



## Community and Economic Development

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May 4, 2015

Constance Beaumont  
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RE: TGM Outreach Project - Transportation and Health Workshop Proposal

The Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (COG) is pleased to submit this letter of application to sponsor a Transportation and Health Workshop for public health/health care professionals, transportation planners and other interested stakeholders in Linn and Benton Counties.

**Describe the specific issue(s) or problem in your community that the workshop would address.** Since February 2015, COG, in close partnership with the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), the Albany Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), and Benton and Linn County public health partners, has worked to determine interest and capacity to host a TGM workshop in the region. Scoping activities have generated significant interest in raising awareness about the link between transportation and health and strengthening sector alignment and coordination across the two-county region.

Issues identified to date include:

1. General lack of awareness/understanding of the link between transportation and health, and the associated opportunities for cross-sector coordination.
2. Variability in infrastructure, capacity, and resources to foster cross-sector planning. Improving coordination and communication across jurisdictions can lead to numerous opportunities for information sharing and peer exchange.
3. Numerous transportation planning efforts currently or soon to be underway in the region. These are often staffed by separate agencies, sometimes with overlapping scope and goals, and community partners are often unaware of each other's respective planning efforts.
4. Coordination of health services may be contingent on the availability of transportation to access service. Access is defined differently in various sectors of transportation and health industries.

5. Public input and outreach is fragmented and community leaders or interested residents must navigate numerous competing opportunities to provide input into key transportation planning decisions.

**Context for the proposal workshop (recent/imminent planning initiatives, recent problems or new challenges, and targeted geographical areas).** The workshop is timely given numerous transportation and other related planning activities currently underway or soon to begin in the city, county and region. This includes:

*System Planning Processes*

- City of Corvallis Transportation System Plan and Transit Development Plan
- Corvallis Area Scenario Analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Highway Safety Study – Corvallis to Hwy 20
- City of Millersburg Transportation System Plan
- City of Philomath Transportation System Plan
- City of Lebanon Transportation System Plan
- Albany Area MPO Regional Transportation Plan and Transit Development Plan
- Linn County Transportation System Plan
- Linn County and Benton-Lincoln County Coordinated Public Transportation-Human Services Transportation Plan updates
- Benton County Transportation System Plan update
- Benton County Strategic Plan and 2012 Community Health Assessment (CHA) and 2013-18 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- City of Corvallis 20/20 Visioning Process
- Corvallis Climate Change Adaptation Planning process (Benton County, City of Corvallis, Corvallis Sustainability Coalition, and other partners)

*Project Planning Processes*

- Albany to Corvallis multi-modal trail
- Bailey Branch line in southern Benton County
- 53<sup>rd</sup> Street Roundabout in Corvallis
- OR 34/US 20 South Bypass project

The workshop will convene staff and partners across Linn and Benton Counties given both public health/health care and transportation systems are regional in nature and residents are highly mobile and live, work, learn and recreate across both counties. The workshop will target professional staff and planners working in the areas of public health, health care, land use/community development and transportation in Linn and Benton Counties.

Also invited to the workshop will be representatives from key community coalitions/groups that work to advance active transportation options and improve access to public transportation by



equity populations (e.g., low income, rural, persons with disabilities, English language learners, older adults, etc.). These partners will assist the workshop planning team to determine next steps for hosting a broader training event intended for the general public at a later date if there is interest.

Examples of key sector partners/stakeholders that will be invited to send a representative to the workshop include:

- Cascades West Rideshare
- Corvallis Bicycle Collective
- Corvallis Sustainability Coalition Transportation Action Team
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Department of Human Services
- Disability Services Advisory Committee
- *Familias Activas*
- Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities/*Creciendo en Salud*
- Inter-Community Health Network (IHN-CCO)
- Local bicycle and pedestrian advisory committees
- Local Safe Routes to Schools Programs
- Local School Districts / school siting committees
- Linn County and Benton County Special Transportation Advisory Committees
- Linn-Benton Community College
- Linn-Benton Health Equity Alliance
- Linn-Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee
- Linn-Benton Housing Authority
- Oregon State University
- OSU Linn County Extension
- Samaritan Health Services/ Samaritan Coordinated Approach to Child Health Program
- Senior Services Advisory Committee
- Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

**Explain what you hope the workshop will accomplish.** A small cross-sector planning team is convening to help inform the workshop objectives, agenda/format, and target audience.

Anticipated workshop outcomes include:

1. Increase awareness among transportation planners and public health professionals of the link between health and transportation, parameters/limitations of addressing health through transportation planning, and share new best practices (Health-Transportation 101);
2. Inventory and share information about key transportation and public health planning initiatives underway in the region to identify opportunities to improve communication and coordination, including new partnerships with climate change adaptation planning partners;

3. Highlight capacity and resources available for community engagement/public process to ensure diverse voices and equity in transportation planning and decisions;
4. Identify public health-related objectives and performance measures that can be integrated into transportation plans and decision making (e.g. complete streets, built environment projects, bicycle and pedestrian plans, etc.);
5. Convene topic specific break-out educational discussions and discussions on barriers and opportunities for strengthening cross-sector alignment and planning activities;
6. Identify common needs/issues across Linn and Benton Counties and potential next steps for strengthening transportation/health initiatives in the region; and
7. Inventory potential policy issues of interest to policy makers and local community coalitions and groups.

**Include a letter or resolution from a local decision maker showing support for the proposed TGM workshop.** Pending from the Benton County Board of Commissioners.

Please contact me by phone (541-924-8458) or email [cmithcell@ocwcog.org](mailto:cmithcell@ocwcog.org) if you have additional questions or clarifications.

Regards,



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Cc:

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