



Tuesday, July 11, 2023

## Regional Updates

### Mid-Valley Region – Beth Wytoski

- **Community Input Sought for Hwy22 Interchange Redesign in Polk County:** Polk County is working on a safety-related interchange redesign on OR22 – Rickreall Rd to Doaks Ferry Rd NW. They are hosting an in-person open house event on July 12<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Polk County Fairgrounds in Building B. They are also welcoming comment through a virtual open house until Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at <http://odotopenhouse.org/or22-or51-interchange>. On July 26<sup>th</sup> the Polk County Board of Commissioners will host presentations at 9 AM, where ODOT will present gathered information. Thereafter, one or two interchange alternatives will move forward.

### South Coast Region – Jessica LaBerge

- **Regional Solutions and Partners Tour Curry County:** Regional Solutions staff recently joined Business Oregon, the Oregon Employment Department and the South Coast Development Council on a tour of Curry County. The group visited with the City of Brookings, City of Gold Beach, City of Port Orford, Curry County Commissioners, Port of Brookings Harbor, Port of Gold Beach, Port of Port Orford and Port of Bandon. Really exciting to hear about projects, infrastructure, funding, and collaboration at the local level. Still many challenges remain including housing is greatly needed in general; workforce housing was top of everyone’s list (recruiting new workers to the area has been slow due to lack of housing), workforce development (opportunity for partnerships as businesses struggle to find qualified candidates), and infrastructure upgrades or needed improvements for housing/business expansion.

## Resources and Opportunities

### Help Oregon Plan for Broadband Access and Digital Equity

In late June, Governor Kotek [announced](#) that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will be allocating \$688.9 million to Oregon to help improve access to affordable, high-speed, reliable internet in unserved and underserved communities across Oregon.

The funding allocation will be used to develop and deploy the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program from President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure law. The Broadband Office is currently in the planning and development phase of their BEAD and Digital Equity (DE) programming.

Business Oregon's Broadband Office is currently seeking community input as the agency readies a five-year action plan and initial proposal to map out how to use this funding. Input via the surveys and meetings will be crucial to inform the plan and gather information about specific barriers, needs, and opportunities related to high-speed internet access. For more information on how to participate, [click here](#).

### Oregon CHIPS Act Funding – Applications Due July 28

In August of 2022, President Biden signed the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act into law that is intended to spur investment in U.S. advanced manufacturing, bolster supply chains, and invest in research and development. To ensure Oregon's significant semiconductor sector takes full advantage of the financial benefits available through the federal legislation, the state is coordinating with local, regional, and private sector partners.

To take advantage of federal CHIPS Act funding for semiconductor manufacturers and the semiconductor supply chain, the Oregon Legislature passed [Senate Bill 4](#), which allocates up to \$190 million to support Oregon firms applying for CHIPS dollars. An additional \$50 million was also made available by the legislature at the end of the 2023 session. The Oregon CHIPS Fund can provide direct funding via loans and grants for eligible projects.

This funding opportunity seeks applications that will support investment in the construction, expansion, and modernization of commercial facilities in Oregon. Emphasis will be placed on applications that promote the creation, expansion, and preservation of semiconductor and advanced manufacturing in Oregon, and that encourage diversification and preservation of regional economies. These awards are intended to serve as covered incentives to assist businesses for purposes of federal semiconductor financial assistance from the US Department of Commerce.

Semiconductor firms are encouraged to complete their application that can be found on the [Oregon CHIPS Fund](#) website or below. The application, as well as any questions, should be submitted via email to [Oregon.CHIPS@oregon.gov](mailto:Oregon.CHIPS@oregon.gov). The application period will remain open through July 28, 2023, for this initial submittal. Additional rounds will be dependent on availability of funds.

[Oregon CHIPS Fund Application](#)

[Oregon CHIPS Fund Application Guide](#)

[Oregon CHIPS Fund Temporary Rules](#)