

**COLUMBIA COUNTY CITIZEN TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: September 18, 2018
Time: 11:00 A.M.
Place: CCR Transit Center, St. Helens, OR

Present: Sharon Evinger; Bill Eagle; Claudia Eagle; Blanche Katz; Dena Chesney
Absent: Todd Wood; Charlotte Hart; Genell Grow
Staff: John Dreeszen, Temporary Transit Coordinator; Theodore Snyder, MTR Manager
Guests: Alta Lynch; Ralph Culpepper; Thelma Bonar

Call to Order: Chair Evinger called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Numbers on Busses and Signage: Theodore Snyder addressed Alta Lynch's question related to signs posted at Columbia Blvd and Milton Way indicating it is a stop. Mr. Snyder indicated that there is a Flex Route sign at that location, but it is not a normal stop.

There was discussion about adding that location as an additional stop. There was also discussion about reusing the sign for another stop.

Ms. Lynch had concerns regarding the signage at the Senior Center, as well as other locations, including at the Rainier Transit Center.

There was also discussion about color schemes for signage needing to be more visible.

Chair Evinger suggested making bus signage a higher priority.

Public Comments: Alta Lynch had questions related to medical transportation service to Longview. Mr. Dreeszen explained the difference in service between Dial-A-Ride service and the regularly scheduled stop at the Longview Medical offices.

Mr. Dreeszen clarified Mr. Snyder's role with MTR versus Columbia County.

Ralph Culpepper expressed his concerns related to the survey, including the removal with the Warren stop. He believes that is a useful and well used stop. He believes the data that is collected by the drivers at every stop can be used to determine the best stops to cut. He stated that community perception of the service is that busses are often late.

Thelma Bonar had questions related to funding of CC Rider, specifically related to the cities contributions. She mentioned the growth in Scappoose should make transportation services a priority. There was discussion of different types of funding. Ms. Bonar expressed her own personal dependence on public transportation services. She doubted the necessity of service to Portland and Astoria on the weekends. There was additional discussion related to cuts in service.

A community forum is to be held at the St. Helens Library in November and Columbia County Rider is scheduled to be there.

Ridership Report: Mr. Dreeszen presented a visual representation of ridership and explained the process that will be used to determine cuts in service. Chair Evinger recalled a previous meeting where bus line numbers were requested for future reports. Mr. Dreeszen's presentation indicated generally consistent, if not slightly lower ridership from the same time last year.

Approval of August 21, 2018 Minutes:

The minutes from the August 21, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Committee Member Katz made a correction to page 2 where it stated she had questions about the draft bylaws. She asked if the minutes could be more specific going forward as she has trouble recalling her actual questions. Chair Evinger and Mr. Dreeszen explained the minutes are to be used as a summary, and that recording meetings will continue for further detail, if needed.

Committee Member Bill Eagle moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Katz and passed unanimously.

Grant Updates: Chair Evinger inquired about the status of the Rainier Transit Center. Mr. Dreeszen responded with current status of grant reimbursement for that facility, in addition to an update on other grants currently in process. He also reported on the need to receive income from our local tax base.

There was also discussion related to the upcoming STIF funding deadline.

Chair Evinger had questions related to the Park and Ride in Scappoose. Mr. Dreeszen indicated there was no budget for it at present, and that if there was grant funding at some point, it has expired and that plan is not being pursued at this time.

Mr. Dreeszen also responded to Chair Evinger's questions about logos and branding.

Staffing Update: Chair Evinger introduced John Dreeszen. Mr. Dreeszen explained his position with the County as Interim Transit Coordinator, and his past experience, along with the ODOT requirements for the Administrative Assistant position that had just been filled.

Laws & Advisory Member Description Update: Mr. Dreeszen gave an update on the STIF funding requirements, including that additional members be added to the existing committee, and that the advisory committee fulfills the STF requirements. Committee Member Katz noted that

Committee Member Hart has a potential candidate for one of the committee member positions. There was discussion whether the STIF meetings would be in conjunction with the advisory committee meetings with descriptions in the Agenda to show the different topic categories, or that meetings may need to be more frequent than once per month.

Day or Evening Meetings Vote: Chair Evinger noted that Committee Member Grow would not be able to attend daytime meetings, and that evening meetings work best. Committee Member Bill Eagle noted that a 3 members have handicaps and would need transportation.

Committee Member Bill Eagle moved to hold evening meetings. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Claudia Eagle and was passed unanimously.

Children's Fair and Parade: Chair Evinger announced that the Children's Fair would be held on October 27th. Mr. Wood will coordinate with Committee Member Hart to secure busses for the event.

KOHI: Marty was unable to attend the meeting but will be able to in the future.

Dena Chesney New Board Member Official: Chair Evinger announced that Committee Member Chesney's application was approved by the commissioners.

Route Changes for Budget: Chair Evinger and Committee Member Chesney shared that the noon Flex route would negatively impact what they believe to be a significant number of people. Mr. Dreeszen explained the focus of the route changes would primarily be centered around cutting redundancy at the furthest ends of the County, in addition to addressing inefficiencies, while maintaining as much full-fare ridership as possible. Chair Evinger gave some history of the public demand to keep the Warren stop open, despite the safety risks that the drivers have detailed and noted that public education could clear up some misperceptions.

New Brochure: Chair Evinger presented a draft of the new brochure noting that it includes a map of routes. There was discussion of some corrections to be made due to hard to read fonts and picture placement. Committee Member Bill Eagle noted that the name of the Committee is incorrect in the brochure, and that the new name of the committee is *Columbia County Rider Transportation Advisory Committee*.

Upcoming Events/Updates: Chair Evinger suggested that a volunteer could be used for data entry on ridership. There was discussion that a student could be used for this purpose. Committee Member Bill Eagle would like to make schedules available at regular stops, along with the Senior Center in Scappoose. There was additional discussion about providing schedules to local businesses to display on a regular basis.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.