

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

**Meeting Date:** October 17, 2023

**Time:** 4:00 P.M.

**Place:** Columbia County Transit, St. Helens, OR

**Present:** Karen MacKenzie, Marty Rowe, Pam Heimuller, Denise Watson (virtual), Dena Chesney (virtual)

**Absent:** Dennis Spitze

**Staff:** John Dreeszen, Transit Director

**Guests:** Alta Lynch (virtual)

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

**Approval of July 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes:** The Committee approved the July 17, 2023 meeting minutes unanimously.

**Public Comments:** The Committee paused for public comment, and none was given.

**Line 1 Portland Ridership Update:** Mr. Dreeszen provided the committee with handouts that compare the ridership for Line 1 from fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023. Mr. Dreeszen wanted to highlight that with this data it shows that although the runs have decreased from 6 to 2 per day, ridership per run has increased.

**Dial-A-Ride Update:** Mr. Dreeszen also included Dial-A-Ride data that breaks down the purpose of rides and ridership numbers of the same time period as Line 1 data. Dial-A-Ride is averaging 2.27 rides an hour, although Mr. Dreeszen shared that being over 2.5 rides has been a more realistic trend recently. Mr. Dreeszen explains that an average over 2.5 rides/hour would cause pick ups to be delayed and ultimately not getting riders to their destinations on time.

To keep on time performance on track Mr. Dreeszen states that there are times CC Rider must turn away rides. Chair MacKenzie asked if there is a way to track the number of those potential

rides, but Mr. Dreeszen explains that those rides are offered to CC Rider through the brokerage and another provider will pick up the ride if CC Rider is not able to.

The last data Mr. Dreeszen wanted to share with the committee was Dial-A-Ride on time performance that averaged at 95.6%. On time performance is measured when the pickup or drop off is within 15 minutes before or after of the time the rider requested.

**Bus/Driver Update:** Mr. Dreeszen shared that there have been challenges with the delivery of the four transit vans that were ordered in January of 2020. Two of the vans have been delivered although Schetky acknowledged that they were not complete. Upon delivery one of the vans needed to be returned due to issues with the alternator. The other van that was operational has been colorfully wrapped with the CC Rider logo by FinishLine Graphics and is in service.

With the addition of a new transit van a separate CC Rider vehicle has been donated to the Community Corrections department for use as their work crew van. The vehicle that was donated has exceeded its age and mileage requirements by ODOT for CC Rider.

**Service & Performance Survey:** Mr. Dreeszen shared with the committee a sample survey created by Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments. Mr. Dreeszen is interested in having a similar, in depth, survey distributed to Columbia County residents in the future. Mr. Dreeszen expressed getting the county's Public Information Officer, Mark Pacheco, involved in distribution ideas. Committee member Rowe suggested a mailing approach to ensure it reaches all Columbia County residents. The committee will review the sample survey and offer edits and additions as they see fit to reflect the potential transit needs of the county.

**Committee Round Table:** Committee member Heimuller wanted to discuss the news of a transit grant awarded to the City of St. Helens. Mr. Dreeszen explained that every city and/or municipality is required to have a master transit plan which must be renewed periodically.

Committee member Rowe wanted to reiterate that he believes a mail-in approach might be the best option to get the county involved in CC Rider's next steps. Chair MacKenzie suggested a postcard instead of a bigger mailer. Mr. Dreeszen voiced his agreement, but in the interest of money spent on postage, suggested a postcard with a link or QR code so residents can locate the survey online.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 4:39 P.M.