

Minute of May 16, 2017 Columbia County Rider Transportation Advisory Committee (CCRTAC)

In attendance:

Sharon Evinger - Chair

Bill Eagle – Vice Chair

Claudia Eagle

Blanche Katz – St Helens Resident

Dave ‘Stu’ Katz

Michael Ray –CC Rider Staff

Chad Mace – CC Rider Staff

Genell Grow – Past Chair

Charlotte Hart

Danny Hernandez – MTR Ops Mgr

Alta Lynch – Resident

Ralph Culpepper – Resident

Meeting Commenced at 6:42 PM.

ITEM 1: Welcome and Introductions.

Sharon opened the meeting and Began introductions. She welcomed everyone.

ITEM 2: Both the Minutes from April and May were approved with Bill Eagle making a motion and Charlotte Hart seconding. The vote was unanimous.

ITEM 3: Michael briefly discussed bus stop markings. The preferred method that most everyone recognizes and uses is the flag (sign) on a pole. This is what CC Rider prefers and is working on getting placed. Another form of marking stops is by painting the curb with the words ‘Bus Stop’. This method is less expensive, but has pitfalls such as not being readily visible. Michael indicated that he would research as to whether there are other types of bus stop markings used.

ITEM 4: Michael discussed the desire to move the Rite Aid stop out to Hwy 30. He explained that moving this stop is a priority for him. There are obstacles which need overcoming; the biggest being cost of moving. Michael also explained that the City of St Helens has a plan to beautify Hwy 30 from Gable Rd. to St Helens St. In the plan there is a desire to provide room for developing bus stops, both at Gable Road and at the St Helens St Columbia Blvd. couplet. The city was going to apply for a grant in 2016, but backed out inexplicably? To go it alone, CC Rider would need to come up with the funding, get permits from ODOT, Pacific and Western RR, and the city. CC R would then need to hire a contractor to prepare the sites and construct the stops. This is an expensive project and would need to accommodate the desire of the city and fit into their plan.

ITEM 5: NO CHANGE from April: Michael gave a brief update on the progress being made toward construction of the Rainier TC and how the plans are through the permitting process and County Facilities is working on an RFP for contract letting. The City of Rainier also would like a water main along the HWY 30 frontage replaced which serves a fire hydrant. The County is trying to negotiate with the Fire Marshall on getting a cooperative agreement between various parties to help cover the replacement cost. Michael also gave an update on the Scappoose Park and Ride which is still not moving as fast as expected. Michael mentioned that he is looking at another possible location for the park and ride at the intersection of HWY 30 and Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy. The property has some difficult limitation to overcome, including access and floodway issues. Finally, Michael gave a brief update on the Feasibility Study for possible consolidation of CC Rider with SETD. He stated that a ‘kick-off’ meeting will probably happen near the end of May.

ITEM 6: As part of the Education Drive to make Columbia County residents aware of transit, how it operates, where it goes, and how to use it; a subcommittee was formed. The subcommittee is comprised of Blanche Katz, Genell, Grow and Charlotte Hart. One of the outcomes of this drive is to get residents to understand the importance of transit in their community and hopefully this will lead to the passing of a transit district with funding.

ITEM 7: Michael gave a brief update on the budget process. He explained that there is a shortfall. Michael said that he recalled in 2016 that there was projected to be a significant deficit with the bringing on of MTR Western; in the neighborhood of \$400K. He did not recall the outcome of this earlier discussion, as he was not part of the budget process for FY 17. He inquired of the TAC if anyone recalled such a deficit discussion and as to whether anyone had any information on it? Members of the TAC who were present did recall this discussion. No one was aware of it ever getting resolved. Genell stated that she had a spreadsheet with the deficit figures and she would email it to Michael.

ITEM 8: 13 Days on Transit Sharon gave a brief discussion on how the idea of 13 Days on Transit came about. She thought of the idea as one way to help with the problem caused by the need to prioritize DAR service. Having a day every week for the summer where seniors and vets, who have relied on DAR in the past, learn about CC Rider's fixed route service. Discover how easy it is to use and perhaps become future regular users of transit. Sharon felt that offering a free day every week could help increase ridership among those that need to rely on transit most.

Sharon requested that an announcement be ready to go out the week prior to commencing the free Wednesday and that TAC members distribute the fliers to local area businesses and senior centers. Some areas where the fliers should go include CAT, the Vets Bunker, on all buses and at transit stops, KOHI Radio announcements, the Chronicle and the Spotlight newspapers, all the senior centers, chambers of commerce, Grocery stores and other locations to be determined.

MISC: Sharon gave kudos to MTR Western for the good job they have been doing. There was some discussion about how to get non-drivers to and from the Listening Session for Monday, May 22nd. Michael was willing to have a bus take people home, should it be needed.

Blance Katz made an open invitation for any TAC member to attend the local Toastmaster's meeting, which occurs on Thursdays at lunch.

ITEM 9: As there was no future business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8:30.

Motion to Adjourn was made and seconded.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:30 pm.