



April 9, 2026

Kathleen Flynn
Grant Specialist
Lane Transit District
MobilityServices@LTD.org

Dear Ms. Flynn,

On behalf of Circle of Friends, I am pleased to submit our application for Section 5310 funding through Lane Transit District in support of our project, ***Access Without Barriers for Youth With Disabilities: Lane County Inclusive Transportation Initiative.***

Circle of Friends is a nonprofit organization serving children and youth with disabilities across Lane County, with a focus on those with the most complex medical, behavioral, and developmental needs. Our program exists to ensure that students who are often excluded from traditional systems have access to safe, consistent, and meaningful education, as well as the therapeutic and community-based supports that allow them to thrive.

Transportation remains one of the most significant barriers facing the families we serve. Many of our students require wheelchair-accessible vehicles, specialized equipment, and individualized staffing support during transport. Without these accommodations, students miss school, therapies, and critical developmental opportunities. In some cases, students have missed weeks of instruction simply because appropriate transportation was not available.

This project proposes the acquisition of a fully accessible, purpose-built vehicle designed to safely transport youth with disabilities across both rural and urban areas of Lane County. This vehicle will support daily school transportation, access to occupational and physical therapy, behavioral health services, and participation in after-school and community-based programming.

The requested vehicle is a highly specialized, wheelchair-accessible bus equipped to safely transport up to 10 passengers using mobility devices, along with necessary support staff. This level of accessibility and customization is essential to meeting the needs of our students, many of whom require 1:1 or 2:1 support and cannot be served through traditional transit options.

In addition to vehicle acquisition, this project includes preventive maintenance and mobility management components to ensure long-term reliability, safety, and efficient coordination of transportation services. Together, these elements create an integrated transportation model that reduces missed services, improves access, and strengthens outcomes for individuals with disabilities across our region.

Circle of Friends is committed to the long-term sustainability of this project. Our organization operates with a strong financial foundation, with over \$1.2 million in projected annual revenue and diversified funding streams that include district tuition, philanthropy, and community



support. We have secured and planned matching funds through a combination of internal resources and philanthropic partnerships, demonstrating both readiness and commitment to this investment.

This project directly aligns with the goals of the Section 5310 program by expanding transportation access for individuals with disabilities, particularly those living in rural and underserved areas. It also reflects the priorities of the Lane County Coordinated Plan by addressing critical gaps in accessible, reliable transportation.

To help bring this work to life, I have included photos within this cover letter of some of the children who will directly benefit from this investment. Additionally, you will find our Executive Summary and Annual Report included in the attachments section to provide further context on our organization, impact, and growth.

We are grateful for Lane Transit District's leadership in advancing mobility solutions across our region and for your consideration of this request. This investment will not only provide transportation, but will unlock access to education, healthcare, and community for children who too often go without.

If you have any questions or need additional information, I would welcome the opportunity to connect.

With appreciation,

MICHAEL AGUILAR

Executive Director

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