



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: Monday, December 30, 2019, 1:00 pm

LOCATION: DeArmond Room

DEPARTMENT OR GROUP: Department of Administrative Services / Special
Transportation Fund Advisory Committee (STFAC)

ATTENDEES: Tyler Deke, STFAC Member
Peter Russell, STFAC Member
Pat Stone, STFAC Member
Andrea Breault, Cascades East Transit (CET)
Derek Hofbauer, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) / Public
Whitney Hale, Department of Administrative Services / STFAC Coordinator
Laura Skundrick, Department of Administrative Services / Meeting Recorder

Introductions:

Attendees as listed above introduced themselves and stated their association to the STF Advisory Committee. They welcomed new member Pat Stone, who explained she is a community member in La Pine who strives to represent the IDD community.

Mr. Hofbauer noted there is possibility that the STF and STIF processes may merge in the future, which Ms. Breault will expand on during this meeting.

Public Comment period: *None given.*

Review of March 2019 meeting minutes:

All members agreed the March 2019 minutes were accurate.

Review of Current STF-funded projects; STF/STIF Consolidation

Ms. Breault provided background on STF funding and its purpose. She provided a handout and stated this is a snapshot of current progress from the past six months, showing how COIC/CET leverages the two funds, STF and 5310. She pointed out the most heavily used Dial-A-Ride system is the Redmond DAR, and the most popular route service is Route 24, Redmond to Bend with around 20,000 rides. She explained CET is currently looking at La Pine boundaries and what it would look like operationally to expand. La Pine is growing, and there are lots of items that need to be considered, for example providing services to those on gravel roads, until winter when it becomes difficult or impossible because they aren't being plowed.

Ms. Breault added that OFCO received \$100,000 funding which helps with their non-profit organization. Ms. Hale added that OFCO suggested they may provide a summary of what they've done with that funding and she will pass that on to the committee. Mr. Deke added that in the past Abilitree has also been a recipient of funds but they did not apply this year. Mr. Hofbauer explained the transportation piece isn't as large of an element for Abilitree at this time; however CET is collaborating with their organization to develop ideas for future transportation-related projects that benefit IDD communities.

Ms. Breault explained there is now a new state funding source, the State Transportation Improvement Fund (STIF), with various criteria that needs to be met, the largest of those is showing expansion in services rather than maintenance or preventative maintenance, etc. If approved by the Deschutes County Commissioners at their January 7th meeting, CET will move forward with the purchase of vehicles, 11 total in Central Oregon. These vehicles will provide expanded services in smaller communities, as well as an increase in Bend's fixed route, and two new routes in Bend which CET doesn't currently serve.

Ms. Breault continued, that between the two funds, STF and STIF, there is quite a bit of overlap. At the state level, people are talking about consolidating the funds, join the committees together, the outreach, a lot of that makes sense. The complication comes with the consolidation of the actual funds, for various reasons. There was a shortage of STF funds, so some STIF money was used to backfill STF to make the fund whole. STF spoke directly to elderly and disabled transportation needs, so a component will likely be added to STIF for that purpose. Additionally, STF is based on population at this point, and STIF is a payroll tax, so determining how those can be distributed fairly among both denser cities and rural communities. Additionally, once consolidation takes place, it is likely that nonprofits and for-profits that provide public transportation can apply for some or all of this funding, so CET may not be the only organization applying in the next biennium if there are others that meet that criteria. Ms. Stone asked where other agencies could find out this

information and how to apply, and Ms. Breault explained that ODOT's website contains the STF-STIF Consolidation Report and continues to update it, but they would have to wait until ODOT's final determination then decide if they meet the eligibility requirements necessary. All the information is on ODOT's website, and Ms. Breault expects a decision to be made in the next few months.

Ms. Breault also noted that many of the Bend DAR fleet is up for renewal, and CET is looking at minivan/passenger style vehicles rather than the backdoor wheelchair lift type, to create a more nimble fleet throughout Bend. Additionally, rides per revenue hour haven't increased because congestion and traffic within the city have gotten worse, so efficiency is not improving. The vans are sitting in traffic, and are hovering right around three rides per revenue hour, and CET is looking for more like 3.5-4. Mr. Deke asked whether the same issues are happening in Redmond, and Ms. Breault replied that the sheer volume of calls in Redmond puts them at a higher rate because they are the only ones operating a DAR service. Additionally, Redmond has more concentrated locale for medical, whereas Bend is more spread out through the city, whether it's by the hospital, Northwest Crossing, etc. Mr. Deke asked whether other communities are also getting smaller DAR vehicles and Ms. Breault replied yes, as long as 50% of the fleet is fully ADA compliant, CET can begin to customize some of the fleet vehicles.

Ms. Breault added that if the two funds are consolidated, there will be one application process, likely coming up in November with the STIF process. The next meeting for STIF is January 27 from 3:30 – 5 pm at Deschutes County offices (DeArmond Room), then likely another in August to rank the projects for the next biennium and plan.

Next Steps:

Ms. Hale explained the STFAC is allowed seven members but currently has five, so she will work with Mr. Hofbauer to open up an application process to increase the committee by one or two.

Mr. Hofbauer explained they will keep the group updated on ODOT progress regarding the STF/STIF consolidation process.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting concluded at 1:34p.m.

REPORT COMPLETED/SUBMITTED BY: Laura Skundrick, Administrative Analyst



STF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

DECEMBER 30, 2019

1 p.m. - Welcome and introductions – Whitney Hale, Deschutes County

1:05 p.m. - Public comment period

1:10 p.m. Review of March 2019 meeting minutes

1:15 p.m. - Review of current STF-funded projects – Andrea Breault, CET

1:45 p.m. Discuss STIF/STF consolidation – Andrea Breault, CET

1:55 p.m. Next steps

2 p.m. Adjourn

Special Transportation Funds

5310 Funds

July 1st 2019 – December 30th 2019

La Pine Dial-A-Ride (STF)

- 2,776 rides
- 46 wheelchair boardings
- 0 no-shows

La Pine Community Connector RT 30 (STF)

- 2,961 rides
- 608 rides are elderly and disabled

Sisters Dial-A-Ride (5310)

- 135 rides
- 26 wheelchair boardings
- 1 no-show

Sisters Community Connector RT 29 (STF)

- 1300 rides
- 152 rides are elderly and disabled

Redmond Dial-A-Ride (STF/5310)

- 13,863 rides
- 6,706 rides are elderly and disabled
- 1,838 wheelchair boardings

Sisters to Redmond RT 28 (STF/5310)

- 3,988 rides
- 54 elderly and disabled

Redmond to Bend RT 24 (STF/5310)

- 20,243 rides
- 1,737 elderly and disabled