

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

Meeting Date: June 18, 2019

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: CCR Transit Center, St. Helens, OR

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

Absent: None

Staff: Todd Wood, Transit Director; John Dreeszen, Transit Coordinator

Guests: Joe Turner, Ralph Culpepper

Call to Order (CCRTAC): Co-Chair B. Eagle called the meeting to order at 6:45 P.M. as Chair Evinger was running behind.

Public Comments: No public comments were received until all attendees had arrived. Ralph Culpepper asked if all grant dollars available are being received, and if everything is being done to increase ridership in order to receive formula grant dollars. Mr. Culpepper also asked if staff knew of any transit agencies had recently ceased operations. Staff stated an agency just outside of Salem had shut down within the last couple of years due to lack of funding. Mr. Wood stated staff is continuously looking at available grant dollars and evaluating the feasibility of receiving those funds due to availability of match funding. Mr. Wood also noted staff is working on a pilot program to increase ridership in the northern part of the county, along with increasing and improving signage to provide more visibility to potential riders. Mr. Wood further noted formula grant dollars for the upcoming fiscal year decreased by 5% due to a decrease in ridership.

Approval of May 21, 2019 Minutes: Committee approved the May 21, 2019 minutes unanimously.

Vacant Committee Positions: Committee Member B. Eagle noted Chair Evinger has exhausted her term as a committee member and Chair. Committee Member Hart nominated Committee Member Grow as Chair. Committee Member Katz seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. Committee Member B. Eagle noted one more position remains available. Committee Member Heimuller explained the process for approving new committee members. Committee Member Katz has been renewed for another term.

Presentation: Committee Member Heimuller presented Chair Evinger with a certificate of appreciation for her years of service, along with gift certificates for monthly passes, and a personal note of thanks from himself.

Bus Purchases Update: Mr. Wood gave an update on the status of the four new buses. Each bus will hold 16 passengers and will be delivered in early September. Mr. Wood also stated the Board of Commissioners has approved the purchase of two 41-passenger TriMet buses for the sum of \$10 each. He clarified each bus will need a thorough inspection and maintenance detail before they can be put in to service.

Ridership Update: Todd Wood stated ridership steady. Line 2 has decreased as it does each summer. He noted negotiations with PCC for a new IGA are forthcoming. All other lines are stable or increasing in ridership. Additional runs will be funded with a new grant and staff is monitoring changes being made by Sunset Empire to determine the needs for North County going forward.

Parades/Fairs: Chair Evinger made remarks on the participation in the Kiwanis Parade, including receiving the second place ribbon. There was discussion around the organization for transporting committee members in the future. Mr. Wood stated there may not be a driver available for the July 4th Clatskanie parade and there was discussion on how to make that work. There was additional discussion around having a booth at the County Fair as well as whether or not there could be participation in Rainier Days and the Vernonia parade.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Round Table: Chair Evinger asked each committee member if there was further questions not already addressed in the agenda. Committee Member Hart mentioned she has heard good things from riders about the service as of late. Mr. Wood gave an update on the status of the STIF application. There was discussion about the tax measure, and what it means for the future of the system. Committee Member Chesney enjoyed the parade. Committee Member Katz stated she received feedback from a parade attendee and that she enjoyed herself. Committee Member B. Eagle would like to see more of a presence on KOHI and noted he called in to the last program with some facts. He also noted the public forum to be held by the County Commissioners on July 10th, and encouraged the entire committee to attend if possible. Chair Evinger noted the misperceptions around the system and the need to educate the public.

STIF COMMITTEE

No New Updates

CLOSING

Final Public Comments: Joe Turner commented that he helps his elderly neighbor who no longer drives by getting groceries while he is at the store. He doesn't believe that the commuter

service is something that is necessary for this community. He does believe in transit for county residents to travel within the county, especially for the disabled, elderly, and veteran population and noted he is doing his part in his community. Mr. Wood responded by saying there is a plan to extend the Flex bus in to Columbia City, as well as expanded Portland medical service, and that Mr. Turner's efforts are appreciated. Mr. Turner also noted his experience with the public transit system in Europe, where he and his wife own a home.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 P.M.