

COLUMBIA COUNTY CITIZEN TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (CCCTAC) MEETING

Meeting Date: January 20, 2015

Attended: Sharon Evinger (Sharon), Genell Grow (Genell), Greg Buzzy (Greg), Sally Ann Marson (Sally Ann), Russ Clark (Russ) and Jan Spika-Kenna (Jan)

Guests: Julie Stephens (Julie), Blanche Katz (Blanche), and Rosemary Lohrke (Rosemary)

Staff: Josh Fully, Janet Wright (Janet) and Michael Ray (Michael)

Meeting Called to Order by Chair, Genell Grow.

Introductions were made.

CCTAC Approval of November 18, 2014, Minutes/Updates

Motion to approve by Sally Ann Marson (Sally Ann).

Seconded by Jan Spika-Kenna .

Motion passed.

Public Comments (Item was taken out of agenda order.)

Guest, Rosemary Lohrke, spoke about the benefit of the depletion fee which is due to be on the May ballot. She feels the depletion fee is a good way to support CC Rider. She does not see any other means of sustainable funding. She shared information about the problems involved in asking businesses to pay a tax to support the Rider. Those she has spoken with are not supportive of a tax. Rosemary shared she does not believe jobs will be lost. Portland rock handlers are unionized. Locals are not. Local rock continues to be highly sought because of its high quality.

Sharon spoke about the inability of this group to publically support the depletion fee.

Rosemary is also a rider and complemented the drivers and the system. Others spoke about their experiences riding the bus and how convenient it is.

Blanche Katz spoke about the importance of the Rider for people like her who are dependent on the Rider. Many folks do not have other means of transportation readily available or none at all.

Updates

Comments by Michael Ray: Michael spoke about his work history which includes being a bus driver for TriMet and having worked for the Oregon Department of Transportation. He also spoke about his most recent work as an employee of CCRider.

Survey

Michael spoke about the recent survey he has developed. It is on the CCRider website. This will be used to improve surveys. Surveys are also giving out the surveys to riders. It will also be linked to the County's webpage as well on the Rider's Facebook. Mailers will be sent to every registered voter. It will be posted in the buses.

Connect V Funding

The local project is to redevelop the Transit Station in Rainier. As a result of a reorganization in what was originally funded, the local project has risen to number 6 in the list of projects which can be funded if funds are freed up. Others spoke about funded projects which are not “shovel ready” and may not be able to receive funding. The next round of funding, Connect VI, may also allow funds to be allocated for this project.

ODOT Mobility Management Plan

Janet will send this to members.

Special Transportation Improvement Project (STIP)

An application will be made for these funds which would be available in 2018-2021. Funding for this would be allocated to Scappoose to implement a new site for CCRider there.

STIP funds for 2015-2018 have not yet been allocated.

Application for CCCTAC Membership

Julie Stephens has applied for membership. Julie shared information about her background. She feels she is in a position to both share information through her jobs and to improve the system. All members received a copy of her application. Julie shared the Scappoose Senior Center has one driver who does Dial A Ride who does many rides. There was a discussion about the need for advocates for the seniors who need rides to Portland. Josh shared CCRider does 300 rides a week.

Motion made by Sally Ann to recommend to the Board of Commissions Julie Stephens be appointed to the Transit Advisory Committee.

Second by Russ Clark.

Motion passed.

ByLaw Review

Janet asked for a work group to review the bylaws with Janet and County Counsel. Greg, Jan Spika Kenna and Genell volunteered. Genell asked for all members to review the by laws and send suggestions to Janet by February 2, 2015. The group will then meet.

ODOT Biennial Budget Timeline

Michael reviewed the grants which will be available for 2015-2017. There was a handout which covered the power point presentation. The date for the 5311 funding should be February 22, 2015.

Discussion included:

- Why fares cannot be used as match for 5311 funds. This is a federal rule.
- 5311 funds are available to rural entities as well as a small portion by Portland.
- Current population is over 50,000. Over 73% commute outside the County and over 30% commute into the County. All could benefit by CCRider services.
- Gas prices and their impact on CCRider. Janet and Josh have looked at alternative sources of fuel for CCRider. Parking fees also impact the cost of commuting to Portland.
- Funds for Columbia County will be biennial and in the amount of \$600,000 to \$700,000. These are dedicated to Columbia County for which Columbia County must apply.
- People cannot bring a weapon onto a CCRider vehicle.

- There was a discussion regarding 5310 ODOT funds and who can apply for them. Other groups can apply and would also have to have match, training, vehicles and so on. Application would be made to the CCRider and approved by the BOCC. CCRider would be responsible to administer the funds. Any of these applications would be discussed by this group. The CCRider's budget, of course would be impacted.
- There was a discussion about Veteran's transportation needs. Veteran's Administration rules do not always enhance transportation for Veterans. CCRider has explored partnerships with Veteran's transportation. It was suggested a survey be created for Veterans. A solution for Veterans' transportation would be increasing routes, not necessarily having one bus dedicated to Veterans.
- In response to an informational question, the depletion fee could cover match requirements and result in increased services. A budget would be needed to answer this question.
- Applications for 5310, 5311 and 5311F funds must be recommended by CCTAC. These require a match.
- Special Transportation Funds are not applied for. They are given to the County for a specific project. This amount varies and can include supplemental funds. They do not require a match.
- Janet reviewed the sources of community contribution match (cities and county).

The group will review budget and projects in February.

Proposed CCTAC Meeting Schedule for 2015

There was a discussion regarding dates. The schedule will be changed to the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be February 10, 2015, at 10am.

Additional Information

Lincoln and Tillamook Counties will be guests at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 12:04pm.

Next Regular Meeting

February 10, 2015, at 10am.