



100 HIGH STREET S.E., Suite 200 | SALEM, OREGON 97301 | www.mwvcog.org
T: 503.588.6177 | F: 503-588-6094 | E: mwvcog@mwvcog.org
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DATE: February 11, 2022
TO: Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
FROM: Scott Dadson, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Council of Governments Support for Community Needs

The State of Oregon's communities are supported by voluntary ORS 190 organizations called Councils of Governments (COGs). There are five (5) COGs in the State of Oregon, outside of Metro which has taxing authority. While these COGs vary in their service delivery based upon regional needs, they are consistent in their support of the local governments with membership comprised of Counties, Cities, Special Service Districts, and in some cases tribal governments, in achieving National, State, and Local needs and compliance through technical assistance, coordination of services, and economies of scale necessary in a marketplace of scarce resources to fund necessary public goods and services and meet local, state, and federal regulatory requirements.

The economies of scale and cooperative nature of the COGs help our membership, both large and small, to meet the many needs that are required of them.

For example, many of our communities with populations of 10,000 persons or less, while not mandated to meet the density and housing provisions in HB 2001 and 2003, are seeing similar and significant increases in housing and other development pressures and yet are ineligible for the technical and funding assistance associated with HB 2001 and 2003. Both the lack of capacity in our smaller communities with less than 10k in population and the stressed capacity of our larger members has created a serious need for assistance. Therefore, the COGS desire to support and partner to help our member local governments in meeting the population and housing needs of a region. To build the capacity to meet development pressure demands, we are asking for funding to help our communities meet the planning and project development requirements to support housing build out.

As such, the five COGs have come together to ask for financial support to provide the following:

- Land use planning and administrative support to ensure housing development pressures are addressed regionally amongst all communities in a shared effort and funding assistance is available to communities, large and small, to meet this housing crisis;
- Grant management and administrative staffing increases to provide our communities with staffing support to plan for and prioritize ARPA funding and Capital Project Budgeting, Planning and Grant/admin; and

- Financial management in project development, resource allocation, and integrating opportunities.

The Councils of Governments in the State have discussed and agree that support from the State in assisting our member governments in achieving the State Goals of HB 2001, HB 2003, ARPA Funding, and Infrastructure Planning and Development opportunities that will be available in the IJA Infrastructure Bill from the US Congress, that a direct ask of \$250,000 per COG (combined ask of \$1.5 million) in order to support our communities in meeting recent and urgent needs.

Council of Governments Capacity Support (to include Metro) - \$1.5 million

- Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council - \$250,000
- Lane COG - \$250,000
- Oregon Cascades West COG - \$250,000
- Rogue Valley COG - \$250,000
- Mid-Willamette Valley COG - \$250,000
- Metro - \$250,000