

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

Meeting Date: July 16, 2019

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: CCR Transit Center, St. Helens, OR

Present: Bill Eagle; Claudia Eagle; Genell Grow; Dena Chesney; Blanche Katz; Charlotte Hart

Absent: Henry Heimuller

Staff: Todd Wood, Transit Director; John Dreeszen, Transit Coordinator; Angela Garrett, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Teresa Nicker; Ralph Culpepper; Michael McClendon; Alta Lynch

Call to Order (CCRTAC): Chair Grow called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.

Public Comments: Ralph Culpepper noted the kiosk outside the St. Helens transit center has old schedules. Todd Wood stated this is known and he is working on getting the key to be able to open the kiosk. Mr. Culpepper noted ridership is down which may affect grant dollars. Mr. Culpepper also read some entries from the police blotter.

Approval of June 18, 2019 Minutes: Committee approved the June 18, 2019 minutes unanimously.

Ridership Updates: Mr. Wood noted ridership has decreased and that summer vacation may be a contributing factor. Staff is working on Flex reverse route approval from the cities as well as approval for signage. Mr. Wood stated the decrease is expected on line 2 due to summer vacation. Committee member B. Eagle received word that a rider missed a bus due to the driver leaving early, and was wondering why. Mr. Wood noted there is not a connecting bus from Clatskanie in the evening and this rider had been contacted. Mr. Wood also noted this information is available in our schedules.

Parades/Fairs: Mr. Wood stated two buses will be in the Vernonia parade and there will be room for committee members. He noted a bus will be staged at the County Fair and transit will be provided for the senior day opening ceremony. There was discussion around the results of the Rainier parade.

Vacant Committee Positions July 1, 2019: Mr. Wood stated there is one position still vacant. A guest expressed interest in applying and was given an application. There was discussion around criteria necessary for becoming a committee member.

STF Grant Changes: Mr. Wood stated he just received word that the STF fund will be eliminated by being merged with the STIF fund and that STIF funds may be reduced as a result. Currently, the STF is bringing in about \$123,000 each year that funds dial-a-ride services. These changes are set to take effect in the 2021 biennium. A committee is being formed and Mr. Wood or Mr. Heimuller will be on the committee. Columbia County's proximity to Portland compounds funding as STIF is distributed based on where people work and 70% of Columbia County residents travel out of the county to work. There are similar situations around the state, but Columbia County is unique due to the close proximity to Portland. An influx of people may be expected due to OMIC and PCC coming to Scappoose. Industry is needed locally in order to supplement the funding that is received from the STIF fund.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Round Table: Committee Member Katz mentioned the door opener for the front door. She will continue to bring it up every meeting until it is fixed. Mr. Wood mentioned the legal requirements for handicap accommodation are that as long as someone is available to open the door, no automatic opener is required. Mr. Wood stated the plan is to install an opener, however funding is an issue. Mr. Dreeszen will coordinate with the County Facilities Director to garner some ideas. Alta Lynch suggested a doorbell. Committee Member Katz asked what part transit plays in the County Disaster plan. Mr. Wood said the fleet is part of the County Disaster plan. Committee Member Katz suggested the plan should be practiced annually.

STIF COMMITTEE

Mr. Dreeszen noted distribution of funds for projects may be delayed due to changes noted above regarding the STF grants. Committee Member B. Eagle asked for clarification of the purpose of the different funds. Mr. Wood explained the difference is the "Improvement" of existing service. Mr. Dreeszen noted this is a consistent theme where an agency can not be funded with grants alone. The need for a tax base was discussed. Placing materials related to finances at the Children's Fair was suggested. There was discussion around Mr. Wood and Mr. Heimuller appearing on KOHI on July 26th.

CLOSING

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 P.M.