

Project Name: Connect 2045

Project No.:

Location: Zoom

Meeting Date: July 15, 2026

Minutes by: Ashley Pryce (Nelson Nygaard),
Ryan Farncomb (Parametrix)

Time:

Subject: CAC Meeting #1 Discussion Notes

Attendees:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Kerry Azklar	LTD
Dave Roth	LTD
Brandon Melton	LTD
Eric Breitenstein	LTD
Ryan Farncomb	Parametrix
Ashley Pryce	Nelson\Nygaard
Alyssa Brownlee	Horse Creek Lodge, Mckenzie Bridge, OR
Heather Gabbert	Summit Bank
Carlos Lepe	St. Vincent DePaul of Lane County
Larissa Ennis	Food for Lane County; Homes for Good; Action out Lane
Eric Dziura	Active Bethel Neighborhood Association
Braden Ravenscraft	Mckenzie Community Land Trust
Martina Shabram	Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS)
Becky Burks	Student at Lane Community College
Alejandro Cuadros	La Quinta/Comfort Inns and Suites (Merete)
Jacob Fox	Homes for Good

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Liz Dahlager	Merete Hotel management
Jessie Preston	CCO community advisory council, Ride Source executive committee; Lane County Transportation Equity Assessment
Stella Edmondson-Trevejo	University of Oregon rising senior
Jacob Kerchner	Daily rider; HIV alliance
Carly Blemmel	Coquille Health and Wellness

Transit and Mobility Tools

Access to Recreation and Rural Destinations

- Limited transportation options connecting people to recreational destinations, trailheads, and rural communities.
- Existing transit service is critical for rural residents but often has limited schedules and capacity.
- Recreational travel opportunities are constrained by limited service frequency, seasonal demand, and insufficient bike capacity.
- People with disabilities face barriers accessing destinations.
- Greater coordination between transit providers, local organizations, and public agencies could improve access and reduce reliance on personal vehicles.

Accessibility and Mobility for People with Disabilities

- Bus stop infrastructure often lacks accessible boarding areas or safe access routes.
- Limited transportation options for wheelchair users traveling beyond core destinations.
- Need for expanded evening and late-night transportation options.
- Specialized transportation services are valued but have limitations related to service areas and trip flexibility. Delays with pick-ups were specifically noted.

Service Coverage and Transit Network

- Limited evening and late-night service remains a challenge.
- The hub-and-spoke network structure can make it difficult to get to more distant destinations.
- Need for stronger first-mile/last-mile connections, particularly in rural and outlying communities.

- Growing demand for transportation connections associated with healthcare, social services, employment, and community activities.
- Rural services are limited; difficult to serve the “last 5 miles” in more rural areas.

Technology and Customer Experience

- Some trip-planning applications (TransitApp) can be difficult to navigate or understand.
- Some noted challenges setting up and managing electronic fare payment accounts.
- Mobile fare payment tools are appreciated for simplifying fare purchases, fare sharing, and access to discounts.

Affordability and Fare Programs

- Participants expressed positive feedback regarding reduced-fare initiatives and promotional fare programs.
- Affordability remains a critical factor in transit access.

Vision and Goals

Accessible and Inclusive Transportation

- Improve accessibility throughout the region.
- Expand mobility options for people with disabilities and those using mobility devices.
- Improve access to recreation, healthcare, family, and community destinations – “whole person” health.
- Reduce transportation barriers for individuals requiring specialized healthcare trips or support services.

Reliable, Convenient, and Easy-to-Use Service

- Create a transit system that is safe, reliable, affordable, useful, flexible, and easy to understand – “seamless” system.
- Make transit the most practical and convenient transportation choice.
- Reduce the amount of advance planning needed to successfully use the system.
- Better information about services.

Community Culture and Transit as a Community Asset

- Build a culture where transit use is commonplace rather than exceptional.
- Ensure future generations grow up viewing transit as a standard transportation option.
- Create a transportation system that serves all members of the community.
- Develop a more interconnected network with multiple travel options.

Health, Well-Being, and Social Access

- Recognize transportation as a key component of community health and quality of life.

- Improve access to healthcare services.
- Support access to food, recreation, and outdoor spaces.
- Address transportation barriers that prevent people from obtaining medical care.

Sustainability and Climate Resilience

- Continue progress toward zero-emission transportation.
- Support cleaner and greener mobility options.
- Align transportation investments with climate goals and supportive land-use patterns.

Regional Connectivity and Economic Opportunity

- Provide faster and more convenient travel between neighboring cities and employment centers.
- Support future housing and economic growth through transportation investments.
- Improve connections to the airport (major expansion underway), tourism destinations, and major activity centers.
- Serve the needs of large employers.

Innovation and Emerging Technologies

- Monitor advances in autonomous vehicles and artificial intelligence.
- Remain adaptable and responsive to technological change.
- Evaluate emerging mobility solutions that could improve safety, efficiency, and customer experience.