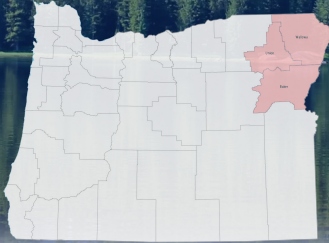


# Union

# Baker

# Wallowa



## Northeast Oregon Public Transportation



### About Us

Northeast Oregon Public Transportation (NEOPT) provides reliable bus and non-emergency medical transportation services across Union, Baker, and Wallowa counties. We connect rural communities—including seniors, persons with disabilities, veterans, and the general public—with essential destinations like work, job training, schools, grocery stores, banks, and health appointments. Whether you're commuting or running errands, NEOPT is here to make your travel easier and more accessible. Providing safe, reliable public transportation to Baker, Union, and Wallowa counties.



### STIF Routes

#### Union County

With the addition of STIF funding in 2019, Union's fixed route expanded into two different routes: the Yellow route and the Blue route, covering all of La Grande. Last year, we transitioned from a fixed bus route to a deviated bus route, extending service to all of Island City with trip intervals of just 45 minutes. This change allowed us to serve new low-income areas, grocery stores, and schools, providing route access to an additional 5,000 community members.

Our Rides2Wellness program, also supported by STIF, continues to offer vital transportation for elderly and low-income individuals, ensuring they can attend essential medical appointments when no other options are available.

Thanks to STIF funding, we were able to provide over 31,500 fare-free rides through multiple projects in FY24.

#### Baker County



In Baker County, we operate the Baker City deviated fixed route, offering free bus service Monday through Saturday to several key locations in Baker City.

We also provide several rural demand response shuttle services, funded by STIF. One of the key services is the Thursday shuttle from Baker City to Huntington and Ontario, a 74-mile one-way trip. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, passengers can request shuttles to Haines, Keating, Medical Springs, or other areas in Baker Valley. Baker County also offers a R2Wellness program serving the same objectives as Union County.

Thanks to STIF, Baker County was able to provide over 15,000 fare-free rides through multiple projects in FY24.

#### Wallowa County



Our Rides2Wellness program continues to be a vital service for Wallowa County, offering transportation to elderly and low-income residents for essential medical appointments, especially when other options aren't available. We've expanded our Deviated Fixed Route from a seasonal Summer Shuttle to a year-round service, ensuring that more people can access necessary medical care, shopping, and banking. This expansion has also made a big difference for residents like those living in Joseph, who now have reliable transportation to and from their jobs in Enterprise, helping them maintain steady employment and stay connected to the community.

Thanks to STIF Wallowa County was able to provide over 1,200 fare-free rides through multiple projects in FY24.

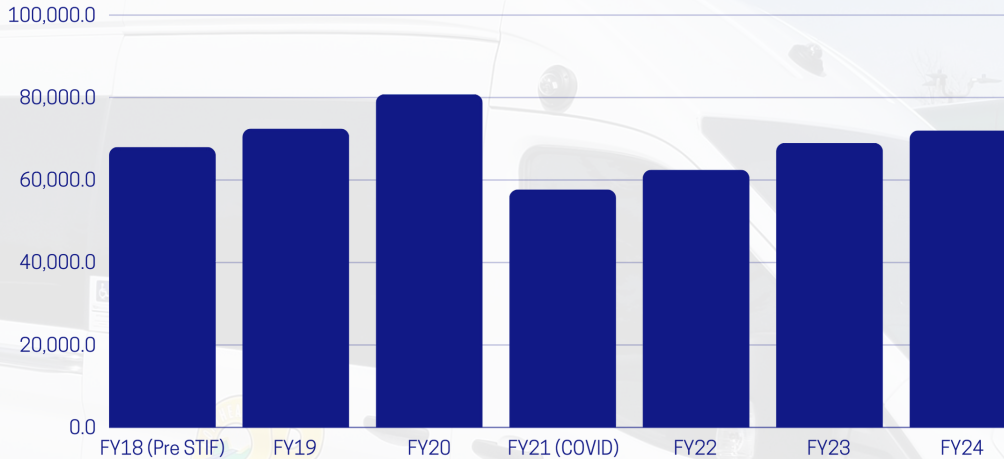


## Northeast Oregon Public Transportation



### Ride Counts in Northeast Oregon

In all three counties, with the STIF funding, we were able to significantly increase our ridership numbers. We've been building our ride-counts-per-year back up since COVID, and we're excited to be back at our FY19 numbers. We hope to stay on track to reach our previous FY20 numbers this fiscal year, which would be roughly 80,000 rides in our three counties with a total population of 50,774.



Union County



Baker County



Wallowa County



### Success Stories and Challenges We Face in NE Oregon

Joe Hayes the Baker County Operations Manager was recently the speaker at the Baker City Rotary Meeting. After presenting the Baker County transportation services, a meeting guest who had moved to Baker City with no family on the west coast, spoke out about how extremely helpful Community Connection/Baker NEO Transit had been in his life. Twice in the past year this individual was sent on an Air Life helicopter to a Boise hospital for critical treatment and had no transportation home to Baker City. Through our STIF Rides to Wellness project we were able to pick him up and bring him home. Publicly he expressed great gratitude for our services.

A representation from a partnering agency program approached us. He shared that one of their unemployed participants had been struggling to find work due to transportation issues. Working with NEO Transit, he was able to gain employment in the neighboring town and rely on our transportation to get there. This success underscores the tangible outcomes of our services in promoting self-sufficiency within the community. By mitigating transportation barriers, we are empowering individuals to access opportunities and break free from the cycle of poverty.



### From Our Riders

The bus in the area in La Grande is simply the best experience in my opinion thanks to all the team members for your attention.

-Telésfor

Whenever I need to use the service the drivers are always kind and upbeat. When I was attending EOU the fact that you could get a free ride downtown or to Walmart was great...

-Jacob

This is a service that our community has come to depend on with a large number of citizens who daily routine would be impossible without it. Thanks Northeast Oregon Public Transit.

-Ty