

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

Meeting Date: January 15, 2019

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Place: Columbia County Public Works Department, Healy Hall, St. Helens, OR

Present: Bill Eagle; Claudia Eagle; Blanche Katz; Dena Chesney; Charlotte Hart; Genell Grow; Henry Heimuller (STIF Committee)

Absent: Sharon Evinger

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

Guests: Alta Lynch; Ralph Culpepper; Deanna Tanner; Commissioner Alex Tardiff; Commissioner Margaret Magruder; Robin McIntyre - County Counsel; Arla Miller – ODOT Public Transit;

Call to Order (CCRTAC): Committee Member B. Eagle called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Approval of December 12, 2018 Minutes: Committee approved the December 12, 2018 minutes unanimously.

Laws & Advisory Member Description Update: Mr. Wood stated the Laws and Advisory Member Descriptions have been approved and are now in a 90-day waiting period before the ordinance takes effect, at which point all committee members will receive their own copies.

Route Cuts: Mr. Wood presented the most current plan for route cuts and gave a reminder that further discussion would take place at the public forum immediately after the committee meeting. Committee member Katz questioned when planning would start for grant upcoming grant funds. Mr. Wood answered that planning would begin in February.

STF COMMITTEE

Our Budget: Mr. Wood stated the budget has been completed and another shortfall is anticipated due to timing of the route cuts and the end numbers will be predicated the results of the RFP for the new contractor. He further stated the County has agreed to extend more funding to bridge the gap between revenue and expenses.

STF and State Budget: Mr. Wood stated the Governor’s proposed budget does not include funding for public transit. He said if that budget passes, CCRider stands to lose between \$40,000

and \$60,000 in funding for the upcoming fiscal year. He urged those in attendance to reach out to the Governor to state the problems that will pose for our system. Committee Member Heimuller asked guest Arla Miller from ODOT to make a statement relating to whom that lack of funding effects. Alra Miller stated the budget cut would have the largest effect on the senior and disabled population. There was some discussion around getting a group together to present to the Governor and decision makers in Salem the impact this would have on the state's rural public transit systems as a whole. Committee Member Katz suggested we invite Betsy Johnson to attend a future committee meeting.

Public Funding: Mr. Wood acknowledged that due to the Governor's proposed budget at the state level, the need for local funding is higher than before. He presented the staff analysis relating to neighboring transit agencies' funding levels shows that CC Rider receives drastically less funding overall than almost any bordering agency. Mr. Wood further stated this trend can be expected to continue every biennium, and consistent local funding is essential to continue operations. This information has been presented to the commissioners to consider. Committee Member Katz suggested public education for the next generation could be an option to ensure the stability of the future of public transit in our community.

STIF COMMITTEE

5311(f) Projects: Mr. Wood gave a summary of what these funds have traditionally been used for and staff recommendation to apply for these funds again in the next biennium. He gave two options for levels of funding and asked the committee to vote on which level to apply for. Staff recommendation was to apply for the lower level of funding due to the amount of match funds required for the higher level. After some discussion, Committee Member Katz made a motion to use STIF funds for match against the higher level of 5311(f) funding. Committee Member Chesney seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

STIF Discretionary Projects: Mr. Wood stated we will not be applying for these funds at this time due to the match requirements.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.