



**Sunset Empire Transportation District
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER; Chair Patrick Preston called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM
2. INTRODUCTIONS/ ROLL CALL:
Present: Jeff Hazen SETD Executive Director, Larry Miller Senior Center, Chris Breitmeyer President Clatsop Community College, Diana Nino, Commissioner Sunset Empire Transportation District, Patrick Preston Retired Employment Department's Veterans Representative, Tita Montero Seaside City Councilor, Lin Anderson, Rider Representative, Doug Pilant General Manager Tillamook County Transportation District and Mel Jasmin, Senior Representative.
3. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON-
Larry Miller nominated Patrick Preston for Chair
Doug Pilant seconded the nomination
Aye-Preston, Montero, Anderson, Miller, Pilant, Jasmin, Nino and Breitmeyer
No- None
Motion passed unanimously

Doug Pilant nominated Tita Montero for Vice Chair
Lin Anderson seconded the nomination
Larry Miller moved to close the nominations for Vice Chair
Aye-Preston, Montero, Anderson, Miller, Pilant, Jasmin, Nino and Breitmeyer
No- None
Motion passed unanimously
4. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA- None
5. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 6, 2019 MINUTES
Larry Miller moved to approve the June 5, 2019 minutes
Doug Pilant seconded the motion
Aye-Preston, Montero, Anderson, Miller, Pilant, Jasmin, Nino and Breitmeyer
No- None
Motion passed unanimously
6. PUBLIC COMMENT- None
7. OLD BUSINESS-
 - a. Ridership Update from Roll Out of STIF Projects- Executive Director Hazen presented an update on ridership statistics since the rollout of the STIF program and the effects of Covid 19.
 - Route 13- Oct thru March- Average 120 rides per week. March thru June- 51 rides per week
 - Routes 15/16- February thru March-379 rides per week. March thru July-312 rides per week. However, for the fiscal year this route saw a 49% increase in ridership.
 - Route 101- Ridership increased until March from 29% to 45%. After March ridership decreased from 14% to 40%.
 - Lower Columbia Connector- February-March 54% to 251% ridership increase, with a 10% increase overall for the year.

- Overall Ridership for fiscal year 2020 was down 13% or 30,000 rides. Ridership for the current fiscal year 2021 is down 42%

There was discussion of when the Route 10 would begin going to Clatsop College and the MERTS campus. Chris Breitmeyer said both would be having students beginning on September 25th.

- b. Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Updated Forecast- Executive Director Hazen reported that ODOT recently released the attached forecast for STIF revenues. For the current fiscal year, Hazen said our FY 2021, forecasted revenues have been reduced by \$101,422 from what was forecasted. Hazen said he was conservative in this year's budget and budgeted \$631,000 instead of using the December forecast knowing that the pandemic would have an impact on the revenue. The forecasted amount is \$575,578 so our impact from the budget is only \$55,422.

Executive Director Hazen reported that he had stopped the rollout of the remaining STIF projects in March due to the possibility of a reduction in revenue. We also will not be implementing any STIF projects during this fiscal year, so we do not fall short of the revenue needed to operate them. Hazen said he would not want to start and then have to cancel a route. Hazen also said that the remainder of the projects will likely roll over into the next biennium plan.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Executive Director Hazen reported on the Cares Act Funding Program that President Trump signed into law last March which provides \$25,000,000,000 towards public transportation. The Oregon Department of Transportation received \$42,686,023 from the Cares Act and set up two funding programs for distribution to rural transit providers. Director Jeff Hazen reported that the District applied for and received a little over \$500,000. This was utilized for paid leave for staff, 14 new staff hired to ride on and consistently sanitize buses, materials and services to cover increased disinfecting, staff paid leave and for lost revenue due to decreased ridership. Hazen also said that laptops were purchased for management staff so they could work from home. Hazen said the second program available from ODOT is a Needs-based program which has \$33,300,000 available, and rural transit agencies can submit 3 grant applications by December of 2020. Hazen reported that the District submitted a needs-based grant for \$1,191,108 for the purchase of two remanufactured buses along with operational costs for a year and in July the review board awarded us \$861,000 for one bus and operational costs. This bus will add another bus to the Route 101 allowing service about every 20 minutes increasing capacity that has been reduced due to COVID-19 spacing requirements. Hazen said this grant will also be used for converting District restrooms from hand operated controls to touchless controls.

Executive Director Hazen reported that the Northwest Oregon Transit Alliance had applied for and was recently awarded \$187,000 to purchase portable disinfecting equipment for all five partners will be utilizing. Hazen said this is the first major collaborative procurement that the partners have embarked on.

- b. Statewide Improvement Transportation Discretionary Fund- Executive Director Hazen reported that the STIF Discretionary grant applications for the next biennium beginning July 1, 2021 is due on November 2nd. The current program is an \$820,000 project with includes:
- \$530,000 for operation of the LCC Route
 - \$170,000 for the purchase of two used motor coaches
 - \$20,000 for preventative maintenance
 - \$10,000 for administrative costs
 - \$90,000 for the E-fare system

SETD received \$738,000 with a match amount is \$82,000. Hazen said SETD planned to get the Lower Columbia Connector Route(LCC) off the ground and then shift the funding to other sources, however the Covid 19 pandemic changed those plans and we will not be purchasing the motor coaches or the E-fare system from this grant and he plans to do another grant application to fund the LCC during the next biennium. If this is not approved, we will not have the funding to operate the route to June of 2021. Hazen said he hopes

that the review committee will agree that the pandemic has prevented us from building this route up as planned. Hazen

Hazen said he hopes that the committee will reach the consensus that the Lower Columbia Connector is a worthy project that should be continued. Hazen said the committee will have an opportunity to provide comment on this grant application during the review period after the grant application is submitted. No action was required.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT- Cris Wilcox DVOP thanked Patrick Preston for inviting her and the committee for being able to attend the meeting.

10. OTHER ITEMS- Commissioner Diana Nino introduced herself to the committee and explained that she is a member of the Sunset Empire Transportation District Board of Commissioners and was appointed to be on TAC by the board chair. Diana also said she works at Consejo Hispano in Astoria. Patrick Preston reported that there is a new Veterans Service Officer (VSO) who is working at Clatsop Community Action and it would be good to connect with him. Cris Wilcox said she had invited Stephen Bobian, the new VSO to the meeting today. Executive Director Hazen said Jason Jones had met with Stephen at the Transit Center a couple of weeks ago.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM

Mary Parker, Recording Secretary

Copies and meeting recordings available on request. Contact Mary Parker mary@ridethebus.org

Mission Statement

Provide safe, reliable, relevant, and sustainable transportation services to Clatsop County with professionalism, integrity, and courtesy.