

STIF Plan 2025-27

Proposed Projects

Project 1 – Qualified Entity Administrative Fee – Union County

Qualified Entity will charge up to \$15,000 each year or \$3,750 per quarter 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 2026 - \$15,000 FY 2027 - \$15,000 TOTAL - \$30,000

Project 2 – Administrative Fee– Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. (CCNO)

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Public Service Transit Provider (PTSP), will charge up to \$15,000 each year or \$3,750 per quarter for staff record keeping, reporting, invoicing and other administrative duties supporting the STIF program.

Total STIF Cost FY 2026 - \$15,000 FY 2027 - \$15,000 TOTAL - \$30,000

Project 3 – Match for Federal Grants for 5311, 5311(f) and 5310

Community Connection of Northeast Oregon (CCNO) has a long history of utilizing additional funding sources other than STIF funding. This project would help to ensure the continuation of 5311, 5311(f), and 5310 services by helping to cover the required match for each grant/contract.

5311 funds are allocated to support CCNO administrative services and fully fund the Yellow Deviated Fixed Route and the Green Deviated Fixed Route.

Total STIF Cost FY 2026 - \$48,644 FY 2027 - \$48,646 TOTAL - \$97,290

Project 4 – Deviated Fixed Blue Route – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. (CCNO)

CCNO will continue to provide service to a well-established Blue route that complements our Yellow deviated fixed-route operations, ensuring comprehensive transportation coverage for the cities of La Grande and Island city. The Blue route will run from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday-Friday. Service will connect key locations including schools, low-income and senior neighborhoods, hospitals, clinics, shopping centers, and government buildings. All routes will remain fare free and will continue to tie in with the yellow deviated fixed route multiple times a day. All vehicles are equipped with ADA-compliant lifts, and our trained staff are prepared to assist riders of all demographics. A unique feature of this service is its route deviation.

Total STIF Cost FY 2026 - \$190,000 FY 2027 - \$200,000 TOTAL - \$390,000

Project 5 – Rides to Wellness – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. (CCNO)

Rides to Wellness provides essential door-to-door transportation for Union County residents who lack other means of accessing medical care. The program serves seniors and people with disabilities, ensuring resources are allocated effectively. While La Grande offers in-town demand response service, Rides to Wellness primarily focuses on out-of-town medical appointments, addressing the gap in access to specialized healthcare. Historically, the program has served seniors and individuals with disabilities. This biennium, its scope has expanded to include Veterans, reflecting a commitment to broader community service. As financial and staffing resources allow, the service may further extend to general public people with low incomes. To maintain financial sustainability, a co-pay system has been introduced, ensuring services remain affordable while contributing to operational costs. This approach allows Rides to Wellness to continue bridging critical transportation gaps in Union County.

Total STIF Cost FY 2026 - \$100,000 FY 2027 - \$100,000 TOTAL - \$200,000

Project 6 – CatLink – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. (CCNO)

CatLink is an evolving public transit project funded by STIF for the past two biennium’s. Union County is home to many small outlying towns that previously lacked access to essential services such as medical facilities, shopping centers, government buildings, and other amenities in larger towns. This fare-free service now provides public transit access to all Union County residents. CatLink operates two days a week for the southern half of Union County and two days a week for the northern half. By dividing this demand-response service into north and south zones, the program promotes ride-sharing and ensures greater availability of transportation on requested days.

The service is designed to adapt to the community's needs. When resources allow, ride schedulers can adjust travel dates flexibly to better serve Union County residents and maximize available resources.

Total STIF Cost FY 2026 - \$60,000 FY 2027 - \$60,000 TOTAL - \$120,000

Project 7 – Vehicle Maintenance – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. (CCNO)

This project aims to cover the cost of vehicle repairs and upgrades not included under preventative maintenance. Given our aging fleet and the extended timeline for vehicle replacement, addressing specific repairs and upkeep is essential to maintaining the fleet's mechanical reliability and appearance. This would include mechanical repairs such as transmission or gearbox replacements, as well as visual and functional updates like decal replacement, deep cleaning, camera purchases, and minor paint repairs.

Total STIF Cost FY 2026 - \$49,000 FY 2027 - \$50,299 TOTAL - \$99,299

Project 8 – Greyhound Connection Office – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. (CCNO)

The Greyhound Connection Office is a continuation of services provided over the past two biennium's. This project ensures operational service hours for Greyhound ticket sales and local customer service. These hours allow Greyhound services to remain available in Union County and keep La Grande as an active stop for Greyhound. In 2022, Union County was one of only 10 locations remaining in Oregon where riders could interact directly with a transit customer service representative and purchase tickets. However, following the merger of Greyhound and FlexBus, the number of manned ticket stations and bus stops has been declining.

Total STIF Cost FY 2026 - \$17,000 FY 2027 - \$17,000 TOTAL - \$34,000

Project 9 – Demand Response – Community Connection of Northeast Oregon, Inc. (CCNO)

Demand-response services in Union County offer flexible public transportation designed to meet the needs of residents, particularly those in remote areas without access to fixed-route transit systems, as well as individuals requiring additional assistance to access public transportation. These services are primarily intended to connect residents with essential amenities such as medical facilities, shopping centers, government buildings, and public transportation service connectors. This fare-free service continues from the previous biennium and ensures equal access to customer service for all residents of Union County.

Union County supports a fleet of class D busses, E-1 vans, mini vans, and drivers are highly trained to accommodate all passengers. All vehicles are equipped with ADA-compliant lifts, and our trained staff are prepared to assist riders of all demographics. A unique feature of this service is its ability to support the deviated fixed routes with a demand response component.

Total STIF Cost FY 2026 - \$85,000 FY 2027 - \$90,000 TOTAL - \$175,000

FY 2025-27 Anticipated Funds \$1,175,589