



**BENTON COUNTY
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2019**

Present

Mary Marsh-King, Chair
Tim Bates, Vice-Chair
Tera Stegner
Steven Black
Axel Deininger (remote)
Dave Zaback
Drew Foster
Tom Wogaman
Steven Harder

Absent

Rocio Munoz

Staff

Lee Lazaro, STF Coordinator
Cathy Williams, STF Assistant (Recorder)
Debie Wyne (Benton County Public Works)
Lisa Scherf (City of Corvallis)

Visitors/Presenters

Randi Moore (OCWCOG)
Alicia Lucke (OCWCOG)
Ted Frazier (Albany Call-A-Ride)
Barry Hoffman (Linn-Benton Loop)
Bill McClanahan (Janus House)

1. Introductions

Chair Mary Marsh-King called the meeting to order at 12:58 PM. She noted that member Axel Deininger was present via speakerphone. Ms. Marsh-King asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the October 23rd, 2018 minutes. Steven Black moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Tom Wogaman seconded the motion and all approved.

3. Old Business:

Update on STIF Committee Activities in November and December – Mr. Lazaro stated that Benton County's Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee reviewed and approved a sub-allocation methodology for the STIF Formula funds.

Staff had presented seven different options for the Committee to review, including a 10-factor equity analysis that was piloted by Tri-Met. This considered a variety of measures related to low-income populations, minority populations, seniors, youth, housing values, and education. The Committee discussed the options and recommended the one including this 10-factor equity analysis along with payroll generation and job sites. They also adopted a definition of areas with a high percentage of low-income households, as mandated by the STIF Oregon Administrative Rules.

Staff will be presenting this information to the Benton County Board of Commissioners next Tuesday, January 15th.

Mr. Lazaro discussed an email received yesterday morning from Hal Gard, Rail and Public Transit Division Manager for ODOT. The email informed us that the Governor's budget had cut \$10 million in STF funds that have been allocated from the State's General Fund in prior years. Mark Bernard, our

Regional Transit Coordinator, told us to proceed with the development of our STF application with the assumption that we are going to receive full funding.

4. New Business:

2019-21 Biennium STF and 5310 Grant Allocations – Document Review:

The items below were reviewed by Mr. Lazaro.

- a) **Review of STAC 1/5/19 Cover Letter**
- b) **2019-21 STF and 5310 Public Process**
- c) **Summary of Provider Applications Received**

5. Action Items:

- a) **Presentations by Applicants** – Applicants for STF and 5310 grants presented a brief overview of their organizations and funding requests.

Randi Moore – Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG) provides a wide variety of Senior and Disability services. They also contract with the State to provide Medicaid services. They have three offices: Corvallis, Toledo, and Albany. The STF monies received from the County are used to ensure that there are transit passes available to these clients. This helps them get to doctor appointments, social activities, church, shopping, etc. to meet their needs.

Alicia Lucke – OCWCOG is the new provider of the Senior Companion Program. Companionship between driver and client is a large focus of the service being provided. Funding will go toward rides and volunteer training. It will also assist with mileage reimbursements (with caps) and volunteer insurance. There are 20 volunteer positions, with 12 currently open.

Ted Frazier – Albany Call-A-Ride provides ADA complementary paratransit for the Albany Transit System, as required under Federal law. They also provide senior transportation on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Albany Call-A-Ride program operates Monday through Friday during the same hours as Albany Transit System (ATS), but also provides Saturday service from 8 AM to 6 PM, when ATS is not operating. They are projecting rides to be approximately 1,600 rides this year. Wheelchair ridership is 25% currently and increases each year. Volunteer hours total approximately 4,000 annually.

Barry Hoffman – The Linn Benton Loop provides commuter service between Albany and Corvallis, serving both Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University. The majority of the ridership is students (about 70%) but there are rides provided to the general public, including seniors and persons with disabilities.

Bill McClanahan – Janus House provides residential and crisis intervention for clients with mental illness, partnering with Benton County Mental Health. Often times their services are needed during hours that are not during typical bus hours. In response to questions, Mr. McClanahan stated that the Janus House relies on State funding for staffing; is able to pay only minimum wage; and has a mix of

male and female residents. He left a pamphlet titled “Mental Health Association of Benton County” for members.

Tera Stegner – Ms. Stegner stepped off the Committee to present on behalf of Grace Center, a specialized adult day center serving both seniors and adults with disabilities. For 35 years it has been the only certified adult day center of any kind in Linn, Benton, and Polk counties. It supports clients by providing a full exercise program, therapeutic activities, community outings, health monitoring, salon services, and massage therapy. They support client’s families by providing respite for caregivers. The Grace Center has a contract with the Veteran’s Administration. Veterans are allowed to come three half days, paid in full, including transportation and full access to services like showers. Monies received from the STF grant will go toward transportation services, gas, and maintenance of vehicles.

Lee Lazaro – Mr. Lazaro presented on behalf of the 99 Express service to the City of Adair Village. The request is for a portion of the grant match to the 5311 funds for the service. There is a need to improve safety and accessibility in the two Lewisburg stops, so future funding would target this.

6. Budget Briefing and Options Analysis:

- a) Review Budget Briefing and Funding Options Report – Mr. Lazaro reviewed items in the packet detailing the situation for 2019-2021 Formula grants along with current and staff-recommended allocations.
- b) Review and Determination of Applicant Requests and Recommended Funding – *Drew Foster made a motion to accept staff-recommended amounts for STF and 5310 requests. Steve Harder seconded the motion and all approved.*
- c) Staff-Recommendations – *Steve Harder made motion to recommend to Board of Commissioners approval of staff-recommended amounts in Items #2 (5211 formula grant application) and #3 (STF and 5310 formula grant applications). Dave Zaback seconded the motion and all approved.*
- d) Appeals Process – Mr. Lazaro reviewed the mandatory appeals process.
- e) Wrap-up and Next Steps – Mr. Lazaro noted that the recommendations from the STAC would be taken to Board of Commissioners on February 5th.

7. Special Announcement and Discussion:

Lee Lazaro will be retiring at the end of January due to medical issues. There will be a retirement party for him on Friday, January 25th from 3 PM to 5 PM at the Sunset Building.

8. Roundtable: (None)

NEXT MEETING: TBD