

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

Meeting Date: February 19, 2019

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: CCR Transit Center, St. Helens, OR

Present: Genell Grow, Sharon Evinger, Blanche Katz, Dena Chesney, Charlotte Hart

Absent: Bill Eagle, Claudia Eagle, 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 was unable to find previous posts related to CCR “Did you know...?” series on CCR Facebook page. Ms. Lynch also raised questions about Cornelius Pass road improvements in light of the closure of Rocky Point Road. Ms. Lynch also noted public comments were not allowed at the previous meeting.

Approval of January 15, 2019 Minutes: Committee approved the January 15, 2019 minutes unanimously.

Laws & Advisory Member Description Update: Mr. Wood presented bylaws and stated they have been approved by Commissioners and County Counsel. Committee members reviewed and discussed various portions of the bylaws. Chair Evinger questioned the committee members’ role in enforcing the bylaws. Mr. Wood stated an agenda item could be added for the March meeting for further discussion if necessary.

Route Cuts Update/Ridership: Mr. Wood stated the first week of route cuts did not go well due to various issues. Staff is currently managing public relations related to those issues, as well as working with the contractor to ensure things run smoothly going forward, especially in light of high turnover with the contractor. Mr. Wood presented statistics on ridership and noted it remains steady after minimal initial losses due to route cuts, mainly on Line 1. Mr. Wood stated Tri-Met is expected to subsidize an additional, mid-day, run on Line 1. Chair Evinger extended compliments of the notable increase in communication with the public and Mr. Wood acknowledged that has been a priority, especially between the contractor and the County.

Grant Updates: Mr. Dreeszen gave an update on some historic grants that are closing. Both grants are related to the Rainier Transit Facility final reimbursement requests have been

submitted and final reporting is in process. Mr. Dreeszen explained the history behind the property and related grants, and stated the grants were originally applied for by former administrator Janet Wright in 2012. Mr. Dreeszen stated the agency's three operating grants are up for renewal for the next biennium, 2019-2021.

Request for Proposals: Mr. Dreeszen reminded the committee of the history with the current contractor, that we issued a Request for Proposal for a new contractor on January 25th, and proposals are due on February 25th. Upon last inquiry, 14 entities expressed interest in the RFP, and 16 organizations have downloaded the document. Mr. Dreeszen explained the different organizations that would be interested in this type of RFP and it may not mean we would receive that many bids - of the 16, there are 5 that are transit services providers. Mr. Dreeszen then presented the list of those 5 transit contractors, including those who issued follow-up questions. Mr. Dreeszen also explained the process for choosing a contractor once bids are submitted. Alta Lynch questioned a backup plan due to the short timeline and Mr. Wood explained the two options available in case that happened.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Funding Campaign: Mr. Wood presented information related to CCRider's position in relation to neighboring transit districts and agencies. The data presented showed that CCRider receives less funding and revenue than other comparable agencies while being competitively efficient with operational costs. Mr. Wood said the commissioners are looking at going to the public for funding which was the nature of Committee Member Heimuller's meeting with Senator Johnson. Committee Member Heimuller noted that Senator Johnson was supportive of the idea of a service district. Most of the campaign will be spearheaded by the commissioners, and Mr. Wood indicated that the initiative would come up on the November 2019 ballot and stated if it fails, CCRider would be on the path for further service reductions.

STIF COMMITTEE

Project Costs: Mr. Wood stated the STIF discretionary grant application is due May 1, 2019 and presented some project options and their associated costs: Estimated funds to be received from STIF in FY 2019 is \$153,000; FY 2020 \$351,000; FY 2021 \$403,000. The first option presented was a reverse Flex route, the second option was increased Dial-A-Ride, the third option was increased Portland medical transport, the fourth option was Fare reduction to low income residents and veterans, the fifth option was Rainier service grant matching, the sixth option was expanding service in Vernonia, the seventh option presented was match funds for new vehicle purchases, the eighth option was update the transit development plan, and the ninth option was to use the funds to match 5311 and 5310 federal grants. Mr. Wood explained the committee is required to give input on what projects are most important.

Project Priorities: The committee asked for clarification on various projects and had a lengthy discussion around each clarification. The committee's preliminary vote on project priority was: 4, 3, 2, 1, 6

Other Projects: Chair Evinger suggested expanding the Flex to later in the evening. Committee member Katz suggested working with Chamber of Commerce to find out if any businesses are interested in having stops/shelters at their business. Chair Evinger suggested we find out about community events far enough in advance in order to adequately prepare for our presence.

Timeline: Mr. Wood presented the committee with 4 projects for the committee to vote on what they would like to see STIF funds being used for in our region by neighboring agencies, as well as our own, at the request of ODOT. After lengthy discussion, the committee voted on projects.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M.