

Cascades East Transit – Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee

February 17, 2015
Redmond Public Works Training Conference Rooms
243 E. Antler Ave.
1:30 PM-3:30 PM

Attendees: Elaine Henderson, Mike Lovely, Jordan Ohlde, Scott Cooper, Molly Baker Ray

Staff: Karen Friend (COIC), Judy Watts (COIC)

Public Attendees: David Carlson, Carol Carlson

Scott Cooper called the meeting to order at 1:35p.

Introductions were made.

1. General Public Comments

Tami Geiger relocated to Portland and will no longer be coordinating meetings.

David Carlson said that he is visually impaired and that his house is 5 miles from the closest CET Bend fixed route stop. David relocated from Santa Barbara to Boonesborough and is here because he is interested in transit.

2. New PTAC Committee Roles & Existing Guidelines/Modifications

• Meeting Schedule

Some committee members discussed the meeting schedule is too frequent. Kim mentioned that her other committees meet every other month, unless there is something pressing then meet as needed. PTAC decides to meet every even numbered month (February, April, June, August, October, December). If a meeting is in Redmond, schedule at the library. Half of the communities will be scheduled for one year and the remainder the following year.

Action: Judy will update 2015 meeting schedule.

• Attendance Discussion

Attendance policy was discussed and consecutive meetings were cited as an issue. Any more than 3 meetings unexcused in a six month period are grounds for committee termination. COIC will set up a conference call for anyone who is able to call in but unable to attend a meeting in person. Jordan suggested putting PTAC meeting blurb in Hawthorne Station and on the bus.

• Committee Role/Job Description

Discussion on ground rules. Add language that says "All committee members are appointed by the board and serve the pleasure of the board." Change last section to "Grounds for

recommending RPTAC termination to board” add bullet “Disruptive behavior that prohibits work of PTAC.”

Scott requests to add committee members that are involved in funding decisions.

Discussion on government role in transit and inviting Tammy Baney to a future PTAC meeting to talk about her vision of transit.

3. Committee Commitment

Emails will be sent to individual lapsed committee members to determine interest in reappointment to the group. Committee members asked if they can help recruit new members for PTAC.

Action Item: Judy will send out emails to lapsed committee members on interest in reappointments.

4. Transit Funding Strategy

Karen presents Transit Funding Strategy. Karen summarizes the key elements of the funding strategy and highlights that the funding committee was unanimous on the fact that COIC should continue to govern transit. A phased approach was recommended to the board including building relationships, expand outreach. The long-term approach was about developing a sustainable tool for dedicated funding, including looking at a property tax. Service level was examined. A high desire for transit service exists but not a willingness to pay was a key finding of the transit funding committee.

Karen also mentions the work COIC has done on ORS 190. COIC has worked on getting a legislature on a legislative concept that allows COIC to continue to operate the system while levy taxes. This is a flexible solution because if for example Bend is ready to levy taxes and Madras is too, they can create a transit district together. If this scenario would pass and Madras and Bend want to pay different amounts of property taxes, then that could be implemented. COIC has worked on obtaining support from Deschutes County Commission, City of Bend, City of Redmond, Oregon Transit Association, St. Charles Healthcare System, Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon, COCC, and OSU Cascades.

Karen also highlights the Bend Transit Expansion work with partners in Bend. She mentions that COIC is working with Commute Options to promote the Employer Group Bus Pass program and their work has brought on two groups: Downtown Bend Business Association and Visit Bend, and Growth Management Dept. of City of Bend and Bend MPO.

Mike Lovely asks if part of the problem is a chicken and egg problem and to get choice riders, do we need park and rides? Karen responds that she thinks there are other barriers like headway minimum needs to be 30 minutes and expanding service hours.

5. CET Outreach Plan

Judy discusses the Meyer Memorial grant COIC received and upcoming outreach strategies that will be implemented in the coming year.

A recommendation was given from RPTAC to utilize EDCO's forums. COIC should connect to their existing network. Visit Bend might be another group to promote CET as well as discussing overcrowded parking spots relationship to transit.

There are a lot of positive things. Is there a way to get positive message to drivers? Scott asks if reduced gas prices are affecting ridership.

6. Transit Vision Discussion

Discussion on phrase "everyone needs transit sometimes."

- Discussion begins on Mission, Vision, Values handout.

RPTAC committee discusses the term "cost effective." Suggestion to add more phrasing to Accessible section – add medical rides/ home to health care and other destinations and "life activities" or "live, work, and play." Under the Inclusive section – change phrase to "all people feel welcome to board"

Vision statement – remove "urban growth boundaries", add "green."

Mission statement – group moves to adopt option #3

"Cascades East Transit connects people to places through high-quality transit service. Our mission is to always exceed expectations of riders with courteous and friendly customer service representatives, transit operators, and staff."

7. RPTAC Business

- Warm Springs Service

There were 317 riders on first month of service. COIC will look at developing deviated fixed-route in Madras. We are collecting boarding data to identify the most utilized stops. Scott says to use the term "Flex Route" instead of "Deviated Fixed-Route" on flyer. Add a comment about where to transfer for Community Connector at the WorkSource in Madras.

Action Item: Update Warm Springs flyer route description to "Flex Route" and add transfer info.

Karen says she will come to the PTAC with a policy of the Flex Route deviation, modify schedule and fare schedule.

- Mountain Service Update

COIC applied for a FLAP grant to increase service, subsidize fares, and expand capacity with 2 additional buses. The FLAP grant will also look at planning summer activities. A question was asked about Mt. Bachelor ridership number error in transit report.

- Transportation management report and information on Volunteer Ride Match.

Mike asks how much a shelter costs at northbound Powers Roundabout bench. The shelter is about \$2,000. Mike says the pad was newly constructed. The stop seems pretty busy. Southwest Bend Neighborhood Association would like to pay for it.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM.

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