



Benton County
Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024

Hybrid Meeting, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Committee Members Present:

Vice-Chair Janeece Cook - Representative of Low-income Persons
Kate Hunter-Zaworski - Representative of People with Disabilities
Greg Gescher - Public Transportation Service Provider
Sarah Bronstein - Representative of Educational Institutions
Kristen Jocums – User of Transportation Services
David Rabinowitz - Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocate
Gary Stockhoff - Ex-officio

Absent: Chair Heidi Henry - Environmental Advocate

Staff: Lisa Scherf - Public Transportation Services Supervisor
Charlene Pech – Special and Rural Transportation Coordinator
Tiffany Plemmons - Transit Program Assistant

Guests: Corum Ketchum – Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments
Peggy Cogswell – Corvallis Transit System
Barry Hoffman – City of Albany
Kristin Preston – City of Albany
Jeff Babbitt – City of Albany
Justin Peterson – Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments
Tim Bates – Corvallis Transit System
Cassie Cruz – Grace Adult Day Center
Alicia Lucke – Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments
Bill McClenaghan – Janus House

1. Call Meeting to Order/Introductions

Vice Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and attendees introduced themselves.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

3. Statewide Transportation Improvement Fund Formula Presentations (see staff report)

At its October 14, 2024 meeting, the Committee approved a sub-allocation methodology in alignment with Oregon Administrative Rules. Staff noted that the Benton County Board of Commissioners would review this methodology in an upcoming meeting.

Staff reviewed the staff report in the packet, which included two spreadsheets summarizing funding allocations. It was noted that there were errors in the initially distributed packet, which would be corrected online for future reference. Staff provided an overview of FY25-27 funding resources that support the ongoing operations, vehicle maintenance and administrative functions of Benton Area Transit. These include STIF Formula Population Funds, STIF Formula Payroll Funds, Federal 5311 (for commuter routes), Federal 5310 (for demand-response and ADA paratransit services), STIF Discretionary Grants (used for capital projects), and Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs).

Staff reported a new funding opportunity through ODOT's Innovative Mobility Project that may support the procurement to conduct a feasibility study exploring options for public transit service in the most rural areas of Benton County. Applications are due in January 2025.

Projected operational expenses for the 2023-2025 biennium were estimated at \$2,932,327, increasing to approximately \$3 million for 2025-2027 due to a projected 4.5% inflation rate.

The Committee heard presentations from providers for projects using STIF Formula Population and Payroll funding. The description of each project is provided in the staff report, with just agencies and presenters summarized here. Each presentation was followed by a Q & A session. A common theme from Committee members was an interest in robust public outreach when designing services.

Population Projects

- Benton Area Transit Special and Rural Transportation Services (Charlene Pech)
- Grace Center for Adult Day Services (Cassie Cruz)
- Senior Companion Program (Oregon Cascades West COG, Alicia Lucke)
- Janus House (Mental Health Association of Benton County, Bill McClenaghan)

- City of Albany North Albany Call-A-Ride Service (Kristen Preston)

Payroll Projects

- City of Albany, Albany Transit System and Linn-Benton Loop (Kristen Preston)
- Benton County, Benton Area Transit (Gary Stockhoff)
- City of Corvallis, Corvallis Transit System (Tim Bates)
- City of Philomath, Philomath Connection (Tim Bates)
- Oregon Cascade West Council of Governments (Corum Ketchum)
- City of Albany North Albany Call-A-Ride Service (Kristen Preston)

Information Sharing:

- The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 11/20/24. The Committee will do final project prioritization and recommend the FY 25-27 STIF Plan project funding allocations. The Committee was encouraged to review the STIF Projects prior to the meeting.
- The FY25-27 STIF Plan is scheduled to go before the Benton County Board of Commissioners on 12/17/2024.
- The final STIF Plan must be finalized and submitted to ODOT on or before January 16, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 am.