



**BENTON COUNTY
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Special Coordinated Plan Meeting April 25, 2017**

Present

Tim Bates, Vice Chair
Steve Harder
Tera Stegner
Dave Zaback
Steven Black
Axel Deininger (remote)

Absent

Tom Wogaman
Drew Foster
Mary Marsh-King
Lisa Scherf (City of Corvallis)

STF and City/County Staff

Lee Lazaro, STF Coordinator
Cathy Williams, STF Assistant (Recorder)
Debie Wyne, Benton County Public Works

Visitors/Presenters

Jim Owens, Cogan Owens Greene
Jean Palmateer, ODOT Rail & Public Transit
Ann Hanus, Oregon Assoc. of Counties
Ali Bonakdar, CAMPO
Phil Warnock, OCWCOG
Suzanne Lazaro, SSAC - COG
Sally Harburg, Volunteer Caregivers
Sandra Potter, Volunteer Caregivers
Betty Hooper
Jasper Smith, Benton County DD
Lisa Bennett, SSAC/DSAC - COG
Clarice Freitas, LBHEA
David Rabinowitz, Corv. Sust. Coalition

1. Introductions

Vice Chair Tim Bates called the meeting to order at 12:37 PM. Committee members present introduced themselves. Mr. Bates also acknowledged that there were several staff, guests, and other attendees, and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. Review and approval of meeting minutes

The Committee reviewed the March 28th, 2017 minutes. Steven Black moved to accept the minutes and Steve Harder seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

3. Coordinated Plan Program – Presented by Jim Owens & Jean Palmateer

Lee Lazaro introduced the Open House and thanked everyone for attending. He informed the group that this day is the culmination of an approximately 2-year effort that we have been working with ODOT and the Oregon Association with counties on this Coordinated Plan. There have been several open houses; current assessments; identification of issues and challenges; interviewing 50-60 stakeholders in Linn/Benton/Lincoln areas; and determining strategies/priorities throughout that time. Mr. Lazaro had copies of the agenda packet and draft Coordinated Plans available for those interested.

a) Presentation – Coordinated Plan Overview

Jean Palmateer began the presentation by informing the attendees that the Coordinated Plan is required by the Federal Government – US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration. It is part of a program called “5310” which is intended to support the travel needs of older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans. The goal is that through coordination of agencies with common interests, we find a better way to serve older adults, people with disabilities, and people with lower incomes. This has been a requirement by the Feds for almost 15 years and Oregon is now in the 3rd wave of planning efforts.

Ms. Palmateer stated that each time the State goes through this Coordinated Plan process, we improve upon it. One thing noticed in the last round is how much in common neighboring jurisdictions have with each other. She said that this particular plan is a “pilot” which includes Benton, Linn, and Lincoln Counties along with the Siletz Tribe. Each entity has their own unique Plan for their area, then the process is completed by having one plan for the larger “travel shed”. These regional issues we have in common are mutual goals between the entities, and will be included in a common Chapter (not yet completed). Ms. Palmateer stated that today the focus is on the Benton County Plan. If you look at the policies and ideas for implementation, you would see things that would remind you of transportation issues that would be common in any area.

Jim Owens presented a 25-minute slideshow summarizing the draft Coordinated Plan. He noted that there are several transportation plans going on in the Mid-Valley, but this one is unique in that it is focused on coordination, specifically between providers of public transportation and the Human and Health Services communities. The Plan looks at how to match our public transportation services to best meet the needs of those who need to use those services. We are also trying to have the Human and Health Services communities understand the transportation services that are available, and share that information with their clients. We look at how to use public transportation best to access medical services, employment, appointments, and other special services that clients need specific to transit.

Mr. Owens restated that the Coordinated Plan is a requirement of both the Federal and State governments. The requirement is that projects for which agencies seek funding must be captured in the Plan, with the purpose to improve services. In the slideshow, Mr. Owens reviewed contents of the Plan and explained the steps of the planning process, along with details of how funds have been used since the last update in 2009. He also noted the section of how the STAC will prioritize funding if there are shortfalls in the future. Mr. Owens stated that the heart of the plan is the identification of needs, and what strategies/actions are going to be taken to meet those needs.

b) General Audience Questions & Comments

There were a considerable number of follow-up questions and general input from attendees on Mr. Owen’s presentation, which were noted by him for future reference and possible research and/or follow-up.

c) Public Input Opportunity/Workstations

Mr. Owens had the group of attendees circulate to four workstations, which each had specific questions that provided participants the opportunity to give input and ideas. Their input was recorded for the draft plan.

d) Coordinated Plan Questionnaire

Attendees were asked to complete and return a questionnaire for feedback purposes. Questionnaires were collected as participants left the meeting.

4. Conclusion: The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.