

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

(Note: This meeting was conducted virtually via GoToMeeting. The meeting was not recorded, so these notes represent a basic summary of conversations.)

Meeting Date: May 19, 2020

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Place: Virtually, via phone and GoToMeeting

Present: Genell Grow; Bill Eagle; Claudia Eagle; Blanche Katz; Marty Rowe; Charlotte Hart

Staff: John Dreeszen, Interim Transit Director

Guests: Two unidentified participants

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Grow called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Public Comments: No public comments

Approval of January 21, 2020 Minutes: Committee approved the January 21, 2020 minutes unanimously without corrections.

UPDATES:

Ridership: John Dreeszen presented January through April ridership results for each line of service for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Total YTD ridership for 2020 is down 36.5% compared to 2019, with significant declines beginning in March, 2020. Although still lower than in 2019 and 2018, Line 3 – South County Flex has shown the lowest impact from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Line 1 – Portland has shown the highest impact.

Line 2 – PCC/185th Ave: Effective May 4, 2020 Line 2 – PCC/185th Ave service has been suspended by mutual agreement of PCC and CCR. PCC campuses are closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, meaning ridership is down to nearly nothing, and PCC's source of revenue for contributing to Line 2 costs has disappeared. Discussions will continue over the summer regarding a re-start of services and the addition of service to the PCC OMIC facility when it opens next spring.

MTR: CCR and MTR have negotiated a revised per-revenue-hour rate of \$61.79 which reflects the impact on MTR of industry-wide increases in transit bus insurance rates, together with the reduction in revenue hours related to suspension of the Line 2 service.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Dial-A-Ride Changes: Mr. Dreeszen explained to the Committee that staff is exploring the implementation of a flat-rate fare for Dial-A-Ride service of \$4.00 per trip compared to the current \$2.20 per trip. Additionally, though not necessarily together, staff is investigating the possibility of establishing a maximum trip length for Dial-A-Ride trips. Many trips between South County and North County reach lengths in excess of 15 miles, most of which could be provided by an existing fixed-route service line. Establishing a maximum trip length would steer more rides onto fixed-route services, making Dial-A-Ride more efficient and freeing-up service hours to provide more rides. Mr. Dreeszen asked the Committee to consider these proposals for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Preparing for 2022-23 Biennium: Mr. Dreeszen reported that the grant funding cycle for the 2022-23 biennium will begin with trainings and funding announcements in September. Lower ridership will likely result in modest declines in formula grant funding, and early indications suggest that STIF funding may be significantly impacted by the economic aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Although CCR has been able to reduce its borrowings from the County General Fund, the need to eliminate these borrowings combined with the prospect of still lower available grant funding suggests that the Committee should expect suggestions for further service reductions beginning in FY 2021-22, if not sooner.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.