



# commute options

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# 2022 Annual Report

Commute Options is dedicated to innovative transportation options that connect people of all ages to the places they go – employees to their workplaces, students to their schools, and neighbors within their communities. We champion active transportation and infrastructure improvements, fostering essential partnerships, and educating the community on transportation options.

## Mission Statement

Commute Options increases access to transportation options across Oregon.

## Vision Statement

We envision communities using safe, convenient, and reliable transportation options that result in healthier individuals, a cleaner environment, and a stronger economy.

## 2022 Staff

Brian Potwin - *Executive Director*

Kim Curley - *Community Engagement Coordinator*

Emily Dougan - *Administrative & Program Coordinator*

Indigo Larson - *Communication & Program Coordinator*

Whitney Bennett - *Education Program Manager*

## 2022 Board of Directors

Marshall Greene - *Board Chair*

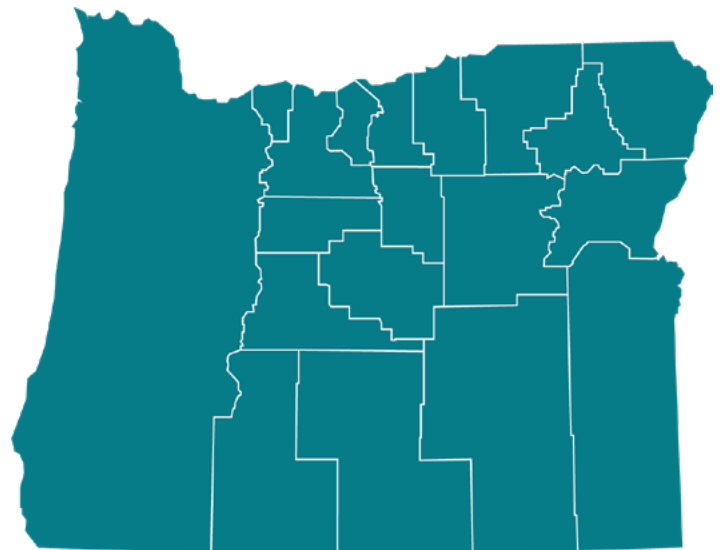
Janet Gregor - *Treasurer*

Neil Baungard - *Secretary*

Zechariah Heck - *At Large*

Anthony Poponi - *At Large*

Noelle Copley - *At Large*



In 2022 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.

## Top Accomplishments

- 1. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility.** Continued embedding DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) principles into all areas of our work. Continued offering staff and Board education opportunities to further our understanding of how to serve all in Central Oregon.
- 2. Train the Trainer.** Began bicycle and pedestrian safety training to ODOT Regions 4 & 5 as part of the Statewide Technical Assistance Program.
- 3. E-Bike Instant Rebate.** Collaborated with the City of Bend on envisioning a process for the E-Bike Instant Rebate program, which in 2023 will give 75 residents of Bend the opportunity to purchase a new e-bike.
- 4. Get There Rewards Network Growth.** Continued to grow the Get There Rewards network by registering 651 new users in 2022.
- 5. Get There Rewards Miles Saved.** Users who logged trips in Get There Rewards network saved 995,758 miles from single occupancy vehicles.
- 6. Vanpool Subsidy.** In partnership with Cascade East Transit, we solidified funding to fully subsidize vanpools, including paying for gas, making the cost of vanpools \$0 for employees and employers.
- 7. Vanpool Program Growth.** Grew the vanpool program to include 8 active vanpools serving employees in Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes counties.
- 8. Safe Routes to School Encouragement.** Increased participation in Safe Routes to School walk and roll encouragement events by 52%, compared to our 2021 events.
- 9. Walking School Bus.** Increased the number of adult lead Walking School Bus routes to three regularly scheduled routes and some paid walking leader positions.
- 10. Oregon Friendly Driver Accessibility.** Launched the Spanish version of the Oregon Friendly Driver Online course to broaden our reach with the program.

Programs



# get there rewards

Sponsored by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Get There Connect and its partners across the state, helps commuters and employers shift business practices and work habits one trip at a time. Commute Options' [Get There Rewards](#) program changes personal travel behavior, improving health, saving money, and reducing parking needs. Incentives come to employees through the Get There Rewards program, which encourages use of walking, biking, carpooling, vanpooling, remote work and compressed work week instead of driving alone. In 2022, 651 New Users registered in Get There bringing the total users to over 3,000. We distributed over 800 rewards for using the Get There Rewards network for the 97,702 trips logged! These trips alone saved 995,758 miles of driving on our roads and reduced carbon emissions by 341,542,058 CO<sub>2</sub> grams.



Get There Rewards 2022 Mode Data

In October we participated in the annual Get There Challenge. This year, 1,824 Get There Challenge participants unlocked 7,584 achievements and logged 46,000 trips and remote work days, totaling 465,000 miles. That's 589 trips across Oregon and back. Thank you to all who participated and helped make Oregon an even better place to live, work, and play!



In 2022 Oregon Friendly Driver reached people who drive through the virtual [Oregon Friendly Driver Online course](#) and Live Webinar, as well as through in person classes that were offered across Central Oregon. Driver education teachers have integrated the materials into their curriculum and include Oregon Friendly Driver in their regular driver education classes. In 2022 we focused on increasing the accessibility of the Oregon Friendly Driver materials and had everything translated into Spanish and created a Spanish version of the Online Course.

[Oregon Friendly Driver](#) is a course for people who drive that helps to educate on how to safely use the roadway with people who are walking and biking. The Live Webinars, the Online Course, and the in-person class include pre- and post-tests.

Participants learn about:

- The safest ways to utilize the roadway network
- The rules of the road for people driving, people riding bicycles, and people walking
- How to avoid common crashes
- How people riding bikes use the road and how people driving can respond
- How to use roadway features: sharrows, bike lanes, and rapid flashing beacons



*Oregon Friendly Drivers learn to use a roundabout with people on bikes*

Last year 378 participants successfully completed the class, received an Oregon Friendly Driver Certificate, and became a more friendly driver on our roadways.





# SafeRoutes

## Oregon Safe Routes To School



[Safe Routes to School](#) is one of Commute Options' foundational programs and is part of a national network of providers bringing walking and biking education and encouragement to students. We do this through a combination walking and bike safety instruction across Central Oregon, as well as encouragement events.

### Safe Routes to School Education Program

Spring 2022 brought lots of opportunities to implement Safe Routes to School programming in our partner schools. We offered walking and biking education at Bend La Pine Schools, Sisters, and Jefferson County. In the summer we stayed connected to the community by offering bicycle education at Eco Hero Camp and Vámonos Outside's summer program.

### Winter Walk to School Day

On February 23, 2022, we celebrated Winter Walk to School Day. We created a Winter Walking Bingo challenge and awarded participants Prizes.

### Spring Walk and Roll Challenge

We organized a May Walk and Roll Challenge during the first two weeks of May. Students recorded the number of trips they walked and rolled to school to qualify for prizes. Two students were awarded the grand prize this year, and they took home new scooters.

### Fall Walk and Roll to School Day

October 12, 2022 was Walk + Roll to School Day. Schools organized walking groups, students logged their trip to win prizes, and families discovered the joy of walking to school for the first time.

### Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day

On November 14, 2022, we celebrated Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. We gathered at Juniper Park to enjoy hot cocoa, a few words about Ruby Bridges, and then a group walk to school. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to connect, learn, and get a few extra steps into their day.



*Bike Safety Education*

# Oregon Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School



ALTA • COMMUTE OPTIONS • THE STREET TRUST

Commute Options provides support to statewide Safe Routes to School efforts as a part of the Technical Assistance Program team. In 2022, we hosted 12 webinars and statewide meetings, and led 11 regional meetings for SRTS practitioners in Central, Eastern and Southern Oregon. We created a toolkit specifically for SRTS practitioners in rural Oregon to help maximize their SRTS activities. In addition to this toolkit, we prepared guides for Walk+Roll to School Days with event ideas, outreach material in English and Spanish, and tips for making events successful. We continued to lead the Oregon SRTS statewide communication efforts, and help with the design and implementation of bicycle and pedestrian safety courses.



*Pedestrian Safety Education*



# Walking School Bus

Let's Walk and Roll

The [Walking School Bus](#) program is picking up steam once again within our partners schools. Many school districts around the country have organized special or one-off walking school bus events, but we are one of the few programs that offers mapped walking routes and a legacy of successful program implementation that has shaped the way we plan the Walking School Bus program.

The Walking School Bus program is a way to alleviate many of the challenges faced by families trying to sort out transportation; by schools working to increase attendance and decrease tardiness; and by students facing more sedentary time inside and less time outside getting exercise. The Walking School Bus benefits the overall health, safety, and wellness of our community.

We expanded the Walking School Bus program in the Fall of 2022 by adding more routes, funding, leaders, and creative ways to integrate walking and biking safety into the daily journey of each of the Walking School Bus groups. We had 3 active Walking School Bus routes supported by 2 paid leaders and 4 volunteer leaders. There continues to be a growing interest in and demand for the Walking School Bus Program. Over time we plan to see the Walking School Bus as very broadly implemented transportation option for all schools.

*Walking School Bus Group*





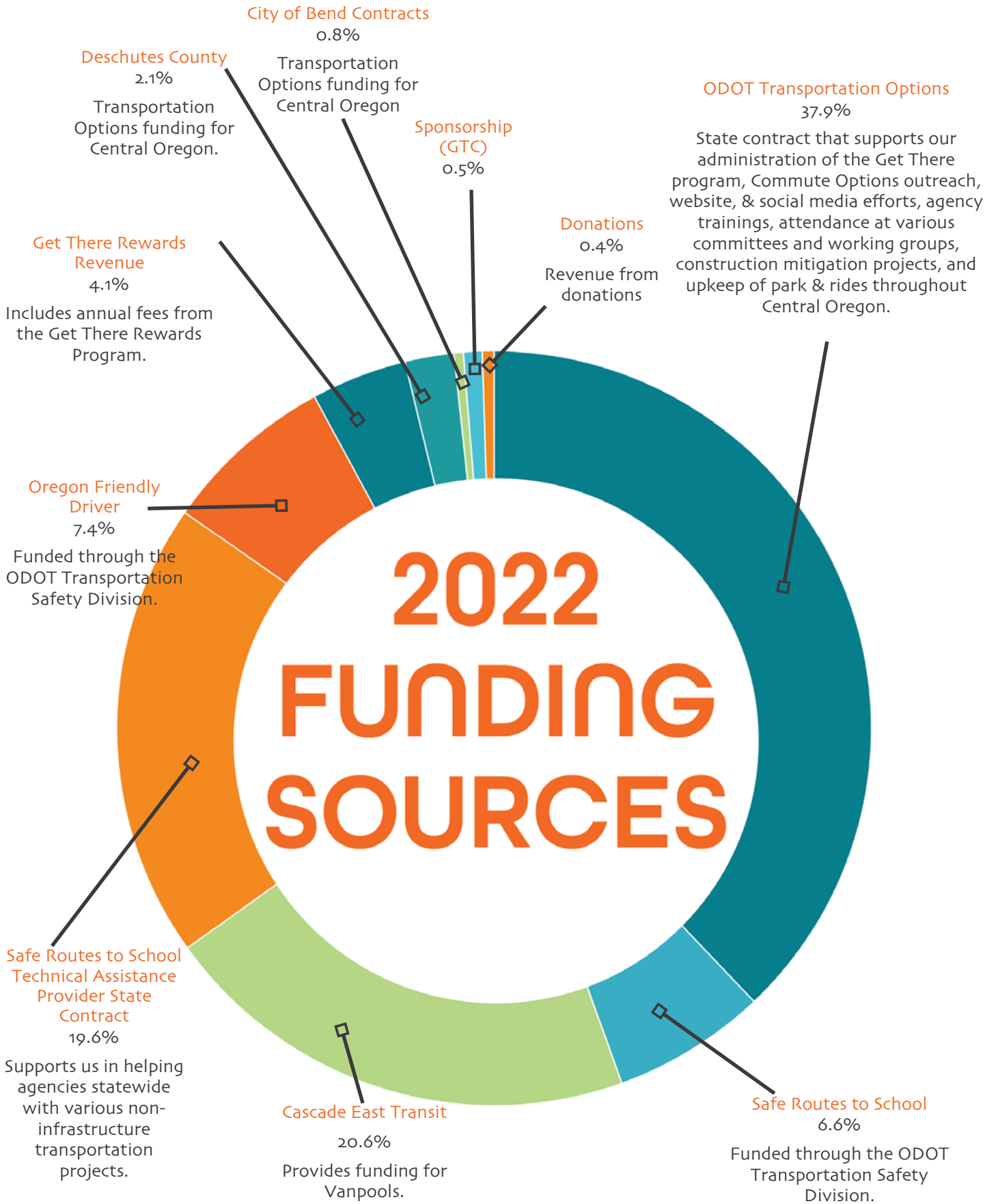


Commute Options and Commute with Enterprise introduced the [Vanpool](#) Subsidy program in mid-2020 through a partnership with Cascades East Transit. In the years since we have grown the program to offer Central Oregon commuters a new option to get to and from work that saves workers time, money, and the stress of commuting. This program matches 5+ people with similar commutes and schedules to share a SUV or van that brings them to and from work on a regular schedule. This year we were able to expand our subsidy program to cover the cost of the vanpool lease and gasoline for all vanpools starting or ending in Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes counties expanding our program to communities that couldn't afford it before.

Vanpooling provides a solution for employers to reduce carbon emissions, parking needs and the number of solo drivers on the road. Employees arrive to start their workday in a better state of mind. And the IRS provides tax incentives for employers and employees for vanpooling. All of these benefits make it a win for commuters, employers, communities and the environment!

*Vanpool*









Jack Johnson Concert Bike Valet, Commute Options Staff (Left to Right): Brian Potwin, Emily Dougan, Indigo Larson, Kim Curley



Trail Maintenance with Oregon Natural Dessert Association (ONDA), Commute Options Staff (Left to Right): Whitney Bennett, Indigo Larson, Emily Dougan, Brian Potwin

THANK YOU!

