



MEMORANDUM

Senior Services & LINX Transit

Date: December 2, 2024

To: Mayor Jackola and City Council

From: Kindra Oliver, Senior Center & LINX Transit Director

Subject: Monthly LINX & Senior Center Report

LINX Transit:

LINX Transit has provided over 30,500 rides to date, which is a few hundred more rides than we provided for the entire 12 months of FY2021-22. We are on track to provide 72,000-75,000 rides this fiscal year.

LINX Transit has received word back from the following grant applications for the FY2025-27 biennium:

- Allocation of \$1,598,000 in Statewide Transportation Improvement Funds (STIF) payroll funds, for LINX operations; the Linn County STIF plan will be presented to the Linn County Board of Commissioners in December for review and to seek approval.
- Allocation of \$190,000 in STIF population funds, for LINX operations; the Linn County STIF plan will be presented to the Linn County Board of Commissioners in December for review and to seek approval.
- Allocation of \$428,000 in STIF Discretionary Funds through ODOT, for LINX operations expansion to respond to the significant increases in ridership over the last few years; The recommendation to fund the grant was approved by the ODOT Public Transportation Advisory Committee on December 2nd. The recommendations for funding will now be forwarded to the Oregon Transportation Commission for review and to seek final approval in early 2025.
- Allocation of \$262,657 in federal 5311 funds for LINX operations; this is an allocation from ODOT, based on prior year service metrics, including number of rides, service miles driven and service hours for most recent year or data available in the National Transit Database.
- Allocation of \$55,966 in federal 5310 funds for maintenance expenses related to the LINX fleet, to follow preventative maintenance plans at proper mileage intervals and keep the vehicles in excellent working order. The addition of our City Mechanic has been a game changer. We are very thankful to be able to have vehicles looked at and worked on in a very timely manner and safety and preventative maintenance held to the highest standard.

Senior Center:

Our Veterans Recognition Event welcomed local veterans from nearly every branch of service this year. We had a lot of youth involvement this year, which is always very meaningful to our veterans. The High School JROTC Color Guard presented and retired the colors for us. Over 20 students from the Seven Oaks Leadership Class came and shared what they had learned about the core values upheld by our armed forces, such as integrity and courage, as well as their gratitude for family members that have served. A local member of the American Legion came to share about his experience in the service. Seniors were invited to look at historic 1940's issues of Life magazine, and even take them home to enjoy. Our program closed with another member of the Legion playing TAPS on the trumpet.

Our Thanksgiving Banquet is definitely seeing numbers like we did before our closure during the pandemic. This year we served 243 meals to local seniors. The Lebanon High School cheerleaders volunteered to help serve the meal to seated seniors and the Central Linn Blue Notes choir came and sang classic holiday tunes to entertain. The Oaks at Lebanon, Willamette Manor, Meadowlark Senior Living, and the Gillott Home Team all sponsored additional sides and desserts to complete the traditional Thanksgiving meal. We had some general donations come in to greatly offset the cost of food and materials. So many seniors look forward to this event every year. It is a special time of ensuring all seniors in our community not only have a good meal but also experience community and togetherness during the holiday.

The Senior Center is in the 10th year of coordinating our Tree of Giving Program! Community members wait in anticipation for the tags to go up. For some it has become a tradition to adopt a senior and for others it is a chance to share a lesson in values with their children. No matter the reason for adopting a tag, we are so proud of our community to ensure isolation and difficult times do not darken the spirits of many seniors in our community. Over the past 10 years this program has brightened the holidays of well over 350 seniors. Tears of joy and sparkling eyes appear on the faces of many seniors when elves show up at their door with a small gift and spreading holiday cheer.