The new system is more accurate, more reliable, and definitely more fun. The transition was challenging. Moving thousands of registered users created a bumpy ride for a few months. We are thankful to our partners at ODOT and RideAmigos for smoothing out the path.

**2019 Get There Challenge**

From October 1 – 21, Oregonians across the state participated in the Get There Challenge, logging their trips and competing for prizes. As one of Oregon’s regional providers of Get There, we promoted the event to our partners, awarded prizes, and had a celebration!
The Oregon Friendly Driver program is a 60-90 minute interactive class designed to educate drivers on the best and safest ways to use the road with people walking or riding bikes.

We worked with the Street Trust and the Lane Council of Governments to update the Oregon Friendly Driver curriculum and build a website for the state-wide program. The new website features slides from the presentation, helps advertise Oregon Friendly Driver to a wider audience, and helps visitors to schedule a class in their area. Visit OregonFriendlyDriver.org to learn more.
One of Commute Options’ foundational programs, our Safe Routes to School program is part of a national network of providers bringing walking and biking education and encouragement to students. We do this through regular walking and bike safety instruction in classrooms across Central Oregon, as well as encouragement events throughout the year.

**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Entering the 2019-2020 school year, the Safe Routes to School Coordinator launched the new Physical Education curriculum. Schools identified in the Central Oregon area were introduced to the enhanced education program, allowing our team to focus on training more physical education teachers in the bicycle education curriculum, giving more students access to the program.

**MAY CHALLENGE MONTH**

We helped organize Walking Wednesdays and bike nights at 11 schools throughout the month of May. We provided resources to teachers and distributed incentives provided by the Street Trust to schools. Thanks to the generous support of community sponsors like C.E. Lovejoy’s, Thump Coffee, Newport Market, and Trader Joe’s, we were able to bring tasty and nutritious snacks to many of our participants.

**NATIONAL WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY**

On October 2, 2019, we helped organize walk and roll events at 15 schools in Bend, Redmond, Madras, and La Pine.
The Walking School Bus (WSB) program is a unique program funded through Oregon Safe Routes to School, the Central Oregon Health Council, and the City of Bend. Many school districts around the country have organized special or one-off walking school bus events, but we’re the only program that offers reliable walking routes each week. We employed and trained 13 dedicated WSB Leaders, who often live in the neighborhoods they serve. This way, our Leaders make a consistent and meaningful impact on their communities.

In the 2018-19 school year, we offered WSB routes at ten schools across Bend, Madras, and La Pine. In the 2019-20 school year, we narrowed our focus to five schools, with an emphasis on providing ongoing comprehensive training to the Leaders on issues like recognizing and reporting the signs of child abuse, as well as age-appropriate conflict resolution strategies.
2019 FUNDING SOURCES

and How They Support What We Do

ODOT Transportation Options 39%
State contract that supports our administration of the Get There program, Commute Options outreach, website, & social media efforts, agency trainings, attendance at various committees and working groups, construction mitigation projects, and upkeep of park & rides throughout Central Oregon

Central Oregon Health Council 15%
Provides most of the funding for the Walking School Bus program

City of Bend 12%
Provides funding for the Walking School Bus program, Safe Routes to School, and Get There, as well as supporting employer outreach and Commute Options Partners

Safe Routes to School Technical Assistance Provider 12%
Supports us in helping agencies statewide with various non-infrastructure transportation projects

Safe Routes to School 6%
Funded through the ODOT Transportation Safety Division

Deschutes County 1%
Transportation Options funding for Central Oregon

Bend Metro Planning Organization 0.10%
Includes funding for the Walking School Bus program

Oregon Friendly Driver 2%
Funded through the ODOT Transportation Safety Division

Commute Options Partner Revenue 2%
Includes annual fees from the Commute Options Partner program

DMV 5%
Funding related to an ODOT project to create Transportation Options Rider Info Packets, to be displayed in DMV locations across the state

Other 6%
Includes revenue from donations, merchandise, and sponsorships

Includes funding for the Walking School Bus program

Walking School Bus program, Safe Routes to School, and Get There, as well as supporting employer outreach and Commute Options Partners

Supports us in helping agencies statewide with various non-infrastructure transportation projects

Walking School Bus program

Get There program, Commute Options outreach, website, & social media efforts, agency trainings, attendance at various committees and working groups, construction mitigation projects, and upkeep of park & rides throughout Central Oregon

Oregon Friendly Driver

Funded through the ODOT Transportation Safety Division

Walking School Bus program, Safe Routes to School, and Get There, as well as supporting employer outreach and Commute Options Partners

Supports us in helping agencies statewide with various non-infrastructure transportation projects

Walking School Bus program

Get There program, Commute Options outreach, website, & social media efforts, agency trainings, attendance at various committees and working groups, construction mitigation projects, and upkeep of park & rides throughout Central Oregon

Includes annual fees from the Commute Options Partner program

Walking School Bus program

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Get There program, Commute Options outreach, website, & social media efforts, agency trainings, attendance at various committees and working groups, construction mitigation projects, and upkeep of park & rides throughout Central Oregon

Includes annual fees from the Commute Options Partner program
In 2019 we celebrated the retirement of our Executive Director, Jeff Monson, from a position he’d held since 2002.

We also celebrated the retirements of Kathy King, as well as board member Jim Cook.

Brian Potwin was named Executive Director in December 2019.

THANK YOU!