

STIF Plan 2023-25

Proposed Projects

Project 1 – Qualified Entity Administrative Fee – Union County

Qualified Entity will charge up to \$12,000 each year for staff record keeping and reporting of all STIF and other state and federal funded transportation projects. Charges billed each quarter are based on actual time spent as reflected in logs maintained by employees.

Total STIF Cost	FY 2024 - \$12,000	FY 2025 - \$12,000	TOTAL - \$24,000
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Project 2 – Deviated Fixed Route – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. (CCNO)

This project will turn the current fixed route to a deviated fixed route & expand services. This project will be a combination of past STIF & STF projects. STIF projects from the past include Fare-Free for All Passengers and Fixed Route Yellow Line. Fare-Free for all passengers subsidized the fare cost for the Blue Fixed route and helped fund required Para-transit service. Fixed Route Yellow Line is a route that provides free public transportation to 1/4 of La Grande. The route services the high school, middle school, college, hospital, clinics, locations below the 200% poverty level, and major shopping centers. STF projects include Para-transit transportation and Fixed Route Blue. Para-transit service follows the FTA and ADA regulations when transportation operations provide a fixed route service. Fixed Route Blue line supports 1/4 of La Grande, servicing clinics, major shopping locations and government facilities. The deviated fixed route keeps above services and expands operations.

Project funding will maintain current services while public process is being adhered during transition to deviated fixed route. Route has already been planned and approved by Community Connection TAC committee. Once through the public process, the funding will then transfer to deviated fixed route. Service will then expand from 1/2 of La Grande to all of La Grande and Island City for the entire population including students, elderly, and people with disabilities. See attached.

Total STIF Cost	FY 2024 - \$412,630	FY 2025 - \$311,074	TOTAL - \$723,704
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Project 3 – CatLink – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. (CCNO)

Project is a continuation of a 2021-2023 STIF project providing demand response services to communities not currently serviced by the future deviated fixed route, (formally blue route, yellow route and para-transit services). Union County has many outlying small towns that previously did not have access to larger town amenities, medical facilities, shopping centers, government buildings, etc. This is a free fare service that makes public transit available to all Union County residents. The service will slightly be modified from last STIF to service the south half of the county Wednesdays and Fridays, and north half of the county Tuesdays and Thursdays. This will encourage ride sharing and ensure transportation is available on requested days. See attached.

This project was originally initiated through the 2019-2021 STIF formula fund and will cease to exist without future support from STIF/STF. To better maintain services Northeast Oregon Public Transit will divide the county into a north and south half to encourage ride sharing and ride availability on requested days.

Total STIF Cost FY 2024 - \$74,832 FY 2025 - \$82,315 TOTAL - \$157,147

Project 4 – Greyhound Connection Office – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc.

Project is a continuation from the 2019-2021 STIF formula project. Project maintains service hours for Greyhound ticket sales and local customer service. These additional service hours allow Greyhound services to continue in Union County and allow La Grande to be an active stop for Greyhound. Union County is 1 of 10 Greyhound stations left in Oregon where riders can have live customer service from a ticketing agent. Next closest location with live customer service is the Dalles and Ontario.

This project was initiated through the 2019-21 STIF formula fund and will cease to exist without future support from STIF/STF funding. Last year the Greyhound office in La Grande worked with 540 individuals providing station services and in person customer service.

Total STIF Cost FY 2024 - \$16,500 FY 2025 - \$16,500 TOTAL - \$33,000

Project 5 – Maintain & Improve Current Outdated Fleet – CCNO

Northeast Oregon Public Transit is needing to maintain its current fleet of 11 vehicles. Due to the failing supply chain during the covid pandemic new vehicles are estimated to be 16 months out if ordered now. In order to continue services and dealing with the increased cost of parts and maintenance services our current fleet needs to exceed their expected life span. For example, tire prices have increased cost by 25%. Parts for vehicles can be as far out as 2 months for a windshield. Funding would cover parts, repairs, for all aspects of the vehicle to safely support public transportation. Funding would also cover ADA required parts and repairs to ensure ADA compliance.

Project will help with the increased cost of vehicle repair and allow the vehicle fleet of Northeast Oregon Public Transit to sustain it services while newer vehicles arrive. The cause of increased cost and long waiting periods for vehicles directly corresponds with the Covid Pandemic. If not funded, vehicles could break down causing some services to cease and or be delayed.

Total STIF Cost FY 2024 – \$25,000 FY 2025 - \$25,000 TOTAL - \$50,000

Project 6 – Rides to Wellness – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon

Supporting our community with rides to medical appointments using the Rides to Wellness model providing door to door service to the residents of Union County. Riders must be unable to use the deviated fixed route or qualify for other medical transportation programs. Each ride will be assessed on a need-by-need basis dependent on the availability of resources. Trips can be out of county if healthcare services required are not provided in Union County. Historically, the program has focused services to

seniors and people with disabilities and will continue to do so if funded. Union County has a higher-than-normal senior population at 21.3% with the average in Oregon at 18.6%. To serve more clients and provide financial stability and continuous operation, a client co-pay will be instituted. The co-pay will be based on distance and as minimal a financial barrier as possible for the rider.

Supporting our community with rides to medical appointments using the Rides to Wellness model providing door to door service to the residents of Union County. Riders must be unable to use the deviated fixed route or qualify for other medical transportation programs. Each ride will be assessed on a need-by-need basis dependent on the availability of resources. The service will bridge the gap to support individuals that don't qualify for other medical transportation.

STIF Cost	FY 2024 - \$50,000	FY 2025 - \$55,000	TOTAL - \$105,000
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STIF Plan Summary

FY 2023 – 25 Anticipated Funds	\$983,451
FY 2021-23 Unspent Funds	\$109,400
Grant Total Expenditures	\$1,092,851