

LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS - OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER



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LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS - CEDAR CREEK FIRE UPDATE

The Cedar Creek Fire has greatly affected Lane County.

LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS has been supporting the region during the Cedar Creek Fire emergency in several ways.

We activated our Emergency Response due to increased activity and risk caused by the Cedar Creek Fire. Oregon DHS was notified and we worked with our Regional Emergency Coordinator in our outreach efforts. We activated our Support Response Team to call Senior and Disability Services consumers in areas affected by the planned Public Safety Power Shutoff (McKenzie River area – Vida, Deerhorn, Walterville, Leaburg; Outlying areas of Veneta and Lowell); and, those in the Level 1 Evacuation Zone (Oakridge and Westfir). Because the power outages were planned for a much larger area, we had all-hands-on-deck to assist us in quickly reaching consumers.

Our staff made calls to people in Oakridge/Westfir in regards to both power outage and evacuation needs, and also to the McKenzie River/Veneta/Lowell consumers in regards to the power outage. A list of consumers we were unable to contact or who may have been at higher risk were sent to Lane County.

We let our consumers know of the resources: including Oakridge Smoke Respite, Animal Shelter/Relocation, Transportation, Shelter, a Community Resource Center.

A RACE FOR THE REST OF US

LCOG Senior & Disability Services hosted its third annual Race for the Rest of Us! This fundraiser benefited our [Senior Meals Program](#) (Meals on Wheels and Cafe 60), which provides food and wellness checks to Lane County seniors and adults living with disabilities. Our 0.5k race was held virtually this year, due to air quality changes from the Cedar Creek Fire. We were able to raise \$4,237.40, which will allow us to purchase up to 816 meals for our participants! We would like to thank all of our sponsors and those who signed up to participate.



**GET THERE CHALLENGE
CELEBRATES 10TH YEAR**



The Get There Challenge helps Oregonians drive less and use other transportation options more. Now in its 10th year, the event has helped reduce traffic and emissions across the state, making Oregon a better place to live, work, and play.

The Get There Challenge is happening Oct. 3 through Oct. 16, 2022. **Anyone age 18 or older who lives and/or works in Oregon can join the Get There Challenge at any time, by visiting [GetThereOregon.org](https://www.getthereoregon.org).**

To celebrate 10 years, the Get There Challenge will offer 10 different transportation options achievements that participants can unlock at [GetThereOregon.org](https://www.getthereoregon.org) to earn points toward weekly and grand prize drawings. Achievements include logging trips, sharing your challenge story, optimizing your home office, and more.

Plus, grand prize winners will receive one of two \$500 Visa cash cards or \$1,500 toward a custom Bike Friday folding bike.

The Challenge is powered by Get There Connect, a trip planning and ride-matching tool. Get There is a program of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), promoted locally by Lane Council of Governments (LCOG). In partnership with other local sponsors, LCOG is proud to offer additional prize opportunities for Challenge participants who live in Lane County.

Image courtesy Get Oregon

**SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM
REOPENS IN COTTAGE GROVE**



Senior & Disability Services, a division of Lane Council of Governments, is pleased to announce its Senior Meals Site in Cottage Grove has reopened.

It is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at noon at 700 E. Gibbs Ave., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. For more information about the Senior Meals Program, call our Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) at 541-682-3353.

CLIMATE-FRIENDLY AREAS METHODS GUIDE

Kudos to GIS Senior Analyst Nick Seigal and Assistant Planner Rachel Dorfman for a job well done on creating a ***Climate Friendly Areas Methods Guide*** for the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DCLD) for statewide deployment.

DLCD developed the Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities rules to support communities taking action to meet Oregon's climate pollution reduction targets, while providing more housing and transportation choices for all. DLCD is providing this resource as part of its technical assistance program.

The State challenged LCOG to create a guide for communities to follow those new rules.

LCOG received high praise for Nick and Rachel's careful review of the rules and thoughtful incorporation into a guide. This was tricky work and required cooperative, but frank, communication with DCLD, advocating for our colleagues across the state, and a keen sense for detail and

user-friendliness -- all done on a thin budget.

Nick and Rachel did an excellent job and representation of what value LCOG can bring to the whole state. [Click here to read the guide!](#)

REGIONAL BROADBAND STRATEGY UPDATE

Lane Council of Governments has selected a vendor to create a regional broadband strategy to increase access to internet services throughout Lane County.

After soliciting [requests for proposals](#) (RFPs) in June 2022, an RFP Selection Committee chose CobbFendley and Associates of Olympia, Washington to create the strategy and funding response for the Lane County, Oregon region.

The committee -- comprised of partners from the City of Eugene, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Lane Council of Governments, Lane County, the City of Springfield, Springfield Utility Board, and the University of Oregon -- received six proposals. Following a rigorous review, including vendor interviews, the committee selected CobbFendley and an Intent to Award was released on Friday, September 2, 2022. LCOG staff have begun contract negotiations with the vendor and hope to reach an agreement by the end of October 2022.

CobbFendley will develop a plan and actionable steps toward providing enhanced and reliable broadband internet service to Lane County areas lacking appropriate coverage, maximize the region's competitiveness, and expand into underserved and unserved areas in Lane County.

"The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light the lack of reliable internet access to residents throughout Lane County when they needed it most, including for remote online school and working from home," said Michael Wisth, LCOG Government Services Division Director. "This project is a chance for Oregon to continue to be a leader on the broadband front."

The project's initial focus will be on connecting near-term project concepts, and other actionable steps towards providing enhanced and reliable Broadband Internet Service to Lane County areas lacking appropriate coverage, to immediate and near-term Federal funding opportunities (with an emphasis on ARPA Capital Projects, BEAD and Digital Equity grants). Focus will then turn to broader longer-term support structures contributing to the ability of rural and urban centers to increase speeds and equitable access.

In anticipation of this project, LCOG staff have begun recruiting for the Broadband Strategy Advisory Committee, staffed by area partners and stakeholders, who will oversee the work of the vendor throughout the course of the project.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL SERVICES



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

- October 14 - Coburg Scarecrow Festival - Coburg ([link](#))
- October 15-16 - Eugene Health & Wellness Expo - Eugene ([link](#))
- Various dates - Ghostly Golf at Camp Putt - Glenwood ([link](#))

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

In addition to this newsletter, LCOG hosts pages on Facebook, Twitter,

Instagram, and LinkedIn where members can track and find information about what's happening in the region. Scroll down and click on hit the buttons below the log, and be sure to like and follow LCOG's pages.



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