

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

Meeting Date: September 8, 2020

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Place: CCR Transit Center, St. Helens, OR

Present: Bill Eagle; Claudia Eagle; Scott Burge; Dena Chesney; Blanche Katz; Marty Rowe; Charlotte Hart

Staff: John Dreeszen, Transit Director

Guests: Kathy Kleczek

Call to Order (CCRTAC): Chair Grow called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Public Comments: Kathy Kleczek, from NW Transportation Options, gave a reminder about the “Get There Challenge”.

Approval of May 19, 2020 Minutes: Committee approved the May 19, 2020 minutes unanimously without corrections.

Ridership Updates: John Dreeszen gave an update on ridership statistics. Ridership has dropped significantly due to COVID-19. June and July statistics indicate a slight rebound in ridership.

Line 2: Mr. Dreeszen noted Line 2 has been suspended indefinitely due to PCC campus closure.

MTR: A rate increase was approved for MTR Western in March 2020. Mr. Dreeszen also updated the committee that there was a driver shortage due to delays on hiring from MTR Western. He noted there is some concern with the ability of MTR Western to continue business operations due to COVID-19 repercussions.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Committee member Bill Eagle was nominated for Chair and Committee member Scott Burge was nominated for Vice Chair. Committee member Blanche Katz suggested that each committee member refresh their memory on “Roberts Rules of Order”. The committee approved the nominations unanimously.

Preparing for 2022-23 Biennium: Mr. Dreeszen gave the committee an update on the budget at the end of fiscal year 2020 and noted that some additional service cuts might be necessary in order to continue to pay down the loan from the general fund. Mr. Dreeszen also updated the committee on the new rules for STIF funding. Mr. Dreeszen stated the committee will be presented with some options for service reductions at the next meeting.

STIF COMMITTEE

No New Business

Committee Round Table: Committee member Katz suggested releasing a survey and Committee member Hart noted the Education Committee was working on that before COVID-19. Committee member Rowe asked about advertising on buses. Mr. Dreeszen responded that the County has a policy around advertising making it difficult to implement. Mr. Dreeszen will distribute the existing policy around advertising for the committee to review and suggest changes. Committee member Katz suggested finalizing the Dial-A-Ride fee revision. There was discussion on how to best accomplish a fee revision along with a policy revision. Committee member Chesney expressed concern about the impact to the community should a fee increase be implemented.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.