

NEWS

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CENTRAL OREGON



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL
C O U N C I L**

RIBBON-CUTTING PLANNED FOR CASCADES EAST TRANSIT IN REDMOND

Kick-off event introduces new regional transportation service

REDMOND, Ore. — Cascades East Transit, a new regional transportation system to serve the general community and senior, disabled, and low-income riders with on-demand and fixed-route shuttle services, will be introduced in a ribbon-cutting event on Monday, October 13, 2008 at 4:30 pm. The event will be held at Redmond Worksource Connection located at 2158 SE College Loop, Suite C in Redmond.

Coordinated by Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC), with the assistance of multiple partners, Cascades East Transit will serve Culver, LaPine, Madras/Metolius, Prineville, Redmond/Terrebonne, and Sisters.

The ribbon-cutting event will launch the new system and provide more information on the need, its operations and service to Central Oregon communities. Speakers will include Mayor Alan Unger, City of Redmond, Wendy Schechter, Partnership to End Poverty, and Karen Friend, Operations Director, COIC/Cascades East Transit. Attendees will include local elected officials, business leaders and leaders of local social service agencies.

"Public transportation is a critical need here in Redmond and in Central Oregon," said Unger. "Seniors and disabled residents who no longer drive need transportation alternatives. Families and workers need cost-effective ways to get to work and to services across the region. We are ready for a regionally coordinated system that offers reliable, efficient and affordable services that address the needs of our community."

The service, which begins with a new schedule on October 1, includes local demand-response (local rides that require a reservation) services in LaPine, Madras/Metolius/Culver, Prineville, Redmond/Terrebonne, and Sisters, for \$1.25 per trip, or \$1.00 per trip for seniors and persons with disabilities. CET also offers a variety of round-trip, community connector shuttle services per day serving Prineville-Redmond-Bend, Madras-Redmond-Bend, and Sisters-Redmond-Bend. The cost to users is \$6.25, or \$5.00 for seniors and persons

with disabilities, and includes all stops (even a transfer to BAT if you are riding to Bend). Monthly passes and punch cards provide flexible cost-saving opportunities.

Partners include: the Federal Transit Administration; Oregon Department of Transportation – Public Transit Division; Oregon Department of Human Services and Vocational and Rehabilitation Services, Central Oregon Council on Aging; Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties; Cities of Redmond and Sisters; Bank of the Cascades; Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon; Central Oregon Resources for Independent Living; and the Partnership to End Poverty.

About COIC

COIC is the region's Council of Governments serving Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties and the cities of Bend, Culver, LaPine, Madras, Metolius, Prineville, Redmond and Sisters. The 15-member board is made up of elected officials appointed by each of the member governments and appointed representatives of key economic sectors. In addition to public transportation, COIC offers adult and youth employment and training services, business financing, community economic development, and planning services. Today, COIC has offices in Bend, La Pine, Madras, Prineville, Redmond, Klamath Falls and Lakeview and employs more than 100 people.

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