

Commission Memo

Prepared by: Kevin Greenwood, Executive Director
Date: September 15, 2026
Re: Res. Authorizing Regional Infrastructure
Fund Application for Airfield Terminal



BACKGROUND

The 2026 Oregon Legislature allocated \$10 million to the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF), administered by Business Oregon in coordination with the Governor's Regional Solutions Program. The RIF was originally established in 2013 to help advance priority community and economic development projects identified through Regional Solutions. Eligible construction grants range from \$100,000 to \$1 million.

Of the \$10 million available statewide, 55 percent (\$5.5 million) is allocated through Oregon's 11 Regional Solutions regions, with \$500,000 available to each region. The remaining 45 percent (\$4.5 million) is available through a statewide competitive pool. Hood River County is part of the North Central Region, together with Wasco and Sherman counties. Accordingly, the Port's application may compete for the North Central regional allocation as well as the statewide funding pool.

Projects must align with priorities adopted by the applicable Regional Solutions Advisory Committee, demonstrate project readiness, and be capable of completion within the program's 24-month project period. The Ken Jernstedt Airfield Terminal and Community Services Building aligns particularly well with the North Central Region's priority of Economic Opportunity for Future Generations – Economic Diversification.

The application period opened August 3, 2026, with applications due September 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Because of the relatively short application period, staff did not originally anticipate submitting a Port project. However, Nate Stice with the Governor's Office and Regional Solutions Team recommended that the Port apply for funding.

The RIF would have been an excellent funding opportunity for the Port's planned waterfront infrastructure improvements. Those improvements, however, are not currently scheduled for construction until approximately 2029, placing them outside the RIF project-readiness and 24-month completion requirements. Staff therefore reviewed other Port capital projects and determined that the Ken Jernstedt Airfield Terminal and Community Services Building is the Port project best positioned to compete in the current funding round.

RECOMMENDATION: MOTION to approve a resolution supporting the Port's application for a \$1-million Regional Infrastructure Fund grant.

PORT OF HOOD RIVER
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-27-6

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION TO THE BUSINESS OREGON REGIONAL
INFRASTRUCTURE FUND FOR THE KEN JERNSTEDT AIRFIELD TERMINAL AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES BUILDING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT THE
APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Oregon Business Development Department (“Business Oregon”) is accepting applications for the 2026 Regional Infrastructure Fund (“RIF”) to support infrastructure projects that advance regional economic and community development priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Hood River owns and operates Ken Jernstedt Airfield, which supports aviation, business activity, emergency response, and community services in Hood River County and the greater Columbia Gorge region; and

WHEREAS, the Port has identified construction of the Ken Jernstedt Airfield Terminal and Community Services Building as a priority capital project to improve airport facilities, support existing and future aviation-related businesses and private investment, and strengthen the Airport's ability to serve the community during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the project supports North Central Regional Solutions priorities, including **Economic Opportunity for Future Generations through economic diversification**, and advances statewide economic development objectives; and

WHEREAS, the project will leverage federal, state, local, and other funding to construct a modern airport terminal and community services facility; and

WHEREAS, the current project schedule anticipates construction completion and occupancy by **July 1, 2028**, demonstrating the Port's intent and capacity to complete the project within the RIF's required 24-month project period; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Infrastructure Fund provides grants of up to \$1,000,000 for eligible infrastructure construction projects, and the Port desires to request up to \$1,000,000 toward eligible costs of the Ken Jernstedt Airfield Terminal and Community Services Building;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF HOOD RIVER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Project and Application Support. The Board of Commissioners formally supports the Ken Jernstedt Airfield Terminal and Community Services Building and authorizes submission of an application to Business Oregon for up to \$1,000,000 from the 2026 Regional Infrastructure Fund.

Section 2. Executive Director Authority. The Executive Director is authorized to prepare, sign, certify, and submit the RIF grant application and all supporting application documents on behalf of the Port and to provide additional information or make non-material modifications as may be necessary to complete the application and grant review process.

Section 3. Grant Award. Acceptance of any RIF grant award and authorization to execute a grant agreement shall be subject to applicable Port contracting authority and any further Commission approval required by Port policy or law.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of Hood River this 15th day of September 2026.

SIGNED

Heather Gehring, President

ATTEST

Kristi Chapman, Secretary