



**BENTON COUNTY
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting January 24, 2017**

Present

Mary Marsh-King, Chair
Steve Harder
Tera Stegner
Dave Zaback
Steven Black
Tom Wogaman
Axel Deininger
Drew Foster

STF and City/County Staff

Lee Lazaro, STF Coordinator
Cathy Williams, STF Assistant (Recorder)
Lisa Scherf, City of Corvallis
Tim Bates, Vice Chair
Debie Wyne, Benton County Public Works

Visitors/Presenters

(None)

1. Introductions

Chair Marsh-King called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM. Committee members present introduced themselves. Ms. Marsh-King also acknowledged that Axel Deininger was in attendance via speakerphone and she asked staff and other attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Review and approval of meeting minutes

The Committee reviewed the January 3rd, 2017 minutes. Steven Black moved to accept the minutes and Drew Foster seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

3. Old Business

Update on Grant Applications Submitted to Date - Mr. Lazaro reported that the deadlines were met for all three January grant applications.

2017-19 5311 Rural Public Transit Grant

2017-19 Transit Network Grant

2017-18 Linn County STF Grant

The next round of deadlines will be in February.

4. New Business

2017-19 Biennium STF & 5310 Grant Allocation Work

• **Summary of Provider Applications Received**

Mr. Lazaro distributed a packet of provider applications which were received by the January 11 deadline, and confirmed that we did not receive any proposals from new providers. Dial-A-Bus was not required to submit a full application since we are currently in year three of an existing 5-year contract with them. We also did not receive

an application from the City of Corvallis for any additional ADA ramp improvements. Lisa Scherf stated that they are still working on their current contract tasks.

- **Schedule for Future Presentations by Providers**

Chair Marsh-King discussed that in past Biennium STF public processes, applicants had been requested to come before the STAC, and make brief budget presentations and answer questions regarding their applications. This Biennium, the ODOT deadlines for grant submission have been moved up by a month to six weeks, which has greatly shortened the STAC's time for conducting a public process and for reviewing funding applications.

Since time constraints and meeting January grant deadlines this month made it impossible for Mr. Lazaro to try to organize getting all of the applicants together for a group presentation, Ms. Marsh-King suggested that the providers instead make individual presentations throughout the year. It was agreed by all that these presentations would be of more benefit to the new Committee members. Mr. Lazaro also pointed out that since there was no additional funding this Biennium and instead, less funds, this was another reason why individual budget presentations would not be particularly useful this time. Several STAC members concurred with this observation.

(Note: it was subsequently confirmed by ODOT Regional Transit Coordinator Jamey Dempster in an email to Mr. Lazaro that there is no requirement under STF statute for the STAC to have public presentations as part of the STF funding deliberation process.)

ACTION: STAC Members to discuss proposed schedule for presentations at future meetings.

- **Updated DRAFT 2017 STAC Grant Activities and Public Process Schedule**

Mr. Lazaro noted that he updated the STAC Public Process Activities Schedule to reflect that the presentations were not going to be made at today's meeting by providers.

- **Options Analysis & Discussion for Meeting Reductions**

The document from the agenda packet detailing potential 17% reductions in Dial a Bus services was discussed. Steve Harder of Dial-A-Bus discussed details of the components of approximate \$92,000 in program reductions, and the factors considered for those calculations. He noted that this would be a very large reduction, and the service reductions would be fairly drastic. STAC members commented that they were not in favor of making these levels of reductions unless faced with no alternative.

Steven Black asked about possible reimbursement for Medicare rides. Mr. Lazaro responded that Medicare does not reimburse for medical transportation. Medicaid does reimburse for non-emergency medical transportation, and those rides are dispatched through the Transportation Brokerage, RideLine, which operates out of the Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments. He noted that there are about 29 Brokerage transportation providers that service Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties. Some of them operate for-profit, and some are not-for-profit, so they are paid separately per ride. The

medical rides that Dial a Bus provides are the non-Brokerage, non-Medicaid rides, and therefore are non-reimbursable rides.

Mr. Lazaro noted that he, Lisa Scherf, and Debie Wyne had put their heads together and come up with a one-time solution to address the 2017-19 shortfalls in both 5310 and STF funding. It was a “make-shift” solution, using a combination of reductions, unspent discretionary grant funds, elimination of one-time grants, and increased agency contributions. It would cover the shortfall for 2017-19, but would not be a long-term solution if the reduced levels of funding were to continue into 2019-21.

Mr. Lazaro asked Committee members to review the table of proposed Federal 5310 and State Special Transportation Funds, which includes available funds in each funding source and expense categories. It also includes columns reflecting requested amounts by providers, and staff recommendations for amounts to be awarded. Mr. Lazaro noted that the final, blank column on the right side of the table was for each Committee member to note their own recommended funding levels for each provider or service. He asked that Committee members fill in the amount that they suggest be awarded to each provider, whether it was the same or different from what the provider requested or what staff recommended.

Mr. Lazaro talked the Committee members through the funding recommendations in the table. Steven Black made a motion and Tom Wogaman seconded the motion for Committee approval of the staff-recommended funding amounts for all providers. Chair Marsh-King called for the vote: Committee members voted; and the motion was approved unanimously. (Note: The funding recommendations table is included as Attachment A to these Minutes.)

Mr. Lazaro then asked for Committee approval to propose to the City if they would be willing to increase their contribution for ADA paratransit services by an additional \$6,061 per year, to produce the \$12,121 needed to close the 5310 gap, using a portion of their Federal 5307 Urban funding monies (for this 2-year biennium only).. Lisa Scherf discussed that she was willing to entertain this proposal and had sufficient budget capacity at this time for it. She also noted that she would like to undertake a study, for everyone’s knowledge, of the true cost of what ADA Paratransit services is, as distinct from countywide STF service, using some professional staff assistance to aide with this effort. Steven Black made a motion and Steve Harder seconded the motion to approve Mr. Lazaro’s recommendation. Chair Marsh-King called for the vote, which was eight in favor with one abstention by Tim Bates, who as a City employee could not vote on the issue.

- **Other Budget Items for Discussion/Consideration** (None)

5. Round Table (None)

6. Conclusion: The meeting adjourned at 2:48 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 28th, 2017, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.