

## **Project Tracking Matrix**

### **Updated: January 29, 2015**

#### **Regional Priorities:**

**Primary Regional Goal: Become a center for Agri-business innovation and Agri-tourism.**

#### **Priorities to Attain Goal:**

- Promote regional workforce development opportunities
- Increase business capital for existing and emerging businesses
- Explore passenger and freight rail opportunities
- Expand Agri-tourism opportunities which highlight local produce, viticulture/winery operations, and visitor hospitality amenities
- Enhance programs that encourage business retention and expansion
- Engage in local government infrastructure assessments

- 1) **Regional Priority Project and Description:** **Regional Infrastructure Assessment / Project Management Services.** A three county assessment of local government infrastructure to increase responsiveness for business development inquires.

#### **Partners:**

- Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments will provide \$85,000 to match the RSAC funding of \$180,000.
- Business Oregon has committed staff time from an Industrial Lands Analyst to support the project.
- Strong support will be needed from local government staff, targeted businesses and federal agencies such as Economic Development Administration.

#### **Strategy:**

- Project will identify infrastructure improvements needed to support new employment opportunities within the region.

#### **Actions:**

- Business Oregon will provide staff time to support the project.

#### **Barriers/Status:**

- Within one year from date of RSC funding (May 2015).
- **UPDATE: Regional Solutions Funding is now anticipated to come from Budget Reconciliation Bill in the 2015 Legislative Session.**

- **UPDATE: Draft IGA (between Business Oregon and Sponsor) has been sent to Sponsor for review and comment.**

- 2) **Regional Priority Project and Description:** **Business Retention and Expansion.** Using community leadership teams, evaluate local community businesses to assess strengths and weaknesses and build capacity for their retention and expansion.

**Partners:**

- The project will be led by SEDCOR, working with Oregon State University Rural Studies, local communities, as well as Business Oregon.
- Total budget for the project is \$271,000 with \$165,000 from Regional Solutions which will leverage \$56,000 from local communities and \$50,000 from SEDCOR's portion of a "Make It in America Grant".

**Strategy:**

- Information gathered will be used to identify community strengths and weaknesses which can be utilized to create additional jobs within the community.

**Actions:**

- Project will identify "red flag" issues specific to each community which will be addressed by appropriate State agencies.

**Barriers/Status:**

- A two year project from the date of RSC funding (May 2015).
- **UPDATE: Regional Solutions Funding is now anticipated to come from Budget Reconciliation Bill in the 2015 Legislative Session.**
- **UPDATE: Draft IGA (between Business Oregon and Sponsor) has been sent to Sponsor for review and comment.**

- 3) **Regional Priority Project and Description:** **Marion-Polk Food Share Better Burger & Quinoa Farming Project.** Development and production of Quinoa Veggie Burger offering workforce opportunities focused on farming and food processing.

**Partners:**

- The sponsor of the project is Marion County.
- Project partners include Marion-Polk Food Share, Oregon Youth Authority, Oregon Department of Corrections, Chemeketa Community College and Linn-Benton Community College.
- The \$300,000 from Regional Solutions has leveraged approximately \$547,780 from several private foundations and companies as well as in-

kind work from Oregon Food Bank, Oregon Youth Authority and the Department of Corrections.

**Strategy:**

- The youth at Oregon Youth Authority will gain skills in food manufacturing, warehousing and inventory management which can be put to work in many of the Mid-Valley's food processors.

**Actions:**

- A contract between Marion-Polk Food Share and Oregon Youth Authority has been signed with significant guidance from the Department of Justice.
- Marion-Polk Food Share will look to Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State University Food Innovation Center and the OSU Extension Service for continued technical assistance.

**Barriers/Status:**

- The project has a three year timeline beginning from date of RSC funding (May 2015).
- **UPDATE: Regional Solutions Funding is now anticipated to come from Budget Reconciliation Bill in the 2015 Legislative Session.**
- **UPDATE: Draft IGA (between Business Oregon and Sponsor) has been sent to Sponsor for review and comment.**

- 4) **Regional Priority Project and Description:** **Multi-modal Trans-loading Railcar Siding Hub.** Construction of a Multi-modal railcar siding hub for transfer of agricultural products, and other commodities, from trucks to rail cars in order to more economically move products to market.

**Partners:**

- A number of public and private entities have endorsed this project and will participate to insure its success. They include Portland & Western Railroad, Polk County Farm Bureau, SEDCOR and Northwest Demolition.
- The project cost is estimated at approximately \$1.4 million with funding coming from the site operator/owner, Whites's Hauling & Farm, and a Connect Oregon V Grant of \$832,000.

**Strategy:**

- The project will create temporary construction jobs with an estimated labor cost value of \$505,000.

- At start-up there will be three full time jobs with expectations to grow to 20 full time employees.

**Actions:**

- Oregon Department of Transportation Rail Division has provided technical opinions regarding Union Pacific's acceptance of freight from the proposed project location.

**Barriers/Status:**

- Estimated completion date is February 2016.
- At their March Meeting the Salem Keizer Area Transportation Study (SKATS) identified this project as the #3 priority for a Connect Oregon V Grant of \$841,320. The Statewide ranking for this project is #14 from a list 37 projects that are recommended for funding.
- **UPDATE: The Oregon Transportation Commission met on July 17, 2014 and approved this project for a Connect Oregon V grant in the amount of \$841,320.**
- **UPDATE: Mr. White and property owner in Dallas could not agree on lease terms. Mr. White has purchased the old Boise Cascade site in Independence and has the blessing of SKATS and will be presenting a revised Connect Oregon 5 grant application to the OTC for their approval on November 21, 2014 in Eugene.**
- **UPDATE: The OTC approved the revised application submitted by Mr. White for \$841,320 and the project is now going to be completed in Independence.**
- **Met W/Mr. Cody White, City of Independence Staff and several members of the RST at project site on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Does not appear to be any major barriers to project moving forward on the Independence site.**

- 5) **Regional Priority Project and Description: City of Carlton Downtown Water System Improvements. Construction of water lines in downtown area to provide adequate fire flows for life safety and to allow building permits for Agri-tourism/visitor hospitality amenities and other downtown business expansion.**

**Partners:**

- The project sponsor is the City of Carlton.
- The Regional Solutions funding portion of this project is \$500,000.
- The improvements to the water lines in the downtown area are part of a \$3.0 million project to construct a new transmission line into town.
- Business Oregon, Department of Transportation and the Oregon Water Resources Division have worked with the City on developing this project

with the Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) awarding the City a \$112,000 grant to prepare a Water Master Plan.

**Strategy:**

- During the construction phase of the project it is estimated that approximately 10 people will be employed full time for up to 5 months.
- With the improvements to the water system the potential for significant job growth will come from property development to expand wine operations/sales and other retail, manufacturing and lodging projects.

**Actions:**

- Infrastructure Finance Authority provided funding for the preparation of a Water Master Plan which identified Carlton's water needs over the next several years to assist with economic development and provide an adequate water supply to its citizens.
- Carlton will need to work with Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon Water Resource Division to obtain permits for those project elements on Highway 47.

**Barriers/Status:**

- From notice to proceed (May 2015) the project can be completed no later than November 2016.
- A grant of \$112,000 was received from Infrastructure Finance Authority to prepare a Water Master Plan which was adopted in early 2014.
- **UPDATE: Regional Solutions Funding of \$500,000 will come from sale of Lottery backed bonds in early 2015.**
- **UPDATE: The City of Carlton will have an RFP out in March 2015 and will start the project in mid to late spring of 2015.**
- **UPDATE: Draft IGA (between Business Oregon and Sponsor) has been sent to Sponsor for review and comment.**

- 6) **Regional Priority Project and Description: Job Growers Incorporated (Mid-Valley Local Workforce Investment Board) Career Achievement Network.** Project creates a three-county network of training sites to provide youth (ages 17-26) essential skills to get and keep jobs.

**Partners:**

- Partners in this project include OSU Extension Service, Chemeketa Community College and various businesses and industry in the three county area.
- The \$500,000 funding from Regional Solutions will place 200 participants in the Career Achievement Network program during the first year.

- The Regional Solutions funding has leveraged almost \$83,000, including in-kind resources from Job Growers, and \$50,000 from United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley.

**Strategy:**

- At the time this project was being considered for funding there were several businesses in the Mid-Valley that had 95 jobs which were difficult to fill. The training and skills that this project will focus on are those currently lacking in the 17-26 age range of those looking for employment and could potentially fill those 95 jobs

**Actions:**

- Oregon Employment Department, Oregon State Extension Service and Chemeketa Community College will provide technical support.
- **UPDATE: 07-10-14: The funding for this project will now come from two sources and be reduced to \$432,000 (\$232,000 – Strategic Reserve Fund, \$200,000 – Community College Workforce Development).**
- **UPDATE: Project implementation began in September 2014.**

**Barriers/Status:**

- Job Growers estimates that youth will begin the training programs in approximately November 2015 with the goal of earning an Essential Skills Certificate.
- **UPDATE: 07-10-14: Because of the change in funding source, Job Growers is tentatively scheduled to start this project 09-01-2014.**
- **UPDATE: 07-31-2014: Informed by Lynn Schoessler that Contract with Job Growers had been signed to provide \$232k SRF to the project.**

- 7) **Regional Priority Project and Description:** **Dallas Rail Spur Improvements & Industrial Property Master Planning.** Improvements to the rail spur on former Weyerhaeuser Mill property. Collaboration with current property owners to create a master plan for the property.

**Partners:**

- The project sponsor is Dallas, Oregon.
- Portland & Western Railroad, Polk County Farm Bureau, SEDCOR and Northwest Demolition are some of the public and private entities that have endorsed this project.
- The project cost is dependent on the Master Plan recommendations with \$300,000 coming from Regional Solutions which will leverage investment from the City of Dallas and private industry.

**Strategy:**

- The project will create temporary construction jobs with an estimated labor cost value of \$505,000.

**Actions:**

- Oregon Department of Transportation Rail Division has provided technical opinions regarding Union Pacific's acceptance of freight from the proposed project location.
- Although a NEPA Categorical Exclusion has been completed for the site an agency review, if needed, could be completed in 2-4 weeks.

**Barriers/Status:**

- Estimated completion date is September 2016.
- **UPDATE: Regional Solutions Funding of \$300,000 will come from sale of Lottery backed bonds in early 2015.**
- **UPDATE: At their December 16, 2014 meeting the RSAC confirmed their commitment to the Dallas project by voting to keep the Regional Solutions funding focused on rail spur improvement in Dallas.**