

commute options

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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*

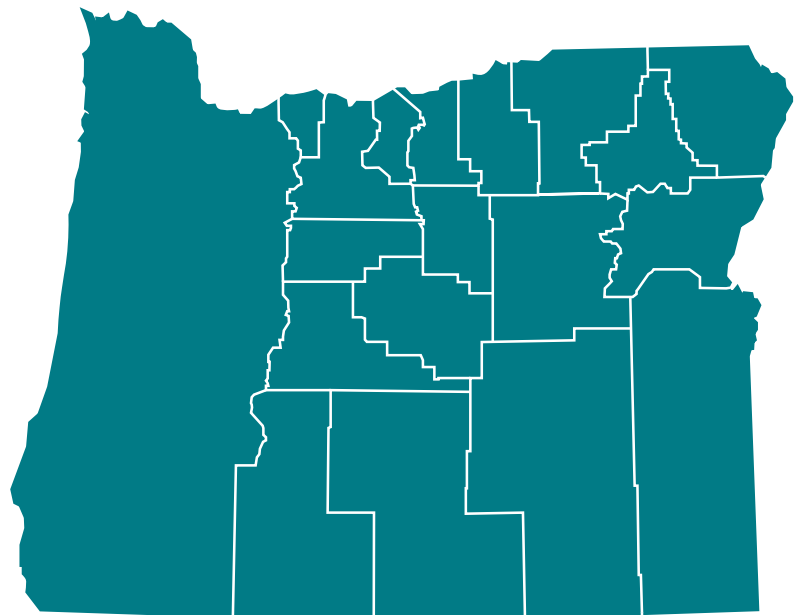
Marshall Greene, *Secretary*

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

INTRODUCING



get there

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.

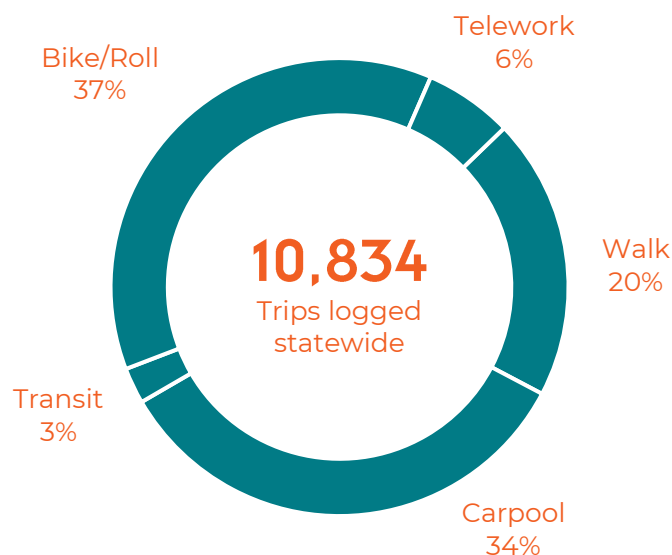


LESSONS LEARNED

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.

14**CLASSES
TAUGHT****349****TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS****40%****AVG. IMPROVEMENT
IN KNOWLEDGE**

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.



A Slide from the *Oregon Friendly Driver* Presentation

SafeRoutes

Oregon Safe Routes To School



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.



SCHOOLS



STUDENTS



BIKE HELMETS



VOLUNTEERS

Walking School Bus

Let's Walk and Roll

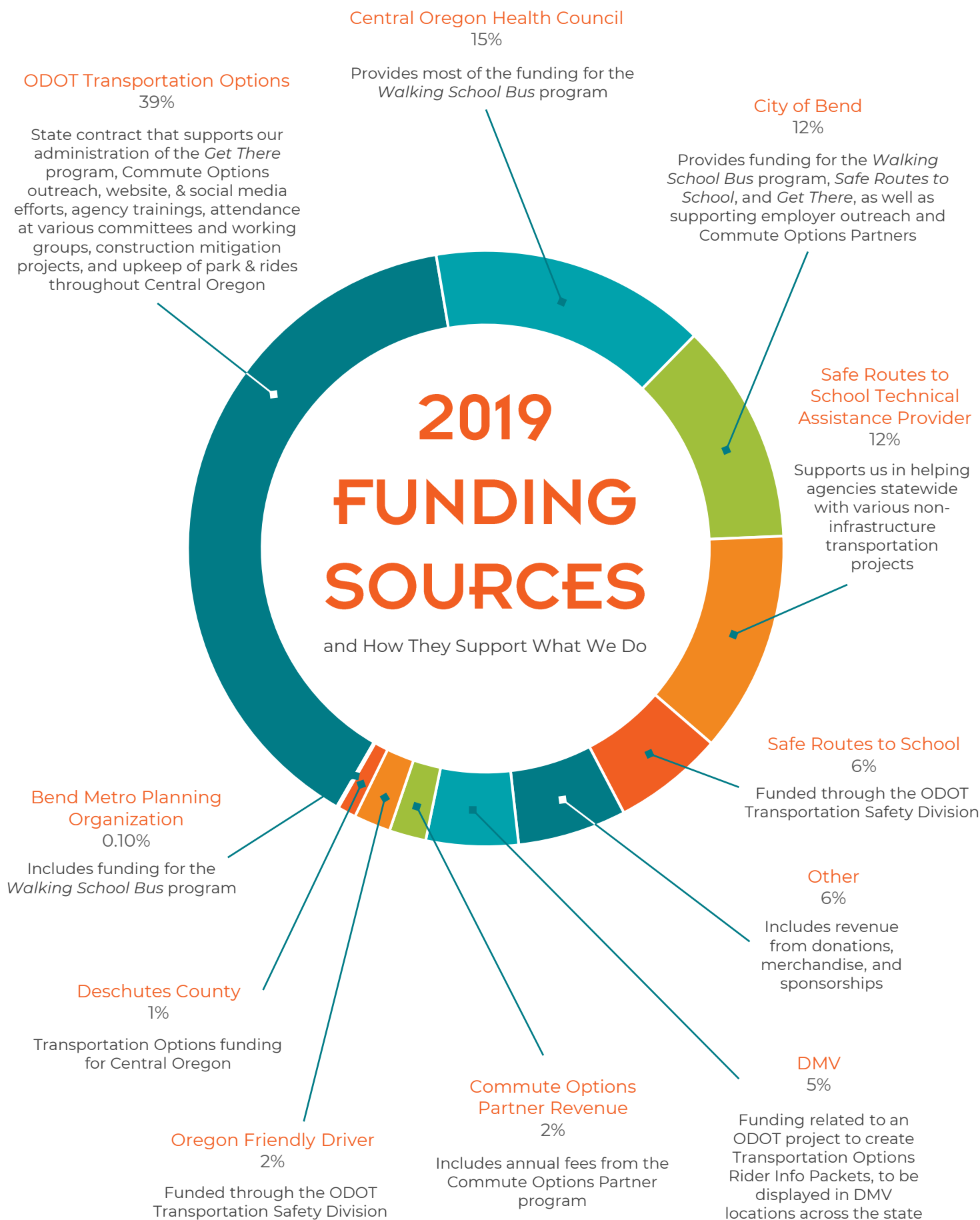
The *Walking School Bus* program (WSB) is a unique program funded through *Oregon Safe Routes to School*, the [Central Oregon Health Council](#), and the [City of Bend](#). Many school districts around the country have organized special or one-off walking school bus events, but we're the only program 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.



A Walking School Bus Leader and students on the way to school





Left to Right: Brian Potwin, Kersey Marion, Jeff Monson, Kathy King, Al King, Kim Curley, Cody, Kate Armstrong, David Hopper

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!

