

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

**Meeting Date:** October 19, 2021

**Time:** 4:00 P.M.

**Place:** Columbia County Transit, St. Helens, OR

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

**Absent:** Scott Burge; Dena Chesney

**Staff:** John Dreeszen, Transit Director

**Guests:** Alta Lynch, Kathy Kleczek

**Call to Order (CCRTAC):** Chair B. Eagle called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

**Approval of June 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes:** The Committee approved the June 15, 2021 meeting minutes unanimously.

**Public Comments:** The Committee paused for public comment and Kathy Kleczek from NW Transportation Options provided a link to a video regarding transit that the Committee can watch on their own time.

**Community Service Work:** John Dreeszen shared that the community events that have been completed were the Columbia County Fair, Rainier Days Parade, Vernonia Days Parade, Scappoose 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade, and Scappoose 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Shuttle. A total of 54.92 drivers hours have been contributed to these events. Charlotte Hart shared that The Children's Fair Event on October 30<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled due to an increase in local COVID-19 cases.

**Service Update:** John Dreeszen shared a Ridership Snapshot report. In this report it shows that Dial-A-Ride (DAR) rides per hour have increased within the last three years from an average of 1.5 rides an hour to 2. DAR ridership has also significantly increased in part due to the implementation of the new Dial-A-Ride (DAR) dispatch software and mileage extension. Chair B. Eagle noted that the increase can also be attributed to the necessity of the DAR service in which lives depend on it. Committee member Katz expressed the need for the fare changes to be published in newspapers or other print materials for those community members that are not computer literate.

**Ridership Report:** John Dreeszen continued with Ridership Snapshot report which compared the last three months (July-September) to the last three years (FY 20, FY 21, and FY 22). Mr. Dreeszen expressed that the fixed route has seen a significant decrease in ridership due to the pandemic and multiple service suspensions. Mr. Dreeszen noted that the Dial-A-Ride (DAR) service has not only done better in the last three months, but also within the last two years.

**Staffing Update:** John Dreeszen shared that as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 Angela Garrett, the Transit Administrative Assistant, has moved onto a new opportunity. A replacement has been hired and will begin on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Grants & Budget Update:** John Dreeszen shared in the Ridership Snapshot the difference of the contractor's rate change in service hours over the last three years. The rate has increased from \$57.96 an hour in FY 20 to \$73.30 in FY 22. Due to the decrease in ridership and service over the last three years, the monthly charge from the contractor has actually decreased from \$75,369 monthly to \$47,018.

**Committee Round Table:** Committee member Katz provided feedback regarding recent personal experiences she had with CC Rider. Committee member Katz wants to verify that the reminder message riders receive provides the correct information of who to contact with questions and changes. Committee member Katz noted that the return phone number provided in the reminder message was for NW Connect, not CC Rider, which can create confusion for riders. Committee member Katz suggests that, if possible, the dispatch software identify who is a CC Rider and that when a reminder message is sent out it only includes CC Rider contact information. Chair B. Eagle expressed gratitude that the Ridership Snapshot report & the minutes were sent to each committee member promptly. Chair B. Eagle shared that he is glad the community is using and taking advantage of the transit systems that connect the Pacific Northwest.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.