

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

**Meeting Date:** September, 2019

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

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

**Present:** Bill Eagle; Claudia Eagle; Genell Grow; Dena Chesney; Blanche Katz; Marty Rowe

**Absent:** None

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

**Guests:** Ralph Culpepper; Alta Lynch, Teresa Nichols; Joe Turner

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

**Public Comments:** Public comments were requested and none were received

**Approval of August 20, 2019 Minutes:** Committee approved the August 20, 2019 minutes unanimously.

**Introduction of New Committee Member:** Martin Rowe introduced himself as the newest committee member.

**Ridership Updates:** Todd Wood stated August ridership is still down overall as the summer months tend to be. Mr. Wood expects ridership to increase going in to fall, especially on the line 2 with fall term beginning. Mr. Wood mentioned lines 5 and 6 have bumped up in ridership

**FLEX Route Updates:** Mr. Wood notified the committee about additional stops in St. Helens, along with four new stops in Columbia City, which had previously not been served. Mr. Wood stated staff continues to work with the City of Scappoose to add stops there as well. The additional stops in St. Helens were chosen due to repeated requests for deviations to local businesses, and to more efficiently use the driving time being paid to the contractor. By adding these stops, the hope is that deviations can be preserved for other purposes. Mr. Wood went on to identify the additional stops for the committee. Mr. Wood also mentioned the continued effort to work with the Cities to install signage at both new and older stops. The route will be monitored for usage and adjusted if necessary.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Committee Round Table:** Chair Grow asked about involvement with Halloweentown. Mr. Wood stated there would be a presence at the Children's Fair, but not at Halloweentown. Mr. Wood expressed interest in providing a shuttle for the viewing of the Christmas Ships. Chair Grow suggested having a discussion on the local radio station, KOHI, to spread word about the route improvements on the FLEX. Several other members agreed that would be beneficial. Committee Member Rowe expanded on that suggestion to include a column in the local paper reflecting topics discussed on the radio program. Committee Member Katz suggested reinstating the Educational Committee. Committee Member Katz also inquired about the county's disaster plan and whether or not CCRider is a part of it. Mr. Wood explained the county does have an Emergency Management department and that CCRider is a piece of the disaster plan. Committee Member B. Eagle inquired about a shelter at Havlik drive.

## **STIF COMMITTEE**

**STIF Grant Updates:** Mr. Wood indicated all STIF projects have been approved by the state and the implementation date is set for October 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wood reminded the committee of some of the STIF projects that were presented to the state.

## **CLOSING**

**Final Public Comments:** Alta Lynch asked if the committee members if they have looked at the new routes. Ms. Lynch also mentioned it is difficult to get a signal for the local radio station so she is unable to hear the commercials. Ms. Lynch stated she would like to see the committee be more involved. Chair Grow explained the purpose of the committee and Mr. Wood noted the committee is involved and voted on what projects to include in the STIF application. There was discussion around doing a radio show and making sure information that is put out to the public is accurate. Joe Turner stated he doesn't believe the routes run past the areas where people will need rides the most. He noted a couple of locations where new developments where stops may be useful. Ralph Culpepper asked if CCRider receives any of the proceeds from the gas tax. Mr. Culpepper noted a sign needs to be removed from one of the shelters at the transit center. Mr. Culpepper also noted the Flex is on a tighter schedule and questioned what was happening for "the last 10 years". Mr. Culpepper also asked if ridership had increased at all

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M.