



**BENTON COUNTY
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2018**

Present

Tim Bates, Vice-Chair
Tera Stegner
Steven Black
Debie Wyne
Axel Deininger (remote)
Dave Zaback

STF and City/County Staff

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

Visitors/Presenters

Alicia Lucke (Senior Companion Program)

Absent

Mary Marsh-King
Lisa Scherf
Steve Harder
Tom Wogaman
Drew Foster
Rocio Munoz

1. Introductions

Vice-Chair Tim Bates called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM. Committee members present introduced themselves, along with guest speaker Alicia Lucke from Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG). Mr. Bates also acknowledged that member Axel Deininger was present via speakerphone.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the June 26th, 2018 minutes. Steven Black moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Tim Bates seconded the motion and all Members approved.

3. Old Business:

Update on HB2017 Transportation Bill Activities – Lee Lazaro informed the Committee that back in July he had applied for the nationwide competitive Federal 5339 grant for replacement vehicles, and was awarded (3) 12 X 2 cutaways vans. He also noted that the three new minivans arrived and are in the process of being placed into service with the provider (Dial a Bus).

Mr. Lazaro announced that the new Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF) Committee held their first meeting on Friday, September 21st, 2018. They will meet the first Monday each month and third Friday, as necessary, with the next meeting on Monday, October 1st.

4. Informational:

a) Reconfigured OCWCOG Senior Companion Program – Guest speaker Alicia Lucke provided information and applications regarding the newly reconfigured Senior Companion Program through Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG). Ms. Lucke explained various programs that are offered with

Volunteers and Advocacy Services, with special focus on this program. Among the programs that Alicia is responsible for are:

- Disability Services Advisory Council (DSAC)
- Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)
- Money Management Program
- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Meals on Wheels
- Meals on Wheels Advisory Committee (MOWAC)
- Meals on Wheels Volunteers
- Senior Services Advisory Council (SSAC)
- Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) Program

Federal approval was received at the end of June 2018 for \$117,000 (\$55,000 designated for stipends for volunteers) and became effective July 1, 2018. She provided pamphlets for programs that serve Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

Alicia currently has 14 of the 20 volunteers required, so she is recruiting more, hoping to obtain contacts in Alsea, Monroe, Philomath, and Adair Village for outreach in those areas. Alicia is expecting to be operating the program at full-capacity within 1 ½ years, and to meet program requirements including maintaining thresholds and the volunteer base.

Ms. Lucke informed the Committee that program volunteers are required to be at least 55 years of age, have an interview, pass a background check, complete training, driver training, and orientation. Volunteers will be paid a minimal salary of \$2.65 per hour and reimbursed mileage up to maximum of 500 miles per month.

Referrals are being received at this time from review of OCWCOG client needs and qualifications, including medical care, mobility issues, those whom prefer not to ride public transit, needs companionship, etc. She stressed that being low-income is NOT a determining factor to be eligible for the Senior Companion Program.

Committee members interested in volunteering themselves or who may know someone who is interested, please contact Alicia Lucke at (541) 924-8440 or email her at alucke@ocwcog.org for more information or to request an application.

b) New Northwest Connector Website – Lee Lazaro presented the new live version of the Northwest Connector website. This website was just awarded “best website” by the National Rural Transportation Assistance Program, for websites serving small town/rural communities. He maneuvered through various features of the site and demonstrated how to use the interactive map, trip planner, event calendar, select different areas of interest, along with how the connections provide service to several counties.

5. Upcoming STAC Items:

a) Regional Chapter of Linn-Benton-Lincoln Coordinated Plan – Mr. Lazaro informed the Committee that

a meeting was held over the summer, and that Jim Owens will attend a future meeting for an update on the Regional Chapter of the Coordinated Plan.

b) Benton County Transportation System Plan – a final Draft of the TSP is now being worked on by the consultant. The Draft will be brought back to the STAC for an overview, by staff.

c) ODOT & BenCo Transit Asset Management Plan – Transit Safety Plan – Tim Bates and Lee Lazaro are both currently working on their Transit Asset Management plans. More to follow on this topic.

6. Roundtable: (None)

7. Conclusion: The meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.

NEXT MEETING: Next meeting is Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018, from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM.