STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUNDS (STIF) AND STF FUNDS

**2023-2025**

Applications Summary

**AS PROPOSED BY THE APPLICANTS**

Baker County

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| **Project Description** | **Funding Requested** |
| **Baker County Administration**:  Preserves the QE’s Administrative and oversight functions for public mobility programs serving Baker County.  Funding for existing Baker County staff at up to .25 FTE. | FY 2024  $20,000  FY 2025  $20,000 |
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| **STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total** | **$40,000** |
| **Ranking** |  |
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| **Emergency Contingency Fund:** During the current biennium, several emergencies occurred that we were unable to help the subrecipients due to the stringent contract with the State. This project will use carry-over funds from the FY 2021-2023 biennium to finance emergency only situations, such as an immediate need for an ADA vehicle due to a crash or needed repairs. It could also be used as a cushion to continue a project at a reduced amount, in lieu of stopping the project all together. Only projects funded through STIF will be eligible.  This project would allow for funds to be available to subrecipients for emergency use only. The funds would only be granted under exceptional, non-foreseeable circumstances, reimbursed only for the receipted amount, and only after review and approval by the Baker County Commissioners.  Funds could be used for operation or capital expenses. | FY 2024  $50,000  FY 2025  $50,000 |
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| **STIF Only – Project Provider Biennium Total** | **$100,000** |
| **Ranking** |  |
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# Elkhorn Taxi

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| **Project Description** | **Funding Requested** |
| **Schoolpool:**  The need for this program was brought to the attention of Elkhorn Taxi by parents and daycare providers throughout Baker City. The parents that can afford to, already use this service. The Schoolpool program was developed to reduce fares so everyone can utilize the program.  Reduced Rate transportation for students K-12. Currently, the transportation for schools that are available are walking to/from school, the school bus system which drops off in specific locations around Baker, and students walk from the stop to their after school destination which, depending on the location, could be a long walk or unsafe for a student, or pickup/drop off from school.    Schoolpool would provide door to door pickup and drop offs for students to their specific destinations. This can be to school in the morning, after school programs, after school daycare, transportation home from sports practices or clubs.  This program gives parents an additional option for transportation for their student(s) from a safe and caring transit provider. This program also gives students more access for activities like sports and after school clubs.  Subsidized fares will be reduced from the City rate of $8 per ride per student to $1 per ride per student. This total cost comes from an average of 500 rides per month over a (12) month time-frame.  This is a 100% student transportation plan. | FY 2024  $43,200  FY 2025  $43,200 |
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| **STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total** | **$86,400** |
| **Ranking** |  |
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| **Workforce on Demand**:  This project will continue, and increase, the use of the Workforce On Demand project funded in 2021-2023. It has been an outstanding success with employers and employees and has helped to keep employees on the job that do not have personal transportation available.  This project provides a reduced fare, punch-card system to meet workforce demands. It promotes economic opportunity, and increased economic viability, by providing affordable, safe, efficient, and equitable transportation to jobs in Baker City. This proposal provides 65% subsidy for employees to get to their places of employment.  There has been an identified need by employers to have a way to get employees to, and from, the place of employment. One of the biggest excuses for employees not accepting jobs is the lack of transportation.  This is a demand/response transportation service. The taxi will pick employees up at their homes or places of employment and deliver them to their homes/places of employment *only*. Since this is a punch-card system, a rider can modify their transportation to be round-trip or one-way to meet their needs. There is no transportation subsidy on this program to places other than home or the job.  Currently, the cost/ride without subsidy is $8.00.  Subsidized rides at 75% will cost the rider (or employer) $2.00/ride.  BCWOD has provided rides to 1975 employees to and from work from July 2021 – Sept. 2022. Ridership continues to increase. | FY 2024  $59,700  FY 2025  $61,000 |
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| **STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total** | **$120,700** |
| **Ranking** |  |
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| **Reduced Fares:**  This is an On-Demand service. Riders can access the taxi during regular hours and can prearrange a ride if their transport is outside of regular hours.  This program would reduce rider’s taxi fares from the City set fare of $8 down to $2 per ride. This will significantly increase on-demand access to transportation to our particularly vulnerable population. Anyone, would be eligible for the rate reduction, but further support key target populations: seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income households, and veterans. Adding a reduced fare program would increase service frequency for Baker City.  Elkhorn Taxi operates typically 7am – 2am with the availability for prearranged time calls from 2am – 7am.  Elkhorn Taxi is not like services in metropolitan areas where people such as business owners, CEOs, and downtown traffic use taxi services. Our regular riders are typically the low income, seniors, veteran and people with disabilities that need to get somewhere, often at a moment’s notice, and from their doorstep**.** | FY 2024  $65,700  FY 2025  $65,700 |
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| STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total | **$131,400** |
| Ranking |  |
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| Elkhorn Medical Express: This project will continue and increase the rides to wellness program from the FY 2021-2023 FTA 5310 funds. *This STIF request is for the match rate of 10.27% to the FTA 5310 funding.* Elkhorn Taxi has renamed this service “Elkhorn Medical Express”.  This is for seniors and people with disabilities. Currently, our medical transportation program for in town is running 7-days per week, and can be called when needed for medical transport for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Our out of town medical transport typically runs Monday-Friday when the out of town specialty clinics are open.  We provide service to Baker City residents as well as community members from Halfway, Richland, New Bridge, Huntington, Sumpter, Haines, Keating, Medical Springs, and Wingville.  In town transport may be provided any day, at any time, to any authorized destination, from any authorized pickup address.  Elkhorn Medical express program will provide a demand/response for in town medical transport as well as support for out of town regional transport.  From July 2021 until Sept. 2022, we have completed 917 rides in town totaling 3,533 miles. In addition to 174 medical rides out of town, which includes the rural bedroom communities, totaling 26,407.92 miles. We expect to increase these numbers next biennium. | FY 2024  $12,953  FY 2025  $12,953 |
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| STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total | **$26,906** |
| Ranking |  |
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| Transit Manager/Dispatcher: This project pays a portion of the salary and benefits for the Transit Manager and Staff persons who runs the daily transportation operations. Dispatch is generally handled by the drivers, however, all medical transports and school-age transports are handled through the main office Transit Manager.  Transportation services provided through this position include; demand response in Baker City and rural Baker County, intercity and non-emergency medical transports. Transit Manager job duties include but are not limited to; scheduling drivers, scheduling rides, as well as vehicle maintenance and records, managing accounting software, general office duties, reporting, and driving when needed. | FY 2024  $64,000  FY 2025  $65,920 |
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| STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total | **$129,920** |
| Ranking |  |
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| ADA Vehicle Purchase: This is a capital expenditure to purchase an ADA wheelchair accessible vehicle.  Experiences during the 2021-2023 biennium have shown that it is very important to have an additional ADA compliant vehicle available 24-hours a day/7 days/week.  Since beginning the non-emergency medical transport for seniors and individuals with disabilities, it has become apparent that the county needs additional ADA compliant vehicles to better meet the needs of the riders.  This project will purchase an ADA wheelchair compliant vehicle that is all wheel drive. Because Baker County’s rural bedroom communities can have inclement weather at any time, ensuring safety as well as the best chance to get to the rider, is a priority. Added to this need is the requirement for accessibility. The all-wheel drive that we will purchase has additional seating besides the wheelchair accessible seating in the back so we would be able to transport additional passengers or caregivers, thereby increasing the utilization of the vehicle. | FY 2024  $90,000 |
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| STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total | **$90,000** |
| Ranking |  |

# Community Connections of NE Oregon, Inc.

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| **Project Description** | **Funding Requested** |
| **Demand/Response in Baker County**:  This project is a continuation of a 2021-23 STIF project.  This project is combining two previous STIF Formula Funded projects.   1. Previously Demand Response and Deviated Fixed Route services around Baker City reduced fares from $2 to $1 per board, this project will now reduce fares to free. The Baker City Demand Response service operates Monday through Friday from 7am to 6pm, which is the same time frame currently as our Deviated Fixed Route. 2. It also establishes fare free rides and continues the rural demand response service three days per week for the rural areas of the local valley such as Keating, Haines, Medical Springs, Wingville and Rock Creek to Baker City. Also, one day per week from Baker City to Huntington to Ontario and Sumpter to Baker City.Baker County residents primarily use these transportation services to facilitate medical, dental and mental health appointments, as well as, to meet their necessary shopping needs. 3. Expanded Service Hours Deviated Fixed Route (weekdays = 15 hours / weekend 8 hours)   Continuation of expanded hours of Deviated Fixed Route from Monday through Friday 8am - 5pm to Monday through Friday 7am – 7pm, and Saturdays 8am – 12pm and 1pm – 5pm.  CCNO is requesting that this be FREE FARE for all riders. | FY 2024  $67,797  FY 2025  $74,577 |
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| **STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total** | **$142,374** |
| **Ranking** |  |
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| **Assistant Transit Manager:**  This project is a continuation of a 2023-25 STIF Formula Funding project. This project pays the salary and benefits for the Assistant Transit Manager staff person who runs the daily transportation operations. This is a full-time position at 40 hours per week.  Transportation services provided through this position include; deviated fixed route, demand response in Baker City and rural Baker County, intercity route and non-emergency medical transports. Job duties  include but are not limited to; scheduling drivers, scheduling rides to medical, dental and mental health appointments, as well as necessary shopping, vehicle maintenance and records, dispatching, managing  transportation software, reporting, coordination and scheduling required bus driver trainings, directing bus drivers and bus driving when needed. | FY 2024  $68,043  FY 2025  $74,847 |
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| **STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total** | **$142,890** |
| **Ranking** |  |
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| **Deviated Fixed Route/Free Fare:**  To better serve the community, we are requesting additional funding for the route to become fare free to all passengers. Supporting fare free service to all passengers will increase ridership by removing financial barriers.  The current route runs Monday through Friday 7am – 6pm. To better serve the community we are asking for funding to expand operation hours to meet the local transportation needs. New hours of operation will be 7am – 7pm Monday through Friday and 8am – 5pm on Saturdays. Expanded and extended hours of service benefit the community allowing riders to use the service for additional needs. Example, individuals who have to be at work by 8am could now use the Deviated Fixed Route.  This project keeps the current deviated fixed route in service in Baker city. This is a well-established service that community members rely on for basic transportation needs. The route supports the entire City of Baker City with key locations supporting schools, low-income and senior neighborhoods, hospitals, clinics, shopping centers, and government building. All vehicles are equipped with ADA compliant lifts and trained staff to support all ridership demographics. Additional key components that correspond with this service include ¾ mile deviation of the route to incorporate all of Baker city and access to all schools including grades 9-12. The Free Fare component alleviates the need for the Baker School District DAWG student passes.  This project keeps the current deviated fixed route service in Baker City. | FY 2024  $74,255  FY 2025  $81,683 |
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| **STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total** | **$155,938** |
| **Ranking** |  |
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| **Rides to Wellness:**  This is a continuation of a FY 2021-2023 program.  Supporting our community with rides to medical appointments using the Rides to Wellness model providing door to door service to the residents of Baker 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 Baker County. Historically, the program has focused services to seniors and people with disabilities and will continue to do so if funded. Baker county has a higher than average senior population at 26.9% with the average in Oregon at 18%. To service 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. ADA requirements are met with all vehicles and trained staff which meets safety requirements. | FY 2024  $30,000  FY 2025  $45,500 |
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| **STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total** | **$75,500** |
| **Ranking** |  |
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**Step Forward**

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| **Project Description** | **Funding Requested** |
| **ADA Complimentary Transit:**  Previously, this project was funded solely under the STF funds. If funded, it will come out of the “population based” STIF funds.  We will use this project to help with the expenses of transportation. We are currently responsible for transportation of (33) clients with physical or mental disabilities. We are their sole means for transportation for all appointments, grocery shopping, transport to work, monthly bills, and so much more.  This project covers the maintenance costs and vehicle servicing. | FY 2024  $22,000  FY 2025  $22,000 |
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| **STIF Only - Project Provider Biennium Total** | **$44,000** |
| **Ranking** |  |

**Totals Requested:**

Elkhorn Taxi

FY 2024 = $335,553

FY 2025 = $205,573

$541,126

Community Connection of NE Oregon **TOTAL ALL PROJECTS**

FY 2024 = $240,095 FY 2024 = $667,648

FY 2025 = $276,607 FY 2025 = $574,180

$516,702 $1,241,828

Step Forward

FY 2024 = $22,000

FY 2025 = $22,000

$44,000

Baker County

FY 2024 = $70,000

FY 2025 = $70,000

$140,000