

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

Meeting Date: January 18, 2022

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Place: Columbia County Transit, St. Helens, OR

Present: Bill Eagle; Blanche Katz, Claudia Eagle, Dena Chesney

Absent: Scott Burge; Charlotte Hart, Marty Rowe

Staff: John Dreeszen, Transit Director

Guests: None

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

Approval of October 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes: The Committee approved the October 19, 2021 meeting minutes unanimously.

Public Comments: The Committee paused for public comment and none was offered.

Committee Membership: John Dreeszen shared a report that he received from the Columbia County Board of Commissioners office which states that the terms for Committee members Charlotte Hart and Dena Chesney expired June 30, 2021. Chair B. Eagle requested a motion to renew these Committee members' terms if they are agreed upon. Committee member Claudia Eagle made a motion to renew the terms, Committee member Blanche Katz seconded the motion.

Service Updates: John Dreeszen shared that there haven't been any service updates, Line 1 Runs 1-6 continue as scheduled and approximately 18 hours a day are still dedicated to the Dial a Ride service. The current contract with MTR Western comes to an end on June 30, 2022. If needed, the contract allows for two one year extensions. Mr. Dreeszen shared that talks with MTR Western begun months ago, but if an agreement cannot be reached then an RFP (Request for Proposals) will need to be formally drafted. MTR Western has expressed an interest in extending the contract and today, 1/18/2022, they shared a verbal, informal estimate of their proposed rate increase for a new contract. The current rate is \$73.20/hour and the new anticipated rate is upwards of \$100/hour. With this news of a significant rate increase, Mr.

Dreeszen intends to begin drafting a formal RFP. Mr. Dreeszen has already begun to make edits to an RFP draft and believes it will be complete and issued mid-February 2022.

Grant & Budget Updates: Mr. Dreeszen shared that although the pandemic has created hardships economically, it has also provided additional funding and grant opportunities. One of these opportunities includes a one-time grant that was awarded to CCR with a total sum of approximately \$290,000. Mr. Dreeszen outlined that the proposed plan for the grant money is to be spent on repairs, replacements or improvements over the next two to three years.

Committee Round Table: Committee member Katz requested a follow up to the issue discussed in the October 19, 2021 CCRTAC meeting regarding the reminder message sent out to scheduled riders. Mr. Dreeszen explained that with the new Dial a Ride scheduling software, riders can elect to receive an automated phone call or text reminder of their expected pick up time. This reminder provides a phone number for NW Rides, the brokerage service the software is purchased for, and unfortunately there is no opportunity to change the reminder message. Chair B. Eagle wanted to provide a reminder that his and Committee member Claudia Eagle's term are set to expire in 2022 and replacements need to be identified. Mr. Dreeszen is planning to draft a public announcement to seek new Committee members.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.