



Metro



# 2023-26 Regional Travel Options Grant Information Session #1

November 9, 2022

# Today's purpose

- Go over RTO Grant Program, application process and timeline (~45 min)
- Answer questions
- Remaining time? Roundtable
  - Introduce yourself/organization, what sort of travel options efforts you focus on (or want to focus on) in the region

# Metro Regional Travel Options (RTO) Program

The RTO program provides grants and supports efforts that increase travel options use.

Three areas of emphasis:

1. Commute
2. Safe Routes to School
3. Community



# Commute

- Employer commute benefit program assistance
- Programming for students and staff commuters
- Marketing & outreach programs
- TDM planning & coordination





# Safe Routes to School


- Support for kids and families attending public K-12 schools
- Education, Encouragement, Engagement & Evaluation
- Regional program includes grants, regional coordination, and technical assistance



# Community

- Travel support for trips outside of work/school
- Meeting and supporting people where they are – multi-family housing, community centers, community events
- Metro support to coordinate programming, identify gaps, build capacity



 **Transportation Wallet**  
FOR RESIDENTS IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Transportation Wallet is a package of **FREE transportation options** to help you get where you need to go.

**OPTION 1** **Transit for a Year**  
Unlimited rides with a twelve-month Reduced Fare Pass. Must have Honored Citizen Photo ID Hop card.

**OPTION 2** **All Modes**  
\$200 loaded on your Hop card  
BIKETOWN for All or Adaptive BIKETOWN membership  
\$75 Visa card for e-scooters, Lyft, Uber, and/or Taxi

**OPTION 3** **All Modes Household**  
\$225 - \$300 loaded on Hop cards (depending on household size)  
BIKETOWN for All or Adaptive BIKETOWN membership  
\$75 - \$150 Visa card for e-scooters, Lyft, Uber, and/or Taxi (depending on household size)

*First come, first served*

# RTO Grant Program

Grants to increase access to, and use of, travel options

- Biking
- Walking/rolling
- Public transit
- Shared mobility
- Telecommuting
- Carpool/vanpool



# RTO Grant Eligibility Reminders

- Must increase access to, and use of, travel options
- Must occur within the Portland Metropolitan Planning Area
- Must align with Metro's 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2018 Regional Travel Options (RTO) Strategy



# RTO Grant Eligibility Reminders

- Who can apply:
  - Government agencies
  - Colleges/Universities/School Districts
  - Non-Profits
- All grants are reimbursement-based
- 10.27% Match required

# 2023 – 2026 RTO Grants

Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2023	Grant applications open
March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Grant applications due
July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Funding available, grant activity begins
2024, 2025, 2026	Fiscal Years for which funding is available
\$9.14 million	Estimated funding available

# RTO Grant Program Updates

Grant program updates informed by:

- 2022 RTO Racial Equity Strategy
- 2022 RTO Commute Program Action Plan
- Partner + stakeholder feedback

# RTO Grant Program

Tracks

Core + Emerging  
Partners Track

RTO General  
Grants Track

RTO Small Grants  
Track

Categories

Core  
Partners

TO  
Community  
Services

RTO Mini-  
Grants

Emerging  
Partners

Infrastructure

SRTS Mini-  
Grants

Innovation

Program  
Areas

Commute

Community

SRTS



# Core + Emerging Partners Track

- Funds organizations that have, or are working towards, a long-standing commitment to supporting travel options as a key organizational function.
- Applicants will work collaboratively with RTO staff to determine scope and budget

Invitation only, 1-3 year agreements

Apply on Zoomgrants

Separate applications for RTO Program Areas: Commute, Community, SRTS

Letter of Interest due Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Full application due March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Grant awards starting at \$50,000

# RTO General Grants Track

Funding for a variety of travel options initiatives

- Travel Options (TO) Community Services
- Infrastructure
- Innovation

Prioritizes new applicants and specific project ideas

Open annually

Apply on Zoomgrants

Projects can include multiple RTO

Program Areas:

Commute,  
Community, SRTS

Letter of Interest due  
March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Full application due  
March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Grant awards starting  
at \$5,000

# Travel Options (TO)

## Community Services

- Funding for organizations to support travel options for the communities they serve, regardless of whether the organization itself has a transportation focus.
- Services to meet specific needs identified by community organizations
- Application open annually, 1-3 year grant agreement

# Infrastructure

- Supportive infrastructure to help people use active transportation
- Eligible projects:
  - Wayfinding signage
  - Bike parking/lockers/repair stations
  - Public demonstration projects (i.e. Better Block)
- Application open annually, 1-year grant agreement



# Innovation

- New ideas, approaches, audiences, and/or technologies that encourage or assist people to use travel options
- “Innovation” is a flexible definition
- Application open annually, 1-3 year grant agreement

# RTO Small Grants Track

Small awards intended to help with events or small purchases to support outreach

- RTO Mini-Grants
- SRTS Mini-Grants

Materials and supplies only – no staff time

Apply anytime, rolling award schedule throughout 3-year cycle

Simplified online form

Individual award cap at \$5,000

1 application per org per Fiscal Year

# RTO Mini-Grants

- Formerly “Sponsorships and TO Assistance”
- Open to all eligible RTO applicants
- Eligible Examples:
  - Educational materials or supplies for events
  - Incentives (gift cards) or giveaways (bike lights, helmets, etc)

# SRTS Mini-Grants

- Open to all SRTS programs and public K-12 schools/districts (or non-profit school PTOs)
- Same eligible items and funding level as RTO mini-grants; application with slightly different questions tailored toward SRTS programs
- Application will include existing 'SRTS *micro* grants' (\$500) for individual schools



# RTO Grant Program

Tracks

Core + Emerging  
Partners Track

RTO General  
Grants Track

RTO Small Grants  
Track

Categories

Core  
Partners

TO  
Community  
Services

RTO Mini-  
Grants

Emerging  
Partners

Infrastructure

SRTS Mini-  
Grants

Innovation

Program  
Areas

Commute

Community

SRTS

# Key Dates for 2023

January 3	All applications open
February 3	Core + Emerging LOI due
March 10	RTO General Grants LOI due
March 31	All applications due*

\*RTO Small Grants Track open on a rolling basis from Jan 3, no deadline

# Resources:

- RTO Grant Application Handbook – coming Dec 2022
- Scope of Work Template
  - Required for all applicants (except Small Grants Track)
  - Available now for download

**Learn more**

[oregonmetro.gov/rto-grants](https://oregonmetro.gov/rto-grants)

# What's Next:

- Additional RTO grant info sessions:
  - Core + Emerging Partners:  
Wed Jan 18, 2023  
10 am-noon
  - General/Small Grants:  
Tues Jan 24, 2023  
2-4 pm

**Learn more**

[oregonmetro.gov/rto-grants](https://oregonmetro.gov/rto-grants)



# Questions?

Contact this RTO staff member for the following:

RTO Commute Program Area and Get There:

**Marne Duke**

**[Marne.Duke@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:Marne.Duke@oregonmetro.gov)**

RTO Community + SRTS Program Areas and RTO  
Racial Equity Strategy:

**Noel Mickelberry**

**[Noel.Mickelberry@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:Noel.Mickelberry@oregonmetro.gov)**

RTO grant applications and reporting:

**Grace Stainback**

**[Grace.Stainback@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:Grace.Stainback@oregonmetro.gov)**

General RTO Program inquiries:

**Summer Blackhorse**

**[Summer.Blackhorse@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:Summer.Blackhorse@oregonmetro.gov)**

RTO grant program invoicing, budgeting, and  
federal requirements:

**Mary Anderson**

**[Mary.Anderson@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:Mary.Anderson@oregonmetro.gov)**

RTO Program Manager:

**Daniel Kaempff**

**[Daniel.Kaempff@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:Daniel.Kaempff@oregonmetro.gov)**

Contact RTO General Inbox at

**[rto@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:rto@oregonmetro.gov)**

**oregonmetro.gov**

