

**COLUMBIA COUNTY CITIZEN TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND  
STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT FUND COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Date:** April 16, 2019

**Time:** 6:30 P.M.

**Place:** CCR Transit Center, St. Helens, OR

**Present:** Sharon Evinger; Bill Eagle; Claudia Eagle; Blanche Katz; Genell Grow;  
Charlotte Hart; Dena Chesney

**Absent:** Henry Heimuller

**Staff:** Todd Wood, Transit Administrator; John Dreeszen, Transit Coordinator; Angela  
Garrett, Administrative Assistant

**Guests:** Alta Lynch; Ralph Culpepper

**Call to Order (CCRTAC):** Chair Evinger called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**Public Comments:** Alta Lynch requested that schedules for all lines were available on all buses.  
Ms. Lynch suggested shoe hangers could be used to hang on one of the seats.

**Approval of March 19, 2019 Minutes:** Committee approved the March 19, 2019 minutes  
unanimously.

**Ridership Update:** Todd Wood reported ridership is low overall, except for a few lines. He  
suggested this may be due to the recent changes that occurred on April 1. He noted the mid-day  
bus that stops at Banks is being used, and he is working with Washington County to possibly  
receive some funding to support more service on that line. Chair Evinger stated she believes the  
removal of the noon run on the flex line may be responsible for the dip in ridership on that line.

**Grant Updates:** John Dreeszen stated reporting for the third quarter of the fiscal year is coming  
up. He noted many of the grant funds will be exhausted at this point, although it was expected.  
Mr. Dreeszen also noted the reimbursement request for the new bus will be submitted, and the  
final walk through of the Rainier Transit facility will be one of the last steps before closing out  
that grant. Mr. Wood stated the 5311 funding has been delayed until October 2019, which will  
delay deployment of the associated projects.

**Contractor Update:** Mr. Wood stated the contract with MTR has been finalized with an hourly  
rate of \$58 per hour. The new contract includes a bus washer along with facility maintenance.  
Committee Member Katz stated additional cleaning is necessary on the buses to remove debris  
from the walkway. Mr. Wood said the contract goes in front of the commissioners on April 17<sup>th</sup>  
for signature.

**Public Funding – City Outreach:** Mr. Wood stated Commissioner Heimuller is working to form a political action committee. Mr. Wood has been scheduling meetings with each city in Columbia County to garner their support of the upcoming tax measure. Mr. Wood stated he has spoken with Vernonia, Columbia City, and St. Helens so far and they are all in support of putting the measure in front of the voters. There was some discussion around what happens if a city decides not to support the measure.

**Upcoming Parades/Fairs:** Chair Evinger listed the upcoming events in St. Helens, Clatskanie, Vernonia, and Rainier. Some notable events are the Children’s Fair, Halloweentown, Vernonia parade, and Kiwanis Parade on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Kiwanis parade is the first one coming up and the theme is “Happy Birthday St. Helens”. Committee Member Grow stated the bus was decorated too “princess-y” last time and some thought should be put in to the décor so it is easily distinguishable as a Columbia County Rider bus. Committee Member Katz stated an events committee has been formed in the past and she volunteered herself. Committee Members Hart and Grow also volunteered, as well as Chair Evinger.

**Vacant Committee Positions:** Chair Evinger’s position expires on July 1, 2019. Mr. Wood explained the rules related to term limits. Committee Members B. Eagle, C. Eagle, Hart, Chesney, and Katz are all in their first term, and Committee Member Grow and Chair Evinger are in their second term. There was discussion around the bylaws related to committee member requirements, term limits, and commissioner involvement.

**Additional Comments:** Committee Member Katz stated she has a contact for an automatic door opener for the front door to the St. Helens transit center, as it is difficult to operate alone if you are in a wheelchair.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Limiting Daily Dial-A Rides:** Mr. Dreeszen relayed difficulties dispatch is having with a handful of rider pre-scheduling Flex route deviations so others are unable to use that part of the service and requested input from the committee for how to resolve the issue. He noted Dial-A-Ride is being overused by some riders as well and causes some people to be turned away. A restriction on the number of trips per day an individual is able to take is one suggestion to balance usage. Mr. Dreeszen reminded the committee that medical needs are the number one priority for Dial-A-Ride, second is life needs, and lowest on the priority list is social activities. There was discussion around implementing a volunteer driver program, similar to other agencies.

**Line 3 Flex Re-route:** Mr. Wood presented maps for re-routing the line 3 Flex route. Committee Member B. Eagle noted the new Legacy Clinic will be operational within a month and dialysis will be performed at the new clinic. Mr. Wood explained the re-route of line 3 Flex route will stop at many of the low income housing developments, as well as adding stops near businesses in downtown St. Helens area. There is a belief this re-route could also relieve some of the deviations that are routinely requested. Mr. Wood further stated that eliminating stops in parking

lots is another benefit to re-routing the line. Mr. Wood noted this plan requires City approval before implementation. There was discussion around timing of implementation, bus signage, and bus shelters.

### **STIF COMMITTEE**

**Current Status:** Mr. Wood stated the STIF application is to be reviewed by the Commissioners on 4/17/19 as the deadline for submission is 5/1/19. He expects the application to be approved with no complications.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 P.M.