

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

Meeting Date: October 21, 2025

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Place: Columbia County Transit Center, St Helens, OR

Present: Pam Heimuller, Dennis Spitze, Angela Rose, Denise Watson, Brandy Johnson

Absent: N/A

Staff: Chris Wheatley, Transit Director; Heather Shaw, Admin Assistant

Guests: Megan Wirtz

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

Approval of August Minutes: The Committee approved the August 19, 2025 meeting minutes unanimously.

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

Havlik Line 1 Stop: Mr. Wheatley shared that CC Rider did 502 rides in September 2024. In September of this year CC Rider did just a few short of 700 Line 1 rides. Dial-a-Ride(DAR) averages 1500 rides a month. Ride numbers have been increasing over the last few months. More rides are coming from being a part of events and being out in the community. Mr. Wheatley shared that the voucher program is going well. He shared that he's working with Work Source to help high school kids get to work in Rainier. Rides are two or three times a week. They ride DAR there, and ride back on Line 1. Members talk about the benefit of the DAR service. Mr. Wheatley mentioned that he has been talking with organizations about providing transportation for an afterschool program. The rides would be around 4pm to get them home. Due to the riders being middle school students, they will need a chaperone.

Havlik Bench Advertising: Chair Heimuller shared that the benches at the Havlik bus stop belong to CC Rider. They were put there by ODOT. She mentioned that the original stop CC Rider wanted was by the ATM on Havlik. The city of Scappoose rejected that proposal. Due to the rejection, ODOT put the benches on the corner for the existing bus stop. Chair Heimuller shared that CC Rider should be able to use the benches for their own advertising. It was an ODOT project, so CC Rider should indirectly own the bench. Chair Heimuller mentioned that the bench was a compromise for not having the stop by the ATM. There are currently advertisements on the bench. Mr. Wheatley shared that he met a gentleman who works for an AD agency out of Portland who does advertising on Buses. He's waiting to hear back from

him. Member Watson asked how easy it is to deal with legal counsel for the County. Mr. Wheatley shared that it is easy to get in contact with them if there is an incident that comes up regarding the bench. Mr. Wheatley shared that he would talk to legal about what to do and how to get documentation for the bench on Havlik. Chair Heimuller shared that she will look into the timeframe of when ODOT put in the bench.

Park & Ride on Havlik: Chair Heimuller shared that a park and ride was planned to go next to the car wash on Havlik. That plan did not move forward. Members discuss who owns the property of the car wash on Havlik. Mr. Wheatley shared that it is difficult and time consuming to move a bus stop. Chair Heimuller asked if there are any plans to do a park and ride in Scappoose. Mr. Wheatley mentioned that the main thing that he will focus on now are the benches.

Committee Roundtable: Members discuss Halloweentown and the requests that Treadway events had for CC Rider. Mr. Wheatley shared that there are more cars in the park and ride lot at the transit center. Members discuss Rainier and the possibility of more DAR service and what it might take to get the word out about service in Rainier.

Mr. Wheatley shared that the county has a policy from 14 years ago regarding social media comments, requiring them to be turned off. There are many people that aren't in support of that. Mr. Wheatley shared that he went to the commissioners meeting to talk about how the comments should be on for all county social media platforms. A new policy is being written as of now to allow comments to say on. Members discuss the benefits of the Facebooks comments.

Chair Heimuller asked about the budget and ODOT funding. Mr. Wheatley shared that the previous biennium ended, and the reimbursement requests will be sent in soon. CC Rider has received two quarters of the STIF grant money. The other grants have been signed and are now with ODOT. Mr. Wheatley shared that we are waiting to see what the doubling of the payroll tax does. If it truly doubled, CC Rider could receive a significant amount of money. It is still unclear when that will go into effect.

Guest Writz shared she will figure out how to get the word out of CC Riders services to the seniors in Rainier. Member Watson shared that lunch on a Monday would be a good time to visit the senior center. Members discussed the possibility of advertising CC Riders services around the city of Rainier. Mr. Wheatley shared that QR codes have been put on the Line 1 buses. The QR codes link to RiverCities schedule, CC riders Line 1 schedule and to TriMet's trip planner. Guest Writz shared that she visited a low-income housing community in Clatskanie about the Rainier connections. The housing community is willing to advertise CC Rider's Line 1 route. Guest Writz shared that she would look into other low-income housing facilities and spread the word of CC Riders services. Members discuss the possibility of offering discounted monthly passes. Mr. Wheatley shared that he would like to do that, but that change will have to go through the commissioners. Mr. Wheatley mentioned that him and Admin. Assistant, Heather, are going to the Oregon Transit Association(OTA) conference in Bend November 2nd - 5th, where they will take classes, meet others from neighboring transit agencies, and possibly see new buses.

Adjourn: Chair Heimuller adjourned the meeting at 4:56pm.