



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Land Conservation and Development

Planning Services Division

635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150

Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Phone: 503-373-0050

Fax: 503-378-5518

www.oregon.gov/LCD

22 February 2023

TO: John Day City Council

FROM: Madeline Phillips, Rural Transportation Planner, DLCD

RE: John Day Rural Connectivity Project



The City of John Day applied for and was awarded a Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) grant in June 2022 to explore multi-modal connectivity, focused on challenges and opportunities for those considered transportation disadvantaged. Folks who do not own vehicles, lower-income folks, and/or those too young or too old to drive, are good examples of individuals this project is focused on. With a goal of identifying strategic connectivity opportunities that will support members of the community having a variety of transportation options to reach their daily needs and resources (like work, school, groceries, and/or public facilities like parks), our team hopes to deliver an action-oriented Investment Plan to the City that will support future grant funding applications and other implementation approaches.

Over the past eight months, John Day Staff have formed a project team with DLCD Staff, Consor Strategic Planning & Communications, and Kittelson & Associates. We've completed substantial work to:

- Assess the existing network of paths, sidewalks, and crossings, with a particular focus on what they connect to/from;
- Pull together existing planning documents that identify future project needs and opportunities;
- Better understand the demographics of the John Day community;
- Conduct site visit(s); and
- Strategize how and where to reach folks for whom this work will benefit most.

The project team looks forward to our next step of stakeholder interviews to engage members of the community in discussion about transportation options, especially connections by walking, biking, and rolling. Open houses in the Spring will provide the opportunity for all community members to weigh in with their input. We look forward to hearing everyone's perspective on what challenges folks face in navigating the city, as well as key opportunities to improve the choices folks have in getting where they want to go.

In late Spring, the project team hopes to return to City Council with findings from interviews and other public engagement activities to highlight connectivity opportunities and share our knowledge of resources available in the funding landscape. Our final product, for your consideration, will include maps, project descriptions, supporting work the team performed to highlight those opportunities, and key funding resources on the immediate horizon to support the City bringing these strategic projects to fruition.

The City of John Day's geographic significance, community composition, and recent investments positions the community to be a model for other rural communities statewide in exploring how to engage rural folks in transportation discussions in order to strategically invest in connectivity infrastructure. Your support for our work is greatly appreciated.