



**BENTON COUNTY
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 26, 2018**

Present

Mary Marsh-King, Chair
Tim Bates, Vice-Chair
Steven Black
Tom Wogaman
Drew Foster
Axel Deininger (remote)
Rocio Munoz

STF and City/County Staff

Lee Lazaro, STF Coordinator
Cathy Williams, STF Assistant (Recorder)

Visitors/Presenters

Paul Smith (Strengthening Rural Families)
Suzanne Lazaro (Visitor)

Absent

Tera Stegner
Lisa Scherf
Steve Harder
Dave Zaback
Debie Wyne

1. Introductions

Chair Mary Marsh-King called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM. Committee members present introduced themselves, along with guest speaker Paul Smith from Benton County Health Department. Ms. Marsh-King also acknowledged that Member Axel Deininger was present via speakerphone. Mr. Lazaro acknowledged he had heard from both Ms. Stegner and Mr. Zaback prior to the meeting that they could not attend for various reasons.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the May 22nd, 2018 minutes. There were corrections to remove Steven Black and Drew Foster from absent list and next meeting date should be June 26th, 2018. Steven Black moved to accept the amended minutes. Tom Wogaman seconded the motion and all Members approved.

3. Old Business:

a) Update on New Grants from ODOT – Mr. Lazaro informed the Committee that we have received two new grants which include: 1) 5311(f)– Rural General Public. A bridge funding grant for the Amtrak Connector service was created specifically by ODOT for this program from various unspent Grant monies and 2) a federal 5339 Grant for replacement and expansion bus vehicles beginning next July which will allow us to replace 2 buses and purchase 1 new bus.

b) Update on HB 2017 Transportation Bill Activities:

STIF Advisory Committee Recruitments – Mr. Lazaro noted that the ODOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Advisory Committee is still seeking membership applications. Any members interested in applying need to contact Teresa Farley at the Board of Commissioners Office.

Presentations to City Councils – Mr. Lazaro briefly reviewed the packet item “HB 2017 Public Transit Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund – 2018 Scheduled Presentations to City Councils” and “Benton County Transportation System Plan Open Houses”. Rocio Munoz informed Mr. Lazaro of a change on the schedule via email she received for the Adair Village Open House. It will be held on Wednesday, July 25th, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM (instead of Thursday, July 26th). Ms. Munoz also noted that there will also be a Spanish-language Open House for the TSP to be held on August 29th from 7:30 PM to 9 PM at the United Methodist Church in Monroe.

Formula Development – Work will continue on the allocation formula with the appointment of Jennifer Ryun, a new Senior Financial Analyst for Benton County who is assigned to work with staff on the allocation formula.

July 12th Training Workshop – ODOT is conducting a webinar and workshop in Salem on Thursday, July 12th about the implementation of the new STIF program. Staff will be attending.

4. Informational:

a) **Distracted Driver – New State Penalties** – Mr. Lazaro wanted to make Committee members and service provider drivers aware of the June 14, 2018 ODOT News Release “Putting your phone away is vital to safety”. Beginning July 1, 2018, distracted driving penalties in Oregon will increase significantly. This could potentially be an issue for drivers and/or providers whom employ them, although commercial bus drivers are given exemptions under the law. Rocio will post this document in both English and Spanish at the Benton County Health Department.

b) **TSP Open Houses** – A reminder again was made about the four Transportation System Plan Open Houses offered by the County, and STAC members were encouraged to attend one of the sessions.

c) **Strengthening Rural Families** – Guest speaker Paul Smith reviewed the informational handouts and materials regarding his presentation on “Strengthening Rural Families”, which is a non-profit organization based in Philomath, Oregon. Those items included “Strengthening Rural Families 2017-2018 Programming Outline” and “Rural Benton County Fact Sheet”. SRF serves primarily rural Benton County, but also rural Linn and rural Lincoln counties through some of the coalition work that they are doing currently.

Their organization’s focus is mostly on prevention and wellness projects. There are locally based community coordinators in each of the primary areas they serve which include: Early Learning, Parenting Education, Latino Outreach and Support, Positive Youth Development, Oral Health, Lagestee Regional Initiative, and Wellness, Health, and Prevention Projects or Support.

Mr. Smith discussed and answered questions regarding the facts listed for Benton County categories for population, race and ethnicity, child abuse and neglect, enrollment in Head Start Pre-K Program, students eligible for free or reduced lunches, student homelessness, students with IEPs, students with disabilities, participation in Healthy Families, Jackson Street Youth Shelter, participation in Old Mill Relief Nursery, participation in WIC Program, inequality and housing costs, poverty, food security, Linn-Benton Food Share, community health, employment, CARDV Benton/Linn County, rates of drug law offenses, and mental and behavioral health. Paul noted that this information was last updated in 2015. Mr. Lazaro

noted that the new STIF funding requirements target projects in low income, minority communities, and that the data and contacts which SRF has would prove very useful in that effort.

5. **Election of STAC Officers** – Steven Black made a motion and Drew Foster seconded the motion to retain Mary Marsh-King as Chair and Tim Bates as Vice-Chair. All members voted with unanimous approval. There was agreement for future discussion of possibly changing bylaws and staggering service terms.

6. **Upcoming STAC Items:**

a) **Reconfigured Senior Companion Program** – Guest speaker will be Alicia Lucke at the July meeting.

b) **Regional Chapter of Linn-Benton-Lincoln Coordinated Plan** – no update this month.

c) **ODOT & BenCo Transit Asset Management Plan – Transit Safety Plan** – no update this month.

8. **Roundtable:**

a) **Request for July 4th Parade** – Steven Black was seeking a volunteer to sing the “Star Spangled Banner” in the parade. He provided his cell phone number for anyone whom may know of someone that would be interested.

9. **Conclusion:** Steven Black made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:38 PM. Rocio seconded the motion and all approved.

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST MEETING IS CANCELLED FOR SUMMER VACATIONS. Next meeting is Tuesday, September 25th, 2018, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.