

The Loop - Morrow County Public Transit

Special Transportation Fund (STF) • Advisory Committee Minutes

April 19th, 2022 at 3:00 pm

Irrigon Government Center – Don Adams Conference Room

215 NE Main Irrigon, OR 97844

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Roll Call

Call to order at 3:07

Katie Imes

Debbie Radie

Karen Pettigrew

Sheryll Bates

Kerry Hawley

Heidi Turrell

George Nairns

Aaron Palmquist

Stephanie Case

2. Public Comment

No Public Comment

3. Approve Minutes

a. January 18, 2022

Aaron makes the motion to approve the minutes. Karen approves and Sheryl 2nd's.

Motion carries, 3:10

4. Update - Transportation Coordinator, Katie Imes

We appreciate your participation on these boards. Brand new announcement. The FTA has lifted the mandate for public transportation and so we have issued a policy update on our website releasing that information. We will continue to provide masks on every vehicle for those who choose to wear one and we will continue to sanitize our vehicles as we have been after every trip.

a. Ridership/Drivers

New Driver out of Heppner, Donnie McNeil.

Our quarterly total was 984 which is a 20% increase from last quarter.

Karen: What does the non-ambulatory riders mean?

Those are passengers who use canes, walkers, and/or wheelchairs.

We have a new ADA van in Irrigon and that has really contributed to that number.

Carevan rides are at 264, we have a contract with them, they provide rides for the north end, Boardman and Irrigon. Carevan only transports to Good Shepherd providers.

Debbie: Can only people with a disability ride Carevan? No, Carevan is for anyone who has an appointment at one of their facilities. If the Loop cannot provide the ride we will refer them to Carevan.

b. Budget

216 Budget: there is \$500,000 but we haven't received the vehicles we ordered yet.

Aaron: Is the state going to be supportive of late vehicle deliveries?

They are going to have to be and I see extensions coming.

Debbie: What is the timeline for the vehicles?

The large bus will be ready this summer, this bus is for the Heppner-Connector, which we can not start until the Boardman Circular is established. The other three buses we are waiting for are the ones we need to start the Boardman Circular, ETA is fall of this year.

Kerry: Are there any alternatives?

Katie: These are vehicles contracts, and the vehicles are already ordered, and the dollars are tied up into this contract/state agreement.

225 Budget: You will see the expenditure for the ADA vehicle that was delivered in December.

Debbie: Where does the extra \$12,000 for the ADA van come from?

Katie: We have \$101,000 in budget 225 for futures expenses. The transfer needs to happen from 216.

504 Budget: This is all of our Federal Dollars. This budget looks a lot different than our state budget because all of these grants here are reimbursement-based. We don't have quarterly payments coming into this budget as we do in the 216. We have the CARES dollars in here, and we have utilized those first because those do not require any match.

Kerry: I heard that COVID funds are coming in the pipeline, and maybe they are not coming as fast as they might, right?

Katie: I know the state of Oregon has been allocated a certain amount of funds for COVID relief and so the state actually has a timeline to disperse those funds.

The personnel benefits, I found out why they are so much higher, and that is because it includes the hazard pay that goes to the drivers.

Debbie: How many drivers' do you have? You still have volunteer drivers right?

Katie: We have 8 drivers and they are all part-time paid drivers.

c. Infrastructure Improvement & Jobs Act Update (IIJA)

A big bill that the federal government put through in the fall. And now the states are developing plans for how they're going to disburse those funds. This is an overview of what the Oregon Transportation Commission decided on March 30th. So you'll see here significant investments in transportation. I've highlighted a couple of these that really pertain to public transit. I also have highlighted some flexible funds. The Innovative Mobility Pilot Project I want to point out because business owners and other local agencies can use it to develop mobility options, for instance, Lamb Weston can put in a grant for electric scooters or some kind of van ride system that would get your employees around the property.

Debbie: Are we still looking at getting Wi-Fi for the buses?

Katie: That would come from a discretionary grant, we would have to pay the annual hosting fees out of our operation budget.

- d. 5310 Grant Application (Submitted Feb.14th)
This application has been submitted.
Aaron: The application looks good.
- e. 5339 Facilities Grant Application (Submitted Feb. 28th)
Application already submitted. I haven't heard anything; I anticipate I will have some information at our next quarterly meeting.
- f. 5339 Vehicle Replacement Grant Application (Submitted Feb. 28th)
Application already submitted. I haven't heard anything; I anticipate I will have some information at our next quarterly meeting.
- g. Covid Relief Application Review (Due May 2nd)
Driver recruitment and Incentive: (application) Katie reached out to the County HR department and was told Oregon has an equal pay act, so we are excluded from offering this program due to the equal pay act. **We do have a labor attorney.?**
We should look at CIS or AOC for more information.
There's a project in here for preventive maintenance and then also two projects for hazard pay to continue to offer that to the drivers, but the dollars are here and if they're going to award these dollars, our wage that we offer the drivers is not competitive.

Aaron: Are the drivers part of the union?

Katie: No, they are only part-time.

Vehicle maintenance: (application)

Aaron asks to make a motion to approve. Sheryl approves and Kerry 2nd's motion carries: 3:46

- h. Rural Veterans Healthcare Transportation (ODOT) Awarded \$55k
This grant will pay for the paid driver's wages and contract. This will also increase the Caravan contract. We are still waiting for the finished contract. Our Veteran ridership is up 25%.

5. Other Business

- a. STF Committee Membership – seven active members, three vacancies
7 active and 3 vacancies
- b. STF/STIF Consolidation – Work Session: New By-Laws & Update Committee Membership
Need to set up a combined. work session to create new bylaws and update membership.
- c. Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update
On July 19th Kittleson will have a draft plan ready for review.
All Members need to be present.

Next Meeting:

July 19th, 2022 Location: Boardman City Hall
Start at 2 pm

Adjourn

3:55