

# Cascades East Transit – Regional Public Transit Advisory Committee

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## DRAFT Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2017

Redmond City Hall

411 SW 9<sup>th</sup> St.

1:30 to 3:30 pm

**Attendees:** Jordan Ohlde, Casey Bergh

**Staff:** Jackson Lester (COIC), Dylan Corbin (COIC), Michelle Rhoads (COIC), Derek Hofbauer (COIC)

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm.

A quorum was not present during this meeting.

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Meeting attendees and staff made introductions at the start of the meeting.

### **2. Oregon Public Transportation Conference Recap**

Mr. Lester and Mr. Hofbauer attended a session focused on finding ways to make it easier and more cost effective for Dial-a-Ride customers to get to their destinations. Emerging concepts were smaller vehicles, increased use of technology, controlling service costs, and using Ecolane paratransit transportation scheduling software. Another conference highlight was that COIC Executive Director, Karen Friend, received an award for Outstanding Transportation Manager of the Year.

### **3. E-fare update**

CET will initiate a soft release of the E-fare system to allow time to test the new system with different user groups. Mr. Lester stated that OSU cascades student ID cards should work well with the E-fare system. Mr. Bergh offered to help coordinate that effort. The soft release will most likely be held during the late winter and then move on to graduated groups (e.g. group pass holders) to allow for a seamless roll out of the E-fare system. Mr. Bergh mentioned the E-fare system could potentially measure transit ridership, which is beneficial for tracking student transit trips over time.

### **4. ADA Service Plan**

Staff updated CET's ADA Service Plan for endorsement from the COIC Board of Directors during the November 2 meeting. The Draft ADA Service Plan was sent to all RPTAC members for review one week in advance of the Redmond RPTAC meeting, with comments due by 10/18/17. After reviewing the document, Mr. Ohlde and Mr. Bergh both endorsed the Draft ADA Service Plan. No other comments were received from other RPTAC members by email. Mr. Ohlde had a question about the application process and eligibility for people who are new to Bend. CET staff will research eligibility types and bring answers back to the committee during the November meeting. Mr. Ohlde mentioned he would like for Dial-a-Ride service on Sunday to be similar to the Saturday schedule.

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## **5. Inclement weather planning + Mt. Bachelor bus**

CET is developing an inclement weather plan to provide updated and timely information to riders, the public, and partners. The number one goal of the plan is to operate safely. Robust internal planning (e.g. radio protocols, decision making framework, snow removal at bus stops and stations) is also included in the plan. CET recently received feedback from the City of Bend that plowing CET transit routes will be a first priority during inclement weather events.

It was also discussed that Dial-a-Ride in Bend and surrounding communities may be impacted due to snow events because neighborhood streets have lower priority for plowing. The CET inclement weather plan will foster communications between coordinated care providers, customers, and CET. Mr. Bergh was asked how the 2016-2017 snow events and schedule impacted OSU-Cascades students. Mr. Bergh stated that the text alert was the best approach for informing students about CET going to a snow schedule, as it is sometimes difficult for students to review alerts on the CET website with mobile phones. The app could also be a good communications tool for providing updated transit information. Mr. Bergh indicated he would like to get a text or email notification from CET outreach staff by 6 am so he can relay information to students if CET goes on a snow schedule. Mr. Bergh also asked if the Transit App can give real time updates during snow schedules. CET is currently working with a tech firm to make this feature available.

Mr. Oldhe asked a question about the types of severity of weather that influences CET's decision to go onto a snow schedule. Ms. Rhoads indicated the City's plowing efforts will help CET get through normal routes. Mr. Bergh indicated congestion could also be an issue with delayed bus routes and decisions to go onto a snow schedule. Ms. Rhoads mentioned CET will strive to provide consistency and informed information to the public so riders can make good decisions. CET has a meeting scheduled with ODOT in the coming weeks to discuss snow plowing on Highway 20.

CET staff gave an update on the Mt. Bachelor service and a question was posted about the potential to have a Mt. Bachelor shuttle stop at OSU-Cascades. Mr. Bergh informed the group that he will conduct some research to examine the potential demand for this stop location.

## **6. Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) grant update**

Mr. Hofbauer informed the group that CET staff is currently working with ODOT to refine the Scope of Work and timeline for the project, which will involve a robust planning process to develop a Regional Transit Master Plan.

## **7. Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) planning process**

Mr. Corbin discussed the FLAP application process, timeline, and request for quotes from consultants. Once a consultant is under contract, they will help CET identify recreational corridors adjacent to federal lands that have potential for CET transit services.

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## **8. Redmond transit hub update**

The Knife River contractors broke ground on the Redmond transit hub and an opening event will be planned for late winter/early spring in 2018 when the project is complete.

## **9. New Gillig bus update**

CET received three new Gillig low-floor buses that will be used on routes that have the highest propensity of wheel chair use. A launch event is being planned in late November to celebrate the release of the vehicles onto CET routes.

## **10. HB 2017 update**

Mr. Hofbauer provided the group with the upcoming schedule of Rules Advisory Committee meetings. A total of six meetings will be held in Salem through spring of 2018. Karen Friend is on the Committee as a COIC representative and Mr. Hofbauer is on the Committee as a representative of Transportation Options Group of Oregon, a statewide non-profit advocacy group.

## **11. Next steps**

The group identified ways to increase participation at RTPAC members. Mr. Hofbauer will contact current members asking about potential barriers to participation and make sure the current meeting schedule and time works for most committee members.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

