



Deschutes County Department of Administrative Services
1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR
(541) 388-6570

MINUTES OF MEETING

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE/TIME: LOCATION:

DEPARTMENT OR GROUP:

ATTENDEES:

Introductions:

Attendees as listed above introduced themselves and stated their association with STF Advisory Committee.

Public Comment period: *None given.*

Review of December meeting minutes:

All members agreed the December 2019 minutes were accurate.

CET Update: COVID Impacts

Ms. Breault provided an overview of COVID impacts to CET services. Service was reduced in early spring to essentially core operations, following guidelines from the state that trips need to be essential. This will likely continue for quite some time

and CET is monitoring what other agencies are doing around the state. Any changes or decisions will continue to be based on direction from the Governor's office. Mr. Hofbauer added that busses are pulled offline for regular cleaning and disinfecting, and now adhere to physical distancing where seats are sectioned off, with new max occupancy rules.

The Route 31 service started as a STIF project and would have been promoted as commuter service. With COVID, it's now being promoted for essential travel, for those who don't have cars, need to go to a doctor appointment, or get to work. No recreational services are currently running, the focus is on essential trips and providing a service to get people where they need to go. This is consistent with other agency messaging across the state.

STF/STIF Consolidation Update

Ms. Hale mentioned a legislative bill from the most recent session that would consolidate the STF and STIF programs in 2023. Ms. Conley added it passed on Friday and ODOT staff will meet today to learn more. When the two programs combine, there will be some administrative changes. Ms. Breault mentioned administratively there will be some efficiencies in terms of committees and bylaws, but we'll want to be conscious of the fact that STF was designed for the elderly and disabled community, and make sure Dial-A-Ride services will still be properly funded so those services aren't lost. She offered to speak on more specifics as the transition gets closer.

STFAC Member Updates: Current needs, challenges, etc.?

a. Pat Stone: Data on the Route 31 ridership (attached)

Ms. Hale noted the Route 31 ridership attachment and Mr. Hofbauer explained the route had a slow start. There would have been an employer training at Sunriver, with a bulk of the promotion and a pass program, then Sunriver closed. He added that CET staff is working on other ways to promote it with health and safety messaging, and have worked with several partners to get the word to any businesses open, and who may be employing people from La Pine. Flyers, ads in several papers, lots of outreach in the community, and new graphics on the bus identifying it as a shuttle connecting the two communities. The route is being promoted as a safe transportation option when it's needed, there are face masks for passengers when they board, surfaces are being wiped down every four hours. Ms. Hale asked to see the new graphic on the bus and offered to help get the word out if needed. Ms. Stone asked about locations of stops, and if there will be one from the resort to the SHARC. Ms. Breault replied they are eagerly working with business owners to coordinate for stops, but the current stops are where stops have been welcomed.

b. Pat Stone: Possible relocation of pick up and drop off at the Senior Center rather than St. Charles

Ms. Stone mentioned a prior conversation about relocating the St. Charles stop to the Senior Center in La Pine. Ms. Breault replied there are some scenarios with a stop at the Senior Center, and discussions have been had with their staff. Ms. Stone asked that be kept on the table as an option.

c. Tyler Deke: Revised revenue forecast for STIF from ODOT?

Ms. Hale explained that Mr. Deke was unable to join the meeting today but he had asked if ODOT had a revised revenue forecast for STIF. Ms. Breault replied she believes they will get a revised estimate in mid-July, then in December potentially a revised long-range outlook for STIF. Ms. Conley confirmed that's what she knows as well, and that the impacts will be felt in the fall and then will know more late this year.

Ms. Hale mentioned a news article about Lane Transit seeking to use STIF funds for non-STIF projects. Ms. Conley found that SB1601 used STIF to maintain services, but she will may know more after the staff meeting today and if so, she will send an update.

Ms. Breault stated that STF applications are due to Deschutes County March 1, 2021, and CET will be applying as provider, unsure if other agencies like OFCO or Abilitree will apply, given some changes to those groups due to COVID. This committee will then come together to review and rank the applications, and Deschutes County will then submit that to ODOT. Ms. Hale noted that the County plans to post STF applications in early November. Ms. Hale will send out updates as that process begins. Ms. Conley clarified that the March 1 due date is the deadline that STF applications are due to ODOT. Ms. Hale asked how long the process may take, and Ms. Conley replied that for the Board of Commissioners to discuss in February, this committee should meet in early December.

Review of applications for new STFAC members / Develop recommendation for Board of Commissioners

Ms. Hale provided an update that two members of the STFAC had expiring terms. One expressed an interest in continuing to serve on the committee and the other did not. The STFAC committee vacancy was posted online and five responses were received from applicants with good geographic diversity and backgrounds in transit. Ms. Hale asked for a volunteer from the committee to do a preliminary review of applications and to provide a recommendation to the Board of

Commissioners for their review and consideration. Mr. Russell offered to help review applications.

Other

- Ms. Breault asked Ms. Conley if she knew when amounts for STF would be announced, and Ms. Conley replied that she doesn't, but would look into it. Ms. Breault stated that formula state funding has been leveled. CET will likely just maintain service with their new application.
- Mr. Hofbauer stated CET is wrapping up the transit master plan and he thanked Pat Stone for serving as an advisory committee member. Public meetings with the Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee will be held via Zoom on July 15 and August 19, discussing final elements of the plan and taking comments. He offered to answer any questions about the planning process.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 9:50 a.m.

REPORT COMPLETED/SUBMITTED BY: Laura Skundrick, Administrative Analyst