

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

Meeting Date: November 19, 2024

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Place: Columbia County Transit Center, St Helens, OR

Present: Karen MacKenzie, Marty Rowe, Denise Watson (Virtual)

Absent: Pam Heimuller, Dennis Spitze

Staff: John Dreeszen, Transit Director; Chris Wheatley, Transit Program Manager

Guests: N/A

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

Approval of October Meeting Minutes: The Committee approved the October 15, 2024, meeting minutes unanimously.

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

Report on OTA Conference: Mr. Wheatley briefed the committee on the Oregon Public Transit Conference in Seaside which Mr. Wheatley and Mr. Dreeszen attended. The two-plus day conference included several interesting keynote speakers and numerous breakout sessions on transit best practices. The conference was particularly valuable to Mr. Wheatley as a networking opportunity.

Confirmation of STIF Project Rankings: Mr. Dreeszen shared that he had tabulated the ranking choices of each committee member and confirmed the average priority rankings as follows:

- 1) Match and Additional Funding for 5311 Grant
- 2) Match and Additional Funding for 5310 Grant
- 3) Match for 5339 Vehicle Grant
- 4) Vanpools
- 5) Contingency Reserve

Report on BOC Grants Presentation: Mr. Dreeszen reported that he and Mr. Wheatley appeared before the BOC on November 6th to present their overall spending plan for the FY25 – FY27 biennium, including all federal and state formula grants and all locally-generated revenue. The plan represents an outline of how Transit budgets should shape up for the next two years. After presenting the plan and our Advisory Committee process, the Commissioners approved our request for their approval of the plan, including the implied STIF project expenditures, as well as our request for approval to submit all the grant applications electronically to ODOT. Staff will meet again with the BOC to present and seek approval of the corresponding ODOT grant agreements.

Committee Round Table: Members and Staff talked loosely about the potential for future funding increases and the possibilities it might present for CC Rider.

Adjourn: Chair MacKenzie adjourned the meeting at 5:03 P.M.