

NW Oregon Transit Alliance (NWOTA)
Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2018
Tillamook County Transportation District
Tillamook, OR

1. Introductions: Doug Pilant, Coordinating Committee Chair, opened the meeting. Meeting attendees included:
 - Cynda Bruce—Lincoln County Transportation
 - Lee Lazaro—Benton County Transit
 - Jeff Hazen—Sunset Empire Transit District
 - Doug Pilant—Tillamook County Transportation
 - Mark Bernard—ODOT
 - Thomas Craig—TrilliumExcused: Arla Miller, Todd Wood
2. Consent Calendar: Unanimously approved. (CB/LL)
 - ✦ July 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes—No corrections.
 - ✦ June and July 2018 Financial Reports—Doug reviewed a revised June 2018 report that includes all late incoming revenues and expenses. It represents the final year end reporting. Doug also reviewed the July 2018 report.
 - ✦ Ridership Tracking—Mary will change the ridership performance report to the July/June FY cycle. The system is running regularly over 1 million bus miles per year Doug reported that the Tillamook—Manzanita—Cannon Beach run is up 100—300%.
3. Open Trip Planner

Impetus for the discussion comes from the website trip planning function through Google not allowing extended dates on trip planning. Thomas called in to discuss. NWOTA would like to add functionality that allows people to plan a trip further out than 50 days. Two solutions: 1) Swap out the free Google trip planner an Open Trip Planner platform. This would mean over \$10,000 annually for Trillium to support the new functionally in-house, and could be done relatively quickly. It would mean more control over length of scheduling time, what partners show on the trip planning, and some more control the appearance of the Trip Planner. 2) Implement Open Planner Flex Trip. Include more than just the fixed routes, but also deviated routes, flag stops, dial-a-rides. Riders that would be most affected would be those least mobile who have trouble walking distances to a bus stop. Wouldn't be radically more expensive in the long-term, but would have more upfront development and testing costs.

Trillium is currently working a proposal for ODOT, that would potentially include the NW Connector as a pilot system for the Flex Trip Planner, advancing technology transit in Oregon. This is a trip discovery tool that finds connections to fixed routes. Still beta technology at this point, which might be a better tool for a mobility manager vs the paratransit rider looking to find the best options for a multiple stop rides, particularly for the first and last mile connections. The partners agreed to have Trillium include NWOTA in the proposal.
4. PSU Cascadia Connect Final Report

Car-free travel around Oregon is the whole push. Some of the challenges identified could be directly fixed with Flex Trip Planning. Jeff will summarize the key findings for NWOTA for the September board meeting.
5. NWOTA Standing Items
 - ✦ IGA—Tillamook will have the IGA on the August Commission meeting agenda.
 - ✦ NW Connector Newsletter, NW Oregon Events—Doug's board chair will be taking transit to Yachats and will keep a diary, which can be converted into a NW Connector story. Still looking for more stories. Look at developing a Newsletter that is working on barriers identified in Cascadia Report. Oregon Coast Bike Plan would be another good topic. Bike Rack information. Mary will write up something items for review at the September board meeting.
 - ✦ Travel Oregon Small Grants Program—Partners agreed to send in an \$20,000 application for bike repair stations. Match would be a minimum of \$2,200 cash match. NWOTA can use its marketing budget as match.

- ✦ Potential Addition of Bike and Ride Information on Website—Doug noted that they not only need instructions for bicyclists attaching their bikes, but ensuring drivers go through their prechecks to ensure the bike arm is working properly and bicyclists are asked regarding whether the bike is secure. Adding the information to the website would be helpful, and add a story to the website as well. Mary will contact Sports Works on instructions. Jeff will send Mary SETD's bicycle information for drafting a NWOTA policy. September agenda
- ✦ Signage—Doug provided 4 more signage options incorporating preferences voiced from previous meetings. The group narrowed the signage down to the one showing a blue bus with a blue outline, although Doug will also have the contractor do an example with a green bus. Doug also handed out a new poster map, updating the colors, Benton County logo, and some of the routes. Doug will have a black square added to the Kelso Amtrak station. Reverse font sizes on the website and phone listings.
- Management Plan Update—Needs to be updating with more information that will support STIP planning: Supporting low-income populations, perhaps in Goal 5, eg, Increase utilization of the NWConnector system by low income riders: Reduced fares, identifying routes with low-income ridership, adding signage to Marketing activities, working with Tribes, adding as advisory members, identifying routes with low-income ridership, option for combining meetings (STIF, NWOTA), recognizing lack of housing in region for service workers is resulting in long costly commutes to/from work, inland to employment along the Coast. Target programs to these populations, and serve a need for the business community as well. Also list STIF projects listed in the Management Plan, although will need to seek public input. List projects and policies that are uniform throughout service area. Public input could include listing on the individual partner websites, public town halls are not required. Bike racks and trailers, trip planner (flex), other?

6. Member Updates

- ✦ Tillamook—New schedules have been implemented. 5310 review is coming up this week.
- ✦ Lincoln—5311 review is also coming up. Moving forward with Swiftly, but has also identified some other hick-ups that had to be cleared up. Already finding operational improvements, where can be pro-active. Thanks to Doug and Jeff for sharing experience. Five-year review will be in November.
- ✦ Sunset Empire—Shelters public-private partnership have added Gearhart Dollar General, Knappa Dollar General, an apartment complex near NW Adult and Senior Center. Been at a NTIA real estate training in Seattle. Drivers are looking at organizing a union.
- ✦ Benton—Rolling out the STIF process. Sent partners an email. Had TSP open houses, met with all the city councils, trying to organize the first STIF committee meeting. Have RFP on the street for Benton County's Coordinated Transit services, a five-year agreement. Proposals due September 10th. Updated Coastal Valley Express schedule to better coordinate with other partners.
- ✦ ODOT—New pilot transit service between Yachats and Florence. Still working on frequency, and where stops will be. Will complete transit along the Coast. Will improve connections to Hatfield and the Willamette Valley through the NW Connector. Sending out additional information on rolling out STIF programs.

Recorded: Mary McArthur, Col-Pac EDD and NWOTA Staff